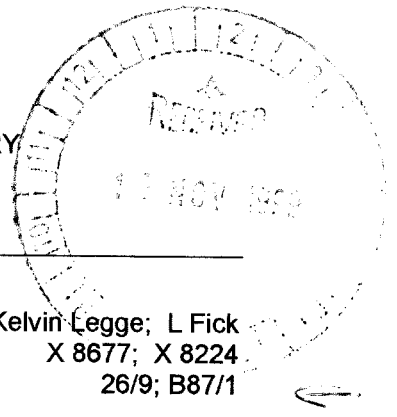


DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY
DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESE EN BOSBOU
LEFAPHA LA METSI LE DIKGWA
UMNYANGO WEZAMANZI NEZAMAHLATHI



ENQUIRIES: Kelvin Legge; L Fick
TEL: X 8677; X 8224
REFERENCE: 26/9; B87/1

MINISTER

ZONING PLANS FOR STATE DAMS: REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Zoning plans are compiled for State dams at government waterworks so as to protect the resource while allowing for optimum sustainable use in an equitable manner. The principles and guidelines by which zoning plans are produced and the decision support system on development were approved by MANCO on the 7th of July and 12th of October 1999. The former was also presented at your MINMEC meeting on the 26th of August 1999.

In terms of Section 113 and 116 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) you are authorised to approve zoning plans and this submission is thus made, presenting some plans for your consideration and approval.

Please note that the Department owns approximately 350 dams for which no zoning plans have been signed off to date. To facilitate licensing and accelerate implementation of the requirements of our Act at specific dams, you are requested to sign the following plans (please find appended):

Section 1: Plans previously approved

Buffelspoort and Roodeplaat dams:

These plans were compiled in accordance with Departmental principles and approved (and publicly announced) by our previous Minister, Prof Kader Asmal, in December 1998 and May 1997 respectively.

You are requested to approve these plans, on condition that they are implemented by the relevant Regional Directors in accordance with all other Departmental principles and requirements, to be valid for a period of 40 years, unless during this period the Department has sufficient reason to request a change thereto.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
1) [Signature] 2/12
2) K Legge
Res 435A
1

Section 2: Zoning plans recently produced for dams in the North West and Mpumalanga provinces

Part 2A: Plans accepted during the public consultation process:

The Maputo-Gaberone corridor initiative identified 16 dams in the North West province that may have potential recreational viability and zoning plans for them were thus requested.

A public participation procedure was carried out over the past 18 months, in accordance with approved Departmental policies, for these dams as well as for Loskop dam in the Mpumalanga province.

Plans for the following dams are thus recommended for approval as consensus thereon was reached:

- (a) Bospoort;
- (b) Klipvoor;
- (c) Kromellenboog;
- (d) Lindleyspoort;
- (e) Loskop;
- (f) Madikwe;
- (g) Mankwe;
- (h) Marico-Bosveld;
- (i) Molatedi;
- (j) Roodekopjes; and
- (k) Vaalkop dams.

You are requested to approve these plans on condition that they are implemented in accordance with all other principles and requirements of the Department, for a period of 40 years, unless the Department has sufficient reason to approach you for amendment thereto.

Part 2B: Plans being verified

Please note that plans for the following dams have been prepared, but to date consensus has not been reached by the Interested and Affected Parties and they are thus not recommended for approval at this stage:

- (a) Disaneng;
- (b) Klein-Maricopoort;
- (c) Koster;
- (d) Leeukraal/Kudube;
- (e) Lotlamoreng; and
- (f) Setumo (previously Modimola) dams.

These plans are however included for your information.

Section 3: Zoning plans drawn up and implemented over the past 10 years

There are several dams for which zoning plans were produced, approved by management and implemented by the Regional Offices. While public participation was an element, these plans have been implemented with the principles changing to meet the new vision. These plans include the following:

- (a) Craigieburn;
- (b) Ebenezer;
- (c) Greater Brandvlei;
- (d) Grootdraai;
- (e) Impofu;
- (f) Klipfontein;
- (g) Kwena;
- (h) Nahoon;
- (i) Sterkfontein;
- (j) Tzaneen; and
- (k) Wiggleswade dams.

It is recommended that these plans be approved for a period of 5 years on condition that they are implemented in accordance with all other principles and requirements of the Department and that in the 5th year of implementation, are audited. The audit should culminate in a recommendation on period of further approval or modification of the plans.

Section 4: Zoning plans with special conditions

4.1 Safety requirements

Wolwedans dam has been zoned without public involvement as a no-activity dam for dam safety reasons. The surrounding area is made up of fractured rock and it is feared that if the basin area is denuded of vegetation, water ingress into these rock seams could induce a landslide into the dam with commensurate "tidal wave" action which could place the dam and the downstream Great Brak community in danger. It is recommended that you approve this plan for a period of 40 years.

4.2 Potential development for community upliftment

Fika Patso and Metsimatsho dams:

An initiative by Mr Steve Phohlela MP, has identified the two dams in the former homeland area of Qua Qua as feasible tourism dams in a greater potential development of the region. Discussions between Mr Phohlela and Department officials, including myself, in January 1999 resulted in conditional

principle agreement to the use of these dams for low impact activities and conservation. The conditions included the requirement that Mr Phohlela confirms public support for the proposed developments/use and that the development provide a water purification works when fish farming is re-introduced, since these two small dams provide primary water to Phutha-Ditjhaba.

It is recommended that these two plans are approved with the condition that the developer/user fulfils the requirements of water purification provision and public participation confirmation before the use is implemented, along with all other standard requirements, for a period of 10 years, after which an audit shall be undertaken.

4.3 Dams under excessive development pressure

Hartebeespoort dam:

A zoning exercise was undertaken by a consultant and the plan accepted by the Department in 1997. This plan was however not put to the Minister at the time due to unclear administrative procedures. There is at present an initiative by the Regional Director: NWP to have the plan verified by a greater public participation procedure and with special reference to the new principles. It is recommended that the attached plan be approved as the zoning plan for the dam until such time as a revised submission is made to you - which is anticipated within a year.

Quo vadis

The Department will in future produce zoning plans as part of environmental management planning (mitigation) for dams during their construction phase. Thus, zoning procedures are in progress for the following dams, for which zoning plans will be submitted to you in due course:


- (a) Injaka;
- (b) Midmar;
- (c) Skuifraam; and
- (d) Nandoni dams.

For dams already in existence for which zoning plans do not exist, the Department is pursuing planning on a regional prioritisation basis.

Plans which should be presented in due course, include those of the following dams:

- (a) Bronkhorstspuit;
- (b) Umtata;
- (c) Misverstand weir; and
- (d) Voëlvlei dams.

Your kind consideration and approval of the plans as demarcated above and attached, is requested. For your convenience a copy of the zoning policy and guidelines are also appended. Copies of the zoning plan reports for the various dams are also available on your request. These have not been forwarded as they are voluminous, but are kept as a record of proceedings, justification and decisions leading to the final zoning plans.



DIRECTOR GENERAL

DATE: 16/11/99

*From the Ministers
Out-Trap
She*