

The World Leader in Water News, Knowledge and Insight



THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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| <p>2 20,000 Demonstrated Against Paper Mill on Uruguay River
Over 20,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Gualeguaychu earlier this month to demand an immediate halt to operations of the Botnia-UPM Paper Mill.</p> <p>2 Mexico Adds Right to Water to Constitution
Mexico's Federal Chamber of Deputies has approved an initiative to recognize the right to water and a healthy environment in the Mexican Constitution.</p> <p>3 East End Seaport EIA Finds Little Impact on Caymans' Water Lens
The effects of seawater on a water lens in the East End of the Cayman Islands would not be seen for up to 50 years, according to an environmental impact assessment study carried out as part of a seaport project in the region.</p> <p>4 ABSA to Invest \$319 Million USD in Water, Sanitation
Aguas Bonarenses (ABSA) will invest</p> | <p>nearly \$319 million USD in water and sanitation projects, according to company president Guillermo Scarcella.</p> <p>4 \$2.5 Million USD for Water, Sewage Projects in Adolfo Alsina
The government of Buenos Aires province, through the Provincial Service of Drinking Water and Rural Sanitation (SPAR), has signed agreements for a project to optimize drinking water and sewage networks in Villa Maza, in the Adolfo Alsina district.</p> <p>5 Water System Audit Best Way to Assess NRW Reduction Contract
The most efficient way to execute a performance contract for non-revenue water (NRW) reduction is to conduct a water systems audit in combination with the implementation and sustainability phases.</p> <p>5 Privatization of Wastewater Treatment Plants Being Analyzed in Mexico's Morelos</p> | <p>State
The State Commission for Water and Environment (CEAMA) for Mexico's Morelos State is analyzing the possibility of privatizing wastewater treatment plants, according to the head of the agency, Fernando Bahena Vera.</p> <p>6 Riachuelo Environmental Pollution Case Reopened
Argentina's Federal Chamber has reopened the case of illegal dumping of toxic effluents in the Riachuelo River.</p> <p>6 Conagua Releases 2030 Water Agenda
The Mexican National Water Commission (Conagua) has released the 2011 version of its 2030 Water Agenda.</p> <p>7 LOCAL PRESS REPORTS
From Bermuda, Chile, Costa Rica, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts & Nevis and Trinidad & Tobago.</p> <p>9 ABOUT OOSKANews</p> <p>10 WATER SECTOR EVENTS</p> |
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Water System Audit Best Way to Assess NRW Reduction Contract

KINGSTON, Jamaica (OOSKAnews Correspondent) – The most efficient way to execute a performance contract for non-revenue water (NRW) reduction is to conduct a water systems audit in combination with the implementation and sustainability phases, Antoine Erout, managing director of Water Management International (WMI), a subsidiary of Vinci Construction, told OOSKAnews last week.

“It is however necessary to highlight the crucial impact of the water system audit, the availability of data and the knowledge of the water context which establish the baseline of the targets and determine with more or less acuteness, depending on the time dedicated to do it, the performance of the water losses reduction strategy,” he added.

This was one of the most important lessons of WMI’s \$15 million USD Performance-Based Project on Non-Revenue Water Reduction for the National Water Commission (NWC) of Jamaica’s North Western Parishes Project.

The project was conceived as a design and build contract and scheduled for five years, including a 2-year implementation phase followed by a 3-year sustainability phase.

The project’s report, entitled Efficient 2011: Challenges and Lessons Learnt from a Major Performance Based Contract for Non Revenue Water Reduction, found that a longer audit period of at least one year “would have allowed a better definition of the baseline for the project and the establishment of a more accurate initial water balance.”

Another important finding was that “the main reason for a decrease of performance during the sustainability

(phase) is potentially the client’s (NWC) inability to initiate change,” the report stated. Managerial and organizational changes are what NWC needs to improve sustainability.

“Indeed strong institutional and operational efforts have been made by the NWC to improve its capacity for a better water supply efficiency. However, and because non-revenue water reduction strategy implicates strong interactions between financial, operational, commercial and communication departments and beneficiaries from the top management of the

entity, organizational change, skills improvement, incentive and innovative-oriented processes for productive works remain to be handled and sustained in the long term,” Erout said.

National Water Commission water systems have NRW rates of between 50 and 80 percent, due to the relatively old distribution network.

The report was created for presentation at the 6th IWA Specialist Conference on Efficient Use and Management of Water (Efficient 2011) in Amman, Jordan in March 2011.

Privatization of Wastewater Treatment Plants Being Analyzed in Mexico’s Morelos State

CUERNAVACA, Mexico (OOSKAnews Correspondent) -- The State Commission for Water and Environment (CEAMA) for Mexico’s Morelos State is analyzing the possibility of privatizing wastewater treatment plants, according to the head of the agency, Fernando Bahena Vera.

Bahena said that many municipalities lack the financial and technical capacity to operate the plants, giving the example of plants in Jiutepec and Temixco, which are inactive.

In a meeting with business leaders, he explained that concessions could come into operation when municipalities declare themselves

unable to handle the maintenance and operation of the plants.

The concessions would last for 15 years, and those obtaining them would be responsible for charging a fee to the municipality for operation of the plants.

Bahena said this is being carried out very carefully, and that Congress will need to authorize any future concession.

Morelos State’s water sanitation plan calls for construction of 15 wastewater treatment plants, according to El Sol de Cuernavaca newspaper.

This is also part of the rehabilitation of the Apatlaco River.