

PRESS RELEASE



DATE: 11th July 2007

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY JULY 13TH 2007 – 11.20 AM

MAJOR NEW TREATMENT PLANT TO MINIMISE DRINKING WATER CRYPTOSPORIDIUM RISK

On Friday, 13th July, Portsmouth Water's Official 150th Birthday, a new Membrane Filtration Plant at Gaters Mill, West End, Southampton, will be officially opened by Dr Richard Sturt, Chairman of the Consumer Council for Water Southern.

A number of distinguished guests including local MPs, Mayors, Council Leaders and key personnel in the Water Industry will join Portsmouth Water Directors for the Opening.

Technical Director, Andy Neve says "The plant is designed to minimise the risk of cryptosporidium in drinking water supplies to Fareham and Gosport. There have been a number of occasions in the past when outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis, a nasty digestive disease which causes extended bouts of sickness and diarrhoea, have been linked to public water supplies. The last was in October 2005.

The new plant has cost the Company £4.7m, the detailed design and construction having been contracted to local contractor, P. Trant Ltd of Southampton."

The Opening coincides with the Company's 150th year celebrations which have included:

- The establishment of a new Drought Tolerant Garden at the entrance to the Company's Head Office. It demonstrates that gardens that don't have to be watered can still be colourful.
- A new Exhibition display at Portsmouth City Museum covering the history of the developments of water supplies in Portsmouth.
- The publication of a new book '**Portsmouth Water - 1857-2007 150 years of Service**' charting the progress of public water supplies in and around the area from the early 1800s to the present day.
- A sponsored Art Competition for Havant College Students based upon the Company's 150 year involvement with public water supplies.

For further information please contact Neville Smith, Finance Director, or Andy Neve, Technical Director, on 023 9249 9888.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Portsmouth Water is one of the oldest water companies in the country, having been incorporated in 1857.

OUR WATER SOURCES

Our water, of high quality, is derived from the chalk of the South Downs and is abstracted from wells, boreholes, springs and the River Itchen.

The Springs at Havant and Bedhampton are thought to be the largest group of springs used for public supplies in Europe.

STATISTICS

We serve 286,000 homes and businesses in an area covering 868 square kilometres (335 square miles) from the River Meon in Hampshire to the River Arun in West Sussex.

Every day we supply around 180 million litres (40 million gallons) of water to a population of over 640,000 people at the lowest cost in England and Wales.

OUR DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Water is supplied to our customers through a network of over 3,200 kilometres (1,990 miles) of underground water mains and more than 280,000 individual service connections, all of which are continuously maintained by our distribution staff.