

TABLE MOUNTAIN AERIAL CABLEWAY UPGRADE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA



The New Pathways over the Top of the Underground Reservoir

HHO Africa have for many years been the consulting engineers to the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company. The growth in tourist demand to visit the mountain and enjoy the unsurpassed view led to a major upgrading of the whole system including much larger cable cars. All designs had to conform to strict environmental controls imposed by the local authorities.

The enlargement of the facilities at both the upper and lower stations meant that water supply and sewerage disposal became key issues. Supplies of water on the mountain are limited and seasonal. The strict environmental controls made the transfer and storage of water and disposal of effluent in an unobtrusive manner critical issues.

Among the solutions adopted were :

- ◆ *The unsightly old reservoirs on the mountain were replaced with a 400 m³ underground concrete reservoir fed from Fountain ravine and the upper station receiving tank*
- ◆ *A header tank on the roof of the upper cableway station, fed by pumps from the reservoir, provides necessary working pressures for all the facilities*
- ◆ *Sewage is dealt with partly by a system of chemical toilets and partly by a large underground septic tank with soakaway. Effluent from the chemical toilets is taken off the mountain in the cable cars nightly*
- ◆ *Provision has been made to link both sewage systems to a fixed system to pipe all sewage off the mountain in the future*
- ◆ *A new sewer line was installed at the lower station connecting to the municipal system*
- ◆ *New high lift pumps at Kloof Nek deliver potable water to a receiving tank at the lower cableway station from where the cable cars transport it to the upper station receiving tank*



The Old Surface Reservoirs