



Challenges abound

Phase 2 will present unique challenges:

- new pipes run in very close proximity to the existing lines;
- the sheer scale of the work poses a threat to the existing pipeline's stability;
- the position of the existing services (cables, sewers and storm-water) on site have to be proved before work can commence;
- in certain areas, there will be a very restricted mode of construction; and
- a minimum of six fronts will be open at any given time with, possibly, up to 12 open in the region in order to keep the machines moving.

A much bigger challenge is sourcing sufficient quantities of river sand to bed the pipes as the job requires 600 m³ of material per day. During Phase 1, there have been times when only 150 m³ has been available and local quarries in the area have been approached to crush sandstone to keep the job moving.

During Phase 2, this problem will be even greater as 3 000 m³, or about 500 truck loads, of bedding material will be required per day. The logistics and economics of haulage render some potential solutions unviable and this challenge is one that is demanding ongoing attention.