MARKET CONTRIBUTION

To counter vandalism, which robs owners of equipment worth hundreds of thousands of rands, pump stations are increasingly being built like fortresses, complete with thick reinforced concrete walls and roofs, and with small ventilation holes in the walls instead of windows or steel louvres, which are vulnerable to attack by angle grinders and oxy-acetylene torches.

Consistent with these measures, the installation of self-supporting, heavy but easy-sliding 60 MPa concrete doors – SA Patent 2008/06587 – together with extremely robust locking mechanisms, are being specified more and more by consulting engineers. The concrete is completely immune to attack by oxy-acetylene torch, and the steel reinforcing in the doors is too dense for chisels to penetrate.

Other advantages include that such ‘fortress’ pump houses do not require perimeter fencing, nor do they require 24-hour security, accumulating to a very substantial saving over the life of the pump station. The additional expense of installing a concrete sliding door will typically be recovered after the first three to four months of not having to pay for security guards. The cost of replacing vandalised or stolen equipment is in any case several times the cost of the door!

A pump house that is stripped clean takes several months to recommission. In the interim water may have to be brought to the community by tanker at great expense.

If vandalism is a concern, then ‘fortress’ pump stations equipped with concrete sliding doors are a wise investment.

INFO

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