

WATER SAFETY PLAN

Item B-WE (02-2010) MC 18/02/2010	IS: WSP (2009/12/019): WATER AND ENERGY PORTFOLIO: WATER SERVICES DIVISION: DRAFT WATER SAFETY PLAN (WSP) – BLUE DROP CERTIFICATION
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RESOLVED:

1. **That** the contents of the report to obtain Council's support for the Draft Water Safety Plan (WSP) and authorisation to submit same to the Department of Water and Environment Affairs in support of the Blue Drop Certification process, **BE NOTED**.
2. **That** Council **APPROVES** the Water Safety Plan (WSP) and its submission to the Department of Water and Environment Affairs, to be included in the current Blue Drop Certification Assessment.
3. **That** the more comprehensive Water Safety Plan, once completed, **BE SUBMITTED** to the Portfolio Committee.

MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEETING

2010.02.18

ITEM B-WE (02-2010)

**IS: WSP (2009/12/019): WATER AND ENERGY PORTFOLIO: WATER SERVICES
DIVISION: DRAFT WATER SAFETY PLAN (WSP) – BLUE DROP CERTIFICATION**

(12/2/1/51)

PURPOSE

To obtain Council's support for the Draft Water Safety Plan (WSP) and authorisation to submit same to the Department of Water and Environment Affairs in support of the Blue Drop Certification process.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That** the contents of the report to obtain Council's support for the Draft Water Safety Plan (WSP) and authorisation to submit same to the Department of Water and Environment Affairs in support of the Blue Drop Certification process, **BE NOTED**.
2. **That** Council **APPROVES** the Water Safety Plan (WSP) and its submission to the Department of Water and Environment Affairs, to be included in the current Blue Drop Certification Assessment.
3. **That** the more comprehensive Water Safety Plan, once completed, **BE SUBMITTED** to the Portfolio Committee.

STRATEGIC INFORMATION

Ward/s Affected: All wards

Link to IDP: Budgetary process

Metro Priority: Good Governance

BACKGROUND

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry initiated the Blue Drop Certification Programme on **11 September 2008**. This year (2009) was the first year that Municipalities were audited and received the certification. The aim of the "blue drop" certification is to build citizen confidence on the quality of drinking water management at municipalities.

Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality has also participated in the newly introduced Blue Drop Certification process during the 2008/2009 financial year. During this process it was indicated by the Department of Water and Environment Affairs that a Water Safety Plan (WSP) would be a prerequisite requirement for the 2009/2010 Blue Drop Certification.

As for a municipality to achieve a Blue Drop Certification status, it has to score an overall minimum of 95%. An overall score less than 95%, however, does not imply that the potable water of that particular municipality is not fit for human consumption. It, however, means that that the particular municipality has not done more than just the basic requirements for potable water supply to consumer/users, in order to achieve the excellent award status (i.e. Blue Drop Certification).

Thus the Blue Drop Certification status is an excellence award and has no direct bearing on the quality of the potable water for human consumption. The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality was one of the recipients of this prestigious award.

MOTIVATION

Notwithstanding the above the Department of Water and Environment Affairs has allocated a percentage score of 5% to a Water Safety Plan within the second round of the Blue Drop Certification (2009/2010) assessment. In view of the above brief background it can be concluded that should a Water Safety Plan not be in place timeously, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality may enter the 2009/2010 Blue Drop Certification final assessment with a disadvantage and may risk the possibility to lose its current Blue Drop Certification status.

The Water Services Division embarked and procured a 3 day training session for its officials with Rand Water. The outcome of the training, working through tutorials, would constitute the drafting a comprehensive Water Safety Plan as per the requirement of the Department of Water and Environment Affairs.

It was anticipated to conclude with such a plan by end of December 2009. However, due to constraints experienced the above target date cannot be achieved anymore.

The official Blue Drop Certification assessment for Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality commenced on 01 December 2009. The above process in drafting a comprehensive Water Safety Plan was presented to the evaluation team during the assessment. The evaluation team confirmed that a draft and/or any amendments and/or additions to this assessment must be submitted no later than **22 February 2010**.

It was confirmed by the evaluation panel that it is commended to have such a comprehensive plan in place, however, the main focus would currently be whether a risk assessment has been done or not and obviously the proof on buy-in from Management and Portfolio of such.

In view of the above the current initiative arises to draft a shorter version of a Water Safety Plan, similar to our neighbouring municipalities. This endeavor does not replace the outcome and/or the results of the current training process and its associated comprehensive plan, but would ensure a positive contribution towards the outcome of the above Blue Drop Certificate assessment.

COMMENTS FROM RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS

Not required at this stage