

P.W.D / 13/12A

(11)

10
THE ACTING CIVIL COMMISSIONER.

DENIS PRACE.
WATER SUPERVISOR.

P.W.D. STANLEY.

8th OCT. 1984

Dear Sir,

You will recall the meeting some weeks ago at which the Director of Public Works, the Power Superintendent and I expressed our concern regarding the essential services in Stanley such as the power and water supplies. I am now requesting a meeting to explain in detail the present situation which has deteriorated to the point where, short of a miracle, the water service to Stanley can not be maintained with the manpower available.

Ironically, on the completion of the new rising main and the improvements to the military purification plant in a few weeks' time, we should have reached the position we have been urging since 1982. Briefly, the present requirements of Stanley and the military and contractors' establishments could have been met by working seven x 14 hour shifts or a variation of this, as against the present seven x 24 hour shifts. However, one of the present plant operators has just informed me that he has been offered a better position at Goose Green and will be leaving shortly. So we are once again left with one filtration plant operator. The correct staffing should be five shift workers plus one day worker for maintenance.

The position at the filtration plant has

been critical since the conflict and only kept operating by leaving a plumber there permanently, and running the plant unattended for long periods during the night. The result of leaving the plant unattended was that very substandard water was produced and occasionally the pumps were running dry. So the plant is now manned for 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Regarding the local men employed on the plumbing crew, that is one plumber and two handymen, they are now engaged in contract work both from government and private sources which means that they are no longer available for overtime work and occasionally during normal working hours too. I wish to emphasize that I am in no way condemning these men as until the recent trend in government policy towards contracting work out to the private sector, I regarded them as the most willing and reliable crew in the P.W.D.

To summarize the situation I am left with four reliable men, including myself, to man the water filtration plant, maintain the reticulation system and the plumbing and heating in all government buildings and houses, and this is clearly an impossibility. A few weeks ago the Crown Agents resident engineer offered to supply one or two plumbers at short notice, but I was informed that the offer was rejected by Exco although at the same time one electrician and some carpenters were already helping P.W.D. Attached is a list of the extra hours I have worked to maintain this vital

service and I believe that on close examination no reasonable person can expect this situation to continue much longer.

- I can only make the following suggestions,
- 1/ That Exco reverses its decision and acquires the necessary help through the Crown Agents until the local labour situation stabilizes.
 - 2/ That the few of us mentioned above concentrate on manning the purification plant and other work be let out to private contractors. This would have to include the day to day service and emergency calls.

As this is of the utmost urgency I would appreciate an early reply.

Yours Sincerely

T. J. Jones

P.S. As this letter was written before I was aware of the arrival of the new Director of Public Works, I have discussed this with him and have no intention of going above his authority.

P.P.S

I am bound to add that the water section of the P.W.D. suffered by far the most damage through shelling and heavy traffic but nevertheless succeeded in not only maintaining the supply of water but extended the system to include the new camps as far as the Canache, with all the military and construction requirements.

It is a bitter disappointment to me that it is now on the verge of collapse by lack of support from the people who should be most concerned.

