

Project

Reconstruction of river abstraction wells at Vant's Drift on the Buffalo River

Location

Vant's Drift
Near Dundee
South Africa

Client

Thukela Water Board

Project Manager

David Still

Contractor

T&T Marine

Project Value

R 1.2 million (obviating the need for a new R30 million rand abstraction works which was about to be built)

Date Completed

July 2012

Brief Description

The Vant's Drift Water Treatment Works, constructed in the 1980s, draws water from the Buffalo River. Over time the original Johnson screens which had been laid horizontally in the river bed had blocked up and the treatment works was no longer able to get enough water to meet demand. The Umzinyathi District Municipality wanted to construct a new abstraction tower at a cost of R30 million. On behalf of Thukela Water PID designed and implemented an emergency solution, diverting the Buffalo River and installing new screens comprising gabion baskets, geofabric and geopipes. This abstraction system has worked so well that the plans for the R30 million abstraction tower have been shelved.

The methodology required the use of an excavator fitted with a long reach arm and of a number of powerful dewatering pumps. A total of four new abstraction points were constructed.

After completion the river was returned to its original state and there is no sign of the new works which are located below the river bed.

Vant's Drift Abstraction Works



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