



## **EPM put at the service of the community a new road which goes through the crest of the dam of the Ituango Hydroelectric Project**

- **It allows continuous mobility to and from the municipality of Ituango**
- **The new road, 23 kilometers long, runs dam the from side to side and was conceived as from the original designs of the future power generation plant**
- **Due to the contingency initiated on April 28, 2018, EPM designed a special mobility plan with road caravans and river travel**
- **According to the inhabitants of the municipality of Ituango, EPM will maintain the service of the ferries La Tranquilidad y La Esperanza until the end of the year**
- **Since the first day of the contingency, EPM has worked together to keep the project going and contribute towards the development and welfare of Colombians**

In order to contribute to the quality of life of the inhabitants of the municipality of Ituango in the northern area of Antioquia, EPM launched this Friday November 08, the new road built on the crest of the dam of the Ituango hydroelectric project.

In a special event with the presence of local authorities, community leaders and inhabitants of Ituango, the Mayor of Medellin and Chairman of the EPM's Board of Directors, Federico Gutiérrez Zuluaga and EPM's General Manager, Jorge Londoño De la Cuesta opened the road which allows for continuous mobility to and from the town of Ituango.



EPM's General Manager Jorge Londoño De la Cuesta thanked the community for its understanding and support during the contingency for which "the Company has not spared efforts nor resources to protect the lives of the inhabitants of the municipalities adjacent to the project and workers on the job; to care for the environment and retrieve the future power generation plant from a technical standpoint. This becomes the greatest guarantee of the reduction of risks and of safety for citizens settled downstream from the project," he said.

## **What happened**

As you will remember, on April 28, 2018, the tunnel of the auxiliary gallery which allowed the deviation of the waters of the Cauca River was obstructed, resulting in premature formation of the Project reservoir, two months earlier than the work schedule. Due to the heavy rains in the area, the reservoir quickly increased its level, overflowing the Pescadero Bridge, located 8 kilometers upstream the dam, structure which made it possible for vehicles headed to Ituango or heading out of this city in direction to Medellin to cross the Cauca River. To remedy this situation, EPM immediately decided to use the internal pathways in the main works of the Ituango hydroelectric project and, through caravans, give the people in Ituango the possibility to move with private, utility, cargo and motorcycle vehicles.

As an additional alternative, on June 12, 2018, the Company offered the service of the ferry La Tranquility and, in December 2018, of the ferry La Esperanza for passenger and cargo through the reservoir. As from Friday, November 08, date in which the road in the crest of the dam was offered and continuous mobility was recovered, EMP agreed with the Ituango community to maintain both ferries until the end of 2019.

## **The new and modern road**

The road that will now be permanently used by the inhabitants of the municipality of Ituango, crosses the dam from one side to the other and was conceived as from the original designs as the definitive community route. It is thus set out in the Environmental License, as a commitment undertaken by Project to restore the Pescadero Bridge's crossing.



The road, called substitute road, runs from the Toledo Valley on the right side of the reservoir to the western portal of the road tunnel, through the dam throughout its crest and, on the left side, it continues to the El Bombillo and from there to the Ituango town center, in a journey of 23 km. Before going through the dam, the Chiri tunnel (978 meters long) and the road tunnel (1.3 kilometers long) are passed.

On the dam, the artery has two lanes with a total width of 7.60 meters and runs along 550 meters of the structure from side to side. EPM launches the fully terminated road, duly paved, with all required urbanization works, signs, lighting and other related works. The Company has deployed in the area adjacent to this work a communication and engagement strategy, to encourage frequent users' road safety, which contains three components: educational, cultural and communicational.

## **A vast construction in progress**

With the launching of the substitute road to the community, the Project reaches a new milestone. From the road, you can see: the 435-meters above-sea-level (m.a.s.l) dam, the fully operational spillway and the reservoir.

The dam structure is 225 m tall and has a volume of 20 million m<sup>3</sup>. Between its upstream leg and its downstream leg, its length amounts to 1 kilometer. The spillway is a hydraulic structure intended to promote the passing, free or controlled of the dammed water. It is an open-channel structure, controlled by four gates. The reservoir, the first kilometers of which may be appreciated from the dam, has a total length of 78 kilometers and a volume of 2.8 million m<sup>3</sup> of water, at its maximum operating level.

For EPM, the Ituango hydroelectric project is a key infrastructure project for the country's development. Its entry into commercial operation will allow for the production of 17% of the energy demanded by Colombians (equivalent to the consumption of 6.5 million homes), with clean, reliable, safe and low-cost technology.