



water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TENDER NUMBER: WP11503

**DESCRIPTION: APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED BULK CONVEYANCE INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE RAISED CLANWILLIAM DAM FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS**

QUESTIONS		ANSWERS
1	How many Borrow Pits are expected to be needed for the project?	The geotechnical investigations indicate that there is approximately sufficient soft excavation material within the Ebenhaeser Balancing Dam basin to be used for the embankment, though some hard excavation may be required as a supplement. However, sand and cohesionless gravel for pipe underdrains and concrete works are not available on-site and will need to be imported. At this stage, no borrow pits are anticipated beyond the dam basin, Right Bank Canal, and Jan Dissels Scheme pipeline alignments. The professional service provider appointed for the feasibility study (Zutari Pty Ltd, Cape Town) will need to confirm this during the EIA process. Bidders must, however, allow for one borrow area per scheme in case it becomes necessary.
2	It is also mentioned that it is expected that the EAP is meant to work closely with the engineering company that compiled the technical feasibility study, what is the status of the engineering design, has this been completed as the EIA and WULA will require at best preliminary design if not detailed design as per requirements of both DFFE and DWS?	The Post-Feasibility Bridging Study produced <b>detailed feasibility designs</b> for the three schemes, which should be sufficient for environmental authorisation. A detailed feasibility design is effectively equivalent to a preliminary design, containing all required elements. Given that DWS processes do not permit the preparation of a detailed design before environmental authorisation and funding approval – due to high associated costs – an exemption from this requirement has been granted in similar cases. The same reasoning applies to the WULA process.

3	<p>What is the total extent of the project as it is mentioned that there are greenfield irrigation fields as well as existing irrigated fields, will this need to be also included in the assessment?</p>	<p>The total area identified for irrigated agriculture is approximately <b>5 874 hectares</b>, with direct project impacts covering <b>462 hectares</b> for the Jan Dissels Scheme, <b>2 339 hectares</b> for the Right Bank Canal Scheme, and <b>361 hectares</b> for the Ebenhaeser Scheme. The EIA Study will assess not only these areas but also the infrastructure footprint, including canals, pipelines, pump stations, a balancing dam, and reservoirs. Social impacts and specialist studies may extend beyond the immediate project footprint. Detailed descriptions of each scheme are available in the study reports on the DWS website.</p>
4	<p>What level of guidance is required for the private irrigation schemes as these may require individual authorisations and detailed information is required to inform the pre-application phase of the project with the respective competent authorities?</p>	<p>Guidance is required from DFFE regarding the environmental authorisation process for emerging (resource-poor) farmers. Specifically, clarity is needed on whether individual applications will be required or if a <b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b> or another consolidated process can be pursued. Given the technical and financial constraints of emerging farmers, it is unlikely they will manage environmental authorisation independently. These private schemes primarily involve basic abstraction works and conveyance pipelines, which may only necessitate a <b>Basic Assessment</b>. While the DWS will facilitate this process during implementation, the appointed EIA Study PSP (EAP) should engage DFFE to obtain guidance on the most appropriate approach. However, the EAP will not be responsible for submitting EA applications for the private schemes – only responsible for providing guidance.</p>
5	<p>There is also a requirement for an Electrical Network Study-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What level of detail is required and does this include designs</li> <li>• Ideally this should occur before the EIA study to determine what components are required and if these require any environmental authorisation.</li> </ul>	<p>The Electrical Network Study will identify the most feasible connection point on the grid, determine route alignment for the power line with necessary buffers, and assess power requirements in consultation with Zutari. No detailed designs are required at this stage; only high-level technical information and high-level environmental assessment is necessary to support the water infrastructure authorisation process. The <b>electrical specialist</b> will conduct the required technical analysis. Full EIA and authorisation for the <b>electrical infrastructure</b> will be undertaken separately by <b>Eskom</b> during implementation, as this infrastructure falls under their jurisdiction, not DWS. The <b>financial proposal</b> should only reflect the scope of the power line study necessary for obtaining authorisation for the water infrastructure.</p>

6	Do we quote separately for the “Eskom Power Supply Authorisation” as currently there are no details on what will be required?	Bidders are required to price for the work related to identification of the most feasible connection point on the grid, determination of route alignment for the power line, and assessment of power requirements as explained above and undertake an impact assessment for the selected power line route for each scheme. At this point, we do not anticipate the need for authorisation for the powerline as part of this EA application. The price must be included in the <b>financial proposal</b> for this EIA Study and will be considered in bid evaluation.
7	Do you know what the expected electrical/mechanical load will be?	The power requirements for the project are not known at this stage, and the <b>electrical specialist</b> will be required to determine this in consultation with Zutari.
8	Has this 4 <sup>th</sup> Bid been amended in any significant manner, resulting in this 4 <sup>th</sup> call for proposals?	In previous bidding rounds, all <b>bidders were disqualified</b> due to non-compliance with mandatory requirements, such as incorrect specialist qualifications or missing prescribed forms, preventing an appointment. The revised <b>Terms of Reference</b> now specify that only the <b>Study Leader</b> must meet the <b>mandatory requirements</b> for a bid to be considered. While other specialists must still provide their qualifications and other necessary information and will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria, their non-compliance will not lead to disqualification. Bidders will only be disqualified if the Study Leader fails to meet the mandatory requirements.
9	How will DWS deal with being the applicant and decision-maker for the water use license required as part of this project?	Within DWS, there is a difference of opinion regarding whether the Minister must issue a water use licence to herself. This project falls under the mandate of the DWS Western Cape regional office, which maintains that all water uses require a formal water use authorisation. As a result, the cost of obtaining a Water Use Licence (WUL) must be included in the proposal.
10	The Bid requires consolidation of the consultation requirements, while the National Water Act requires this be done over no less than 60 days and NEMA over at least 30 days. Is the intention that we work on a 60 day PPP for all relevant processes to ensure this required consolidation?	It is recommended that a <b>60-day public participation period</b> be allocated for both the NEMA and NWA processes, and this must be reflected in the <b>financial proposal</b> .
11	Borrow areas will require a permit/right under the MPRDA: Is DWS and this work covered by the exemption issued previously by DMRE? It must also be noted that a MPRDA	Engagement with the <b>Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)</b> is necessary to confirm whether the <b>exemption</b> previously granted to DWS remains valid and whether DMR should still be <b>notified</b> of the project despite the exemption. Even if the exemption applies, DWS anticipates that an <b>environmental impact assessment</b> for

	<p>mining right or permit (and even an exempted organ of state) also requires a NEMA EA. Therefore there is scope for consolidation of the various required permits and authorisations.</p>	<p>borrow areas may still be required under NEMA. Therefore, proposals must <b>include pricing</b> for this work, as <b>variation orders</b> are generally discouraged within DWS, and their approval is not guaranteed.</p>
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