

'Water plants should detect odour pollution'

SAFETY MEASURE: Wan Junaidi wants operators to review standard operating procedures

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OPERATORS of water treatment plants should have a system to detect odour pollution.

This would allow plants to shut operations and avoid supplying pol-

luted water to consumers.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar yesterday revealed that only the Selangor Water Management Authority observed parameters on raw water odour.

"Taking into consideration what happened in Sungai Buah (in Nilai), water treatment plant operators



Activated carbon is used to treat **pollution at Sungai Buah, near Sepang, yesterday.** Pic by Iqmal Haqim Rosman

should review their standard operating procedures."

A toxic substance, 4-bromodiphenyl ether, was detected in Sungai Buah, which flows into the Sungai Semenyih water treatment plant, forcing a shutdown due to odour pollution, which affected 1.6 million consumers.

Wan Junaidi said even though treatment plants were not required to detect odour pollution under the National Water Quality Standards, reviewing the policy was necessary.

Odour in raw water supply was also not monitored by the Health Ministry or the Department of Environment, he said.

Wan Junaidi said efforts were ongoing to restore water supply at the Sungai Semenyih plant and to clear the contaminated Sungai Buah.

Three more bunds were being built to stop Sungai Buah from flowing into Sungai Semenyih while repair was under way on a bund that gave way due to heavy rain, he said.

"Activated carbon was used to reduce pollution at Sungai Buah."

Wan Junaidi said he would seek assistance from the police to track down those responsible for polluting the river.

Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd Corporate Communication head Amin Lin Abdullah said water supply to the districts affected by cuts had been fully restored as of 4pm yesterday.

"The supply was delayed due to the four-fold increase in water demand for service reservoirs, storage tanks, distribution pipes and due to panic by consumers."