



INTERVENTION PIPELINE WILL ALLEVIATE WATER SHORTAGE IN MID SOUTH COAST

The prolonged drought in parts of the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast has placed the water supply to Umzinto and surrounding towns in jeopardy. The uMzinto Dam is presently only 18% full and the level continues to drop. There is now a real possibility that, if there is insufficient rainfall within the next few days, these towns Shayamoya, Esperanza, Pennington, Kelso, Malangeni, Ifafa Mission, Amahlonga and Amandawe will run out of potable water. To alleviate this situation, Umgeni Water will be working closely with the Ugu District Municipality by installing a 250mm pipeline from the Reservoir to

and to also avoid two patches of indigenous forest. The new route is mainly through sugarcane fields.

The installation of this pipeline requires a 20m wide working servitude on which all machinery operates. The topsoil is stripped and stored separately from the subsoil, and this is the process that is presently visible from the R612. Once the pipe is laid and the trench backfilled, the topsoil will be replaced.



the uMzinto Water Treatment Works. Management of Umgeni Water have given priority to this project, and are confident that water will be flowing to the uMzinto Water Treatment Works through the new Ellingham pipeline before Christmas. This pipeline is approximately 5, 8 km long and most of it traverses Ellingham Estate.

An environmental rehabilitation specialist has drawn up an Environmental Management Plan that has been approved by the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal and the Department of Water Affairs under emergency procedures. Umgeni Water originally planned to follow the existing servitude, but this traverses areas of ecological significance. Umgeni Water then re-routed the pipeline to minimise the impact on wetlands

In order to ensure that water is flowing by Christmas, it is imperative that there is co-operation among all relevant stakeholders, affected directly or indirectly by the project. In this regard, Umgeni Water, Ugu District Municipality, land owners, the consultants in the project and Cycad Pipelines, the company that is installing the pipeline, are working closely so that the project runs to schedule. The management of Ellingham Estate and other farmers whose land will be impacted on are sensitive to the urgency of this project and have been helpful in allowing work to begin.

Once the pipeline construction has been completed, appropriate soil erosion control measures will be implemented on the steep slopes and the entire impacted area will be rehabilitated.