

Waterbulletin

SEWAGE & EFFLUENT

Design underway for Mthatha Dam expansion

Amatola Water in East London has commissioned Gibb to undertake preliminary design work for a R3,9-billion scheme to make optimal use of Mthatha Dam to provide water throughout the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality and, possibly, two adjoining municipalities. "We are drawing 60 MI/day from the dam and we want to draw about 156 MI/day," Mandisa Matiso, director of technical services at OR Tambo District Municipality, tells *Water Sewage & Effluent*.

"We would have to upgrade the existing treatment works or build a new treatment works, as well as associated infrastructure. We will use gravity as much as possible to minimise the use of pumps."

However insiders tell *Water Sewage & Effluent* that the district municipality is grappling with a serious problem. Even when the sewage network has been rehabilitated and the capacity of the wastewater works has doubled, the network will not be able to handle the sheer volume of waste. Pipelines of double the capacity are needed, especially when new suburbs come on stream. Land claims in the urban area have caused delays in the completion of some developments, including a large low-cost housing scheme.