T. J. Jones DPW (90)

T. J. Jones

DENIS PLACE. WATER SUPERVISOR

EXTRA HOURS WORKED SINCE RETURNING FROM LEAVE 3/3/84

DAY & DATE.		NO HRS
SAT. 10 MARCH	BURST WATER PIPE	4
SUN 11 "	RESERVOIRS ETC.	2
FRID. 16 "	BURST WATER PIPE	2
SAT. 17 "	BURST WATER PIPE - RESERVOIRS	4½
SUN. 18 "	RESERVOIRS & FILTRATION PLANT	5
SAT. 24 "	RESERVOIRS & FILTRATION PLANT	5
SAT. 31 "	FILTRATION PLANT & CANACHE WATER	8
SUN. 1 APRIL	FILTRATION PLANT & RESERVOIRS	2
SAT. 7 "	" " "	2
SUN 8 "	" " "	2
SAT 14 "	" " "	4
SUN 15 "	" " "	2
FRID 20 "	(PUBLIC HOLIDAY) MAINS BURST & FILT. PLANT	4
SAT. 21 "	MAINS BURST & FILTRATION PLANT	2
SUN. 22 "	FILTRATION PLANT & RESERVOIRS	2
MON 23 "	(PUBLIC HOLIDAY) FILT. PLANT & RESERVOIRS	2
THURS 26 "	M.O.D. HYDROSTORE.	1½
FRID. 27 "	" "	2
SAT 28 "	BURST (JOHN ST.) - HYDRO - FILT. PLANT & RES.	6
SUN 29 "	FILTRATION PLANT & RES. M.O.D. HYDROSTORE	4
SAT 5 MAY	FILT. PLANT & RES. M.O.D. HYDROSTORE	9
SUN 6 "	" " " " "	5
SAT. 12 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. M.O.D. HYDROSTORE	9
SUN 13 "	FILT. PLANT & RESERVOIRS	3
SAT 19 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SUN. 20 "	FILT. PLANT & RES	2
SAT. 26 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. JUNIOR SCHOOL HEATING	4
SUN. 27 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. - GOVT. HOUSE BOILER	4
SAT. 2 JUNE.	FILT. PLANT & RES. STANLEY HOUSE CARAVANS	4
SUN 3 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SAT. 9 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. - BURST PIPE.	4
SUN 10 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
THURS. 14 "	(LIBERATION DAY) FILT. PLANT & RES.	2

SAT. 16 JUNE	FILT. PLANT & RESERVOIRS	2
SUN. 17 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SAT 23 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SUN 24 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SAT 30 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SUN. 1 JULY	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SAT 7 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SUN 8 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SAT 14 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SUN 15 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. BURST PIPE.	3
SAT 21 "	FILT. PLANT & RES.	2
SUN 22 "	FILT. PLANT ETC. - CANICHE - CARAVANS	5
SAT 28 "	FILT. PLANT ETC. CARAVAN HEATING	3
SUN 29 "	FILT. PLANT ETC.	2
SAT 4 AUG.	FILT. PLANT ETC.	2
SUN 5 "	FILT. PLANT ETC.	2
THURS 9 "	STANLEY HOUSE BURST	1
FRID 10 "	RESERVOIR	1
SAT. 11 "	FILT. PLANT & RESERVOIRS	2
SUN 12 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. H/L PUMPS	3
MON 13 "	HIGH - LEVEL TANK PUMPS	1
TUES 14 "	" " " "	1
WED 15 "	" " " "	1
THURS 16 "	" " " "	1
FRID 17 "	" " " "	1
SAT. 18 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. H/L PUMPS	3
SUN 19 "	" " " "	3
SAT 25 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. - STANLEY HOUSE - JUNIOR SCHOOL	4
SUN 26 "	" " " - JUNIOR SCHOOL HEATING - PUMPS	8
WED 29 "	HIGH - LEVEL TANK PUMPS	1
THURS 30 "	" " " "	1
SAT 1 SEPT.	FILT. PLANT & RES. - HIGH LEVEL PUMPS	4
SUN 2 "	FILT. PLANT & RES. - BROKEN MAIN - PUMPS	6

MON. 3 SEPT.	FILTRATION PLANT + RESERVOIR. H/L PUMPS	3
THURS. 6 "	" " " "	2 1/2
FRID. 7 "	FILTRATION PLANT (SHIFT WORK)	5
SAT 8 "	" " (" ") H/L PUMPS	10
SUN 9 "	FILT. PLANT + RES. - WATER MAIN PLANS FOR R.E.S.	9
TUES 11 "	" " " - H/L PUMPS	3
WED 12 "	" " " - " "	3
FRID 13 "	FILTRATION PLANT (NIGHT SHIFT) PUMPS	5
SAT 14 "	FILTRATION PLANT (NIGHT SHIFT) - RESERVOIRS	9
SUN 16 "	FILTRATION PLANT + RESERVOIRS	5
MON 17 "	FILT. PLANT - PUMPS	3
WED 19 "	FILT. PLANT - PUMPS	3
THURS 20 "	FILT. PLANT - PUMPS	3
FRID 21 "	FILTRATION PLANT (NIGHT SHIFT) PUMPS	5
SAT 22 "	" " (NIGHT SHIFT) RESERVOIRS	10
SUN 23 "	FILTRATION PLANT & RES - H/L PUMPS	3
MON 24 "	HIGH-LEVEL PUMPS	1
TUES 25 "	FILTRATION PLANT - H/L PUMPS	3
WED 26 "	" " " "	3
THURS 27 "	HIGH-LEVEL PUMPS	1
FRID 28 "	FILTRATION PLANT (NIGHT SHIFT) PUMPS	5
SAT 29 "	" " (NIGHT SHIFT) RESERVOIRS	15
SUN 30 "	" " (NIGHT SHIFT) RES. & PUMPS.	13
MON 7 OCT.	(PUBLIC HOLIDAY) FILTRATION PLANT ETC (SHIFT)	13
TUES 2 OCT.	FILTRATION PLANT (NIGHT SHIFT) RES. & PUMPS	13
WED 3 "	HIGH-LEVEL PUMPS	1
THURS 4 "	FILTRATION PLANT (MILITARY) H/L PUMPS	3
FRID 5 "	FILTRATION PLANT (NIGHT SHIFT) PUMPS	5
SAT 6 "	" " (NIGHT SHIFT) RESERVOIRS	9
" "	BROKEN RISING MAIN	3
SUN 7 "	FILTRATION PLANT & RES. - H/L PUMPS	3

