2 000 000 man hours

This is the number of hours worked at Ingula without a single lost time injury (LTI). This prestigious milestone was reached on the morning of 19 August 2010.

The intensive ‘GOAL ZERO’ safety campaign was rolled out on 11 May 2010. The Eskom project managers, the safety management team, contractor project managers and safety managers pledged their commitment to the prevention of all incidents and injuries. The team has worked around the clock to cultivate a culture of ‘zero tolerance’ at Ingula.

It has taken a dedicated workforce of 4200 safety conscious employees approximately 73 days, without a lost time injury, to achieve this target.

The Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme team, under the leadership of Avin Maharaj, Project Manager for Ingula, is committed to sending each and every employee home at the end of each shift, without an injury. The management team wish to extend their gratitude to every employee working at Ingula for supporting the drive to a healthier and safer working environment. Together we can and will build a world class hydro power station - safely.

Lost time injury is calculated using a formula which takes into consideration the number of people on site and the hours worked by each person. Every day a potential of 45 000 hours are worked and every day without an LTI adds up to reach a million. Even a single event results in the count being cancelled and the process is started afresh. This makes the achievement of two million hours such a major one.

Progress on key projects

Underground works

Tailrace Tunnels
The tunnel downstream, from the construction adit, stands at 605m excavated. From the adit upstream, the tunnel stands at 499m.

Surge Chambers
3 & 4: 8 929m³ excavated to date
1 & 2: 3 028m³ excavated to date

Outlet Structure
Work on the outlet structure stands at 90% complete. The installation of trash racks and grids is currently in progress. The tower and bridge is also in progress.
Fossil awareness training leads to more finds

For several months Dr Gideon Groenewald has been giving talks about Ingula’s fossil finds for the contractors on site.

This has increased awareness amongst employees at all levels and delivered the first fossil finds by one of the foreman working for the Bramhoek Dams Joint Venture.

During August, Johannes Mavimbela noticed the bones of what turned out to be the skull of a dicynodont, amongst the ‘spoil’ taken out of the underground works at Ingula’s upper site.

Further fossil news is that Dr Gideon Groenewald was asked to present at the biennial conference of the South African Institute of Palaeontology held in Howick from 5 to 10 August 2010. He included the Ingula fossil finds in his talk and complemented Eskom on the excellent way in which it encourages co-operation from contractors during the removal of fragile fossils.

Member of Parliament visits Ingula

Honourable Bheki Radebe, Whip of the Portfolio Committee for Trade and Industry’s and his delegation embarked on an intensive site tour of Ingula on 30 August 2010.

The objective of the site tour was to see the progress, to ascertain socio-economic developments within the Phumelela Local Municipality and to establish good working relationships with the project’s management.

Visitors Centre

Since opening its doors in May 2009, the temporary visitors centre has received over 2500 visitors. This included local school groups, university students, government departments, local government groups, environmental groups, general interest groups and Eskom staff.

Visitors are given the necessary health and safety induction and background information about the project before being taken on a site tour.

Tours can be arranged by contacting the Visitors Centre on 036-3423122.

Whistle stop tour by Dr Steve Lennon

Dr Steve Lennon and Phillip Dukashe, General Manager: Enterprise Division, visited Ingula on 31 August 2010. They were taken on a tour of the site, which included a visit to the surge shafts. They were given a closer look by being lowered down into the shafts about 10 storeys.

The Technical Supervisor Groups (TSD 4 & TSD 7) braced the wind to visit the mountain lookout point on Ingula’s upper site.