

WWMC Newsletter Number 35, April 2024

Message from Tim Clarke, CEO of WWMC

Welcome to our April newsletter, and Eid Mubarak to all. On Monday the 15th and Tuesday 16th April the UAE experienced its largest single day of rainfall in 75 years. The heavy rain caused widespread flooding, travel disruption and damage across much of the UAE and Dubai was also badly affected. The WWMC plant experienced severe flooding during this period, such that waste deliveries had to be suspended on the evening of the 15th and following a lightning strike at a DEWA installation our back feed power supply was disconnected. As such the plant was forced to operate emergency diesel generators and shut down all waste incineration operations. The National Centre of Meteorology in UAE said the volume of rain on Tuesday was the highest since official records began in 1949. Over a 24-hour period 254mm of rain fell in some areas of UAE – the equivalent of about two years' worth of average rainfall. The heavy rainfall also caused large volumes of sand to be displaced at the rear of our site, and our 132kv power cables were damaged in places, as concrete cable troughs became displaced by the heavy water run-off and collapsed. Clean up efforts were hampered as many of our staff were unable to get to the site due to flooded roads and abandoned cars. When teams were able to get to site, the extent of damage to our 132kv power supply was fully assessed. This event has been classed as 'Force Majeure', and our site teams have been coordinating claims with our project insurers, as this has affected our facility testing regime. To date we have started work repairing the damaged cable trays, replacement cables have been sourced locally and cable joints are expected at site early in May. Here are some images from the recent extreme weather event.



Site roads were flooded and impassable during the storm.



The plant stormwater reservoir did its job, collecting nearly 10,000 cubic metres of rainwater.



The site access road was completely flooded with many vehicles abandoned.



Works to repair the damaged cables were started in the last week of April.



Vehicle weighbridges were completely submerged.

We expect to complete repairs within May and resume full power export in June, and we are still targeting full commercial operations on 2nd July. For more details about the WWMC project, to request information or to raise a grievance please email us at info@wwmc.ae.