369.5

These hours are the actual hours I have worked over and above the 40 hours per week on which my contract was based, from the 10th March 1984 to 7th October 1984.

Since Friday 13th Sept. I have been working one night shift per week in order to give the operators one day off per week.

On the holiday week-end starting 0800 pm Friday 28th Sept. to 0800 pm Tuesday 2nd October, I worked 64 hours to let one operator have a few days in Goose Green.

You will note that I have not had one complete day off nor any local leave in the period mentioned above.

In the year previous to my last leave almost the same situation existed, with no week-ends or local leave, unfortunately I kept no record hoping that the situation would improve.

MEMORANDUM

Date 7th June 1977 (1)

Refer.....
It is requested that this
number and date should be
quoted.



From Supt. Public Works

Chief Secretary

Subject:- Mr. Ref: FID/15/C. 30 May 1977 'Water Committee'

The SFC are joking of course. The Filtration Plant Operators, all two of them, have only been there a matter of months with an basic knowledge only, in my opinion, for what it has been worth over a very long period, the 'rule of thumb' instruction should have been laid down in Mr A. Smith's terms of reference, 'if it were practicable'.

2. To give the Water Sub-committee a start I have placed a few of the facts in this reply of items appertaining to the real problems, it may also prove the point that a thousand Water Engineers could visit us here and produce nothing but more problems by attempting to blind us with science, and leaving us mid-stream, with nothing to carry out what we have recommended in the first instance. Even the Philistines, who were active opponents of progressive ideas, had the practical assistance of designers, and the use of invention.

3. I say now, that in the field of a chemical treated plant, as I have said for a decade, that it is a very essential service, which has been judged far too often by successive SFC's as secondary, and I feel duty bound to warn the present government again of the dangers of this service getting out of hand, to the point of risk of health of the public and a breakdown of a vital service critical to all other services, without water there is no life, no power, no electric, no hospital, no schools, no sanitation, in brief no Stanley. And now it is proposed by SFC that a Sub-committee be formed to do no more, no less, than attempt to interfere with the very little technical ability we have at our disposal in this field. I wonder how many of SFC members have ever been inside a chemical treated filtration plant, with all due respects to the members of SFC who have a duty towards finance, this is a job for experts, and by that I do not mean someone visiting us for a week or two of working holidays, and producing yet another useless book of blumph. The only answer to practical economy is to import a working technician capable of carrying out improvements with economy in mind and the training of local staff to retain that economy within the region of safety and reliability, if there is a single member in SFC, or indeed, in the Islands that can do that, then we are inboard. You cannot, as quoted, in 16.2 SFC minutes 20 April 77, 'consider financial aspects' alone. When it was agreed that Stanley was to have a water treatment plant, the government inherited a responsibility to everything appertaining to it, for the whole of its future. No laymen can serve a useful purpose in discussing or laying down a 'table of use' of chemicals etc and that gentlemen is all we are, just laymen, the policy of dumping services such as power and electrical, water board, and Town Council commitments, not to mention many others on to a small public works department is now proving to be a policy of penny-wise, pound-foolish. They ought to be all independent and skilled departments, but in such a small community we should concede that the general administration could be controlled by FID, but we must have accurate information from the technical officers I/C. It is proving dangerous and expensive to live in the past.

2/.....

