Water, Sanitation, Health and COVID-19

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Concerns after the Corona Virus Pandemic

• Maintaining the continuation of water supply in the light of increased consumption;
• Ensuring the health of potable water;
• Ensuring the quality of treated effluent; and
• Ensuring the health of water and wastewater sector’s staff.
Maintaining the Continuation of Water Supply in the Light of Increased Consumption

Given the 20% increase in water consumption, the following actions were taken to control demands and ensure the continuation of water supply:

- Execution of 21 projects to upgrade and renovate installations;
- Execution of 37 projects to increase storage capacity;
- Execution of 32 projects to dig and equip wells;
- Execution of 70 water supply projects;
- Execution of 26 projects to improve the quality of water;
- Completion of 24 national water transmission and treatment projects;
- Preparation and production of public training packages aiming at water saving; and
- Emergency readiness of the operational units.
Ensuring the Health of Potable Water

Although the global experience has demonstrated the inexistence of Corona Virus in potable water, still the following actions were taken to ensure health of potable water:

• Expansion and equipment of water and wastewater labs to monitor and measure Corona Virus (PCR-real time);
• Measuring Corona Virus in the water distribution networks of the 3 major cities of Tehran, Alborz and Mashhad;
• Intensification of water quality monitoring through increased number of sampling and the relevant tests; and
• Controlled increase of residual chlorine at some water distribution networks having a higher risk potential.

Ongoing plans:
• Enhancing the measuring and monitoring capacity of Corona Virus at other cities and villages of the country.
Ensuring the Quality of Treated Effluent

Given the greater probability of Corona Virus presence in the wastewater, the following actions were taken:

• Establishment of specialized committee to review and analyse the presence of Corona Virus in wastewater in collaboration with the academic sector (the Environmental Research Centre of Tehran University);

• Execution of a research project to measure Corona Virus at the inlet and outlet of the WWTPs in the three cities of Tehran, Qom and Bandar Anzali;

• Measuring the presence in the wastewater networks and treatment plants of the three major cities of Tehran, Alborz and Mashhad;

• Defining a research project to measure the quantity of Corona Virus, and to review the impacts of wastewater treatment on reduction and removal of Corona Virus; and

• Exchange of view and specialized collaboration with other relevant organization to review the eventual impacts of discharging raw wastewater to the environment.
Ensuring the Health of Water and Wastewater Sector’s Staff

• Notification of decision by the National Corona Virus Action Committee to water and wastewater companies;

• Preparing and notifying the internal guidelines to increase the safety of staff operating the water and wastewater installations, and in particular the employees of wastewater treatment plants; and

• Creating the appropriate conditions for remote work of HQ, administration and finance departments’ staff.