

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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VII WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1. Introduction

The Water Development Department is responsible for implementing the water policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. Main objective of this policy is the rational development and management of the water resources of Cyprus. In this context, the responsibilities of the department cover a wide and diverse spectrum, which includes: a) the collection, processing and classification of hydrological, hydrogeological, geotechnical and other data necessary for the study, maintenance and safety of the water development works, b) the study, design, construction, operation and maintenance of works, such as dams, ponds, irrigation, domestic water supply and sewerage schemes, water treatment works, sewage treatment and desalination plants, and c) the protection of the water resources from pollution.

2. Structure

The Water Development Department consists of the following divisions: Water Resources, Hydrology, Planning, Design, Rural Projects- Tenders and Contracts, Sewage and Reuse, Construction, management, Operation and Maintenance of Government Water Supply Systems, Operation and Maintenance of Irrigation Systems, Telemetry and the Mechanical – Electrical Services Division. The Department has also four Regional Offices, located in Nicosia, Limassol, Paphos and Famagusta – Larnaca.

3. Activities

The basic water policy of the Government is the production of desalinated sea water, the use of non-conventional sources such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, recharge and amenity purposes, the efficient use of available water including the better use of pricing and water conservation measures, the harmonization with the European acquis, the protection, preservation and improvement of the water quality, the introduction of new effective management procedures through the establishment of a Water Entity and the development of the remaining existing water resources with the construction of dams.

During 2007, every household in every part of free Cyprus had continuous supply of drinking water on a 24-hour basis but there were severe cut backs in irrigation water supply. The new desalination plant near Larnaca Airport, the largest in Cyprus in this sector, coupled with the Dhekelia plant produce 33 million cubic metres of water a year. The production by the two desalination plants in 2007 was 27.1 million cubic metres. The decreased production was due to the upgrading of the Dhekelia Unit which started in 2006 and was put in operation again in May 2007.

Further to the above, the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment implemented several other measures to increase the supply of water and to encourage water conservation.

During the year under review, the Water Development Department continued its usual work with the aim of achieving the above-mentioned goals and has continued or initiated the implementation of numerous projects and programmes vital to the further development of other sectors of the Cyprus economy.

Such works included the installation of 13,450 km of the central conveyor of Kannaviou Dam and the completion of Akaki-Malounda dam on Akaki river. The designs of Solea irrigation project and Orounda pond have also been completed and construction will start in 2008.

Feasibility studies and environmental impact studies were carried out for a number of projects for recycling treated waste water, and other works.

Other activities included work on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60 EC [article 8 (monitoring of surface water status, ground water status and protected areas), article 9 (recovery of costs for water services) and article 14 (public information and consultation)] and tendering for articles 11 (programme of measures) and 13 (river basin management plans).