



## Fresh Water Woes for Crimea



*Russian military forces preparing to lay water pipe in Crimea, August 2020.*

Source: <https://mil.ru/novosti/472-ministerstvo-oborony-postroit-vodoprovod-v-krymu>, mil.ru CCA 4.0 Intl

adequate fresh water supplies to Crimea is not a new problem. The second excerpt from the official news agency, *Interfax*, points out that in mid-August, Russian military forces laid a pipeline between the Taigan and Simferopol reservoirs... in order to transfer fresh water to the Crimean capital." The article cites the head of Crimea, Sergei Aksenov, who asserts that "the current year is one of the driest for the peninsula in 150 years."

The third excerpt from the moderate source, *Noviye Izvestiya* warns, "the situation with water supply in Crimea is getting worse every day. In the six years that have passed since the annexation of the peninsula to Russia, the country's authorities have not managed to solve this problem." While the military's efforts to transfer water from one reservoir to another provided limited relief to Crimea's capital, Simferopol, the overall water situation on the peninsula remains critical. The article concludes on an ominous note, quoting a local journalist who asserts that "it looks like a real humanitarian disaster is starting in Crimea. This should have been the main news in Russia, but everywhere there is silence about it (except for the Crimean media)." Cooler weather may provide some relief for local residents, but since the Kremlin leadership still has been unable to peacefully resolve Crimea's water woes, they may be tempted to adopt more forceful measures. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

***"...The situation with water supply in Crimea is getting worse every day...."***

**Source:** "Putin opens Tavrida highway in Crimea," TASS, 27 August 2020. <https://tass.com/politics/1194449>

*The Tavrida highway, which connects Kerch and Sevastopol, has been officially opened in Crimea, Russian President Vladimir Putin has already driven on it, Russian Transport Minister Yevgeny Dietrich said at a ceremony on Thursday.*

**Source:** "Военные построили трубопровод для переброски воды в Симферополь (The military built a pipeline to transfer water to Simferopol)," *Interfax*, 10 August 2020. <https://www.interfax.ru/russia/721079>

*The Russian military, at the request of the Crimean authorities, laid a pipeline between the Taigan and Simferopol reservoirs... in order to transfer fresh water to the Crimean capital.*

*...At the beginning of 2020, many reservoirs in Crimea became shallow. Aksenov called the current year one of the driest for the peninsula in 150 years....*

**Source:** "Ситуация с водоснабжением в Крыму становится катастрофической (The situation with water supply in Crimea is becoming catastrophic)," *Noviye Izvestiya*, 24 September 2020. <https://newizv.ru/news/economy/24-09-2020/situatsiya-s-vodosnabzheniem-v-krymu-stanovitsya-katastroficheskoy>

*...The situation with water supply in Crimea is getting worse every day. In the six years that have passed since the annexation of the peninsula to Russia, the country's authorities have managed not to solve this problem, despite the fact that everyone has been well aware of it since Soviet times....*

*...By the way, the lack of water supply is not the only reason for the situation, it is further complicated by significant water losses, which in Crimea reach 80% with the national average level of 20-30%, and this year there is also a drought. Water supply restrictions are already being introduced on the southern coast of the peninsula....*

*..."It looks like a real humanitarian disaster is starting in Crimea. The main news in Russia should have been broadcast everywhere, but everywhere there is silence about it (except for the Crimean media)..." commented journalist Pavel Pryanikov.*

*...It is the unresolved issue of water supply in Crimea, and not the sanctions of the West, that is the most serious problem associated with the return of the peninsula to Russia....*

*The lack of adequate attention to this issue over the past six years defies rational explanation.*