4. It is not the individual operators or successive W.O.B.'s that now should be used as whipping boys, it is from neglect of government by ignoring the constant warnings, recommendations, and cries for help over many years from the people government have employed to do just that. It is one thing to break a man's arm to terrorise, put him out of action or 'quieten him' but to break his heart you also break his spirit and will to be sincere and honest. I am suggesting sir that government should first look into the mirror before any further books are put on, by forming unqualified committees.

5. This should not be interpreted as an attack on the present government with all its various committees, it is merely to emphasize 'fact' in the problems of a WOB, here. There are other services affected in W.D other than water - supply but as this is a reply to your query for water supply I will restrict it to just that.

6. Attached is a notice posted at the Filtration Plant in 1971.

21st July 1972 Because the Town Council have not been an active part of the 'Water Authority' for so many years, and the non-existence of a water Board, facts and figures are no longer accurate.

August 4th 1972 The point that concerns me most, is that the technical side of it all, which is also the most essential part, gained little or nothing, from the Water Engineers visit, except his recommendations. His terms of reference were carried out, but, unfortunately it did not include putting theory into practice, consequently we still do not have a man trained enough to reach the standard recommended.

15th December 1972 The comments of Mr Casserly, in his letter to you, appear to be well outside his terms of reference. We know all things are not as accurate as we would like them to be, that is the reason I applied for an expert to come here and try and help us, over the past two years. The correspondence being received now could be implemented, if we had UK standards of fully trained operators and supervisors, this is our only problem, the rest of the recommendations would be secondary. Unfortunately the water engineer was here only for a few days, our staff gained very little from the practical side, and nothing from theory, consequently most of the technical advice we get now is waste.

13 December 1976 What is paramount is the need of Mr A Smith's technical and administrative recommendations in the actual supply of treated water, mainly from the Filtration Plant and its laboratory complex, which is working with semi and unskilled staff under partially dilapidated conditions.

1st June 1977 When we have not even got a skilled operator to take charge, and even if we had we would not have the transport to get him around.

These were just a few extracts from a few memo's, but it does bring out the point of fact that over a very long period the problem simply is we do not have technical staff capable of taking an active role in implementation of all these reports, and the water report is no exception.

7. It is with regret sir I have to emphasise that members of SWC (with all due respect to their intention) are not qualified to undertake such an enquiry as stated in 16.1 of the minutes. Consumption of chemicals vary from hour to hour not from year to year alone. 16.2 of the minutes in brief is misleading - the Superintendent of Works is not a qualified laboratory-trained filtration plant operator or specialised water engineer spending full time at the plant to lay down the verified use of chemicals, it would be an act of hypocrisy to try to make out otherwise. This point of not having a properly trained staff at the plant with no skilled supervision has been reported so many times over so many years it is too numerous to mention. To improve the situation it is imperative to import a highly skilled man in this field for at least a two year contract. Everything is balancing on a shoe - string, with a great deal of assistance from the Senior Plumber, who, incidently, will not be here to assist in another eight months time.

J. Rogers

Superintendent of Public Works

IMPORTANT NOTICE

COPY.

Posted at the Plant
six years ago.

FILTRATION PLANT

J.W.L.

Job Title

Filtration Plant Operator.

Object

Plant Operator's job is to produce a supply of water, satisfactory in quality and quantity at all times.

This must take priority over other work.

The operators are expected to take particular interest in personal hygiene and tidiness.

Responsible to:

Senior Operator^s and Superintendent F.W.

Responsible for:

Those persons specifically assigned under his control.

Duties are:

1. To take tests. PH and Chlorine on any other on raw, settled or treated water when required.
2. To supply a flow of chemical that will maintain a clean and sterile water.
3. Dose of chemicals to be altered on the instructions of Senior Operator or SF or in an emergency at his own discretion where delay will be hazardous.
4. Replenish all chemical tanks and chlorine top when required.
5. Clean Filters daily unless instructed otherwise.
6. Check all chemical tanks as often as possible.
7. To keep a daily check on all chemical used.
8. To keep plant clean at all times and ground around plant tidy.
9. Carry out painting inside plant when required.
10. To work outside normal hours as required.
11. Any other duties in connection with water at the discretion of Senior Operator.
12. To carry out and assist in any maintenance in the plant.
13. To fill in Operators log each day when required.
14. To keep all unauthorised persons and animals from entering the fenced area and plant.
15. Work other than that allied to water supply is not permitted at the plant.

J.W.L.

Superintendent of Works