



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DETERMINATION OF WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES IN THE THUKELA CATCHMENT: BACKGROUND

PUBLIC MEETING 2

Presented by:
Mohlapa Sekoele
Department: Water & Sanitation

Date: 16 – 17 November 2021

Legal Mandate

The classification of South African water resources is required by the National Water Act (NWA) (No. 36 of 1998) (Chapter 3 regarding the protection of water resources)

- The Resource-Directed Measures for protection of water resources are:
 - Classification (S13)
 - Resource Quality Objectives (S13)
 - Reserve (S16)

- S12 requires the Minister to establish the Water Resource Classification System, (WRCS)

- WRCS was published as Regulation 810 in Government Gazette No. 33541 dated 17 September 2010

- According to the NWA, once the WRCS has been gazetted all significant water resources must be classified

What is Classification?

- Classification defines the desired state of the water resources by setting a Water Resource Class;
- The Class reflects a balance between protection and use of the water resources;
- This balance is determined by taking into account the social, economic & ecological landscape;
- Process requires co-operation & transparency with all stakeholders.

What are the classes?

Classes	Description of use	Majority of ecological categories
Class I	Minimally used	A & B
Class II	Moderately used	C
Class III	Heavily used	D

Ecological Category (EC) - means the assigned ecological condition to a water resource . It is measured by determining how much the ecosystem has changed from natural. The scale is A (near natural) to F (critically modified)

What are the Resource Quality Objectives?

- RQOs are numeric or descriptive statements of conditions which should be met in the receiving water resource;
- RQOs represent the requirements for water quantity, quality, habitat integrity and biotic integrity to be maintained in aquatic ecosystems.
- RQOs are the objectives or goals which can be measured or monitored to determine whether the Class is being achieved;
- They are intended to give effect to the Class determined.

DETERMINATION OF CLASSES AND RQOS IN THE THUKELA

- The study was initiated in August 2019
- Timeframe: 30 months
- Golder Associates was appointed to assist DWS
- The objective of the study is to determine classes and RQOs in the Thukela Catchment

Where are we in the process?

In accordance with the Classification and RQOs guidelines

- 1 Describe the status quo and delineate the study area into units of analysis (IUAs)
- 2 Delineate and prioritise Resource Units (RUs)
- 3 Quantify the ecological water requirements (EWRs)
- 4 Identify and evaluate scenarios within the IWRM process
- 5 Determine Water Resource Classes
- 6 Determine RQOs
- 7 Gazette Water Resource Classes and RQOs

Stakeholder Engagement

We are here

We are here

Stakeholder Engagement

PUBLIC MEETINGS

	DATE	PURPOSE	VENUE
1	26-27 Feb 2020	Study introduction & PSC membership nominations	Newcastle-Estcourt
2	16-17 Nov 2021	<i>Present Classes and RQOs template</i>	<i>Estcourt-Newcastle</i>

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETINGS

1	16 Jul 2020	Provide strategic direction, technical input and guidance on the study process and tasks	On-line
2	22 Sept 2020		
3	26 Nov 2020		
4	03 Mar 2021		
5	28 Apr 2021		
6	21 Jul 2021		

TECHNICAL TASK GROUP (TTG) MEETINGS

	DATE	PURPOSE	VENUE
1	20 Jan 2021	Discuss specific technical issues	On-line
2	26 Apr 2021		

THANK YOU

Contacts:

	Email address	Telephone	Mobile
Project Manager: Ms Mohlapa Sekoele	sekoelem@dws.gov.za	012 336 8329	082 809 5418
Scientist Manager: Mr Mkhevu Mnisi	mnisim2@dws.gov.za	012 336 6887	082 908 3291
Director: Ms Lebogang Matlala	matlalal@dws.gov.za	012 336 6707	082 884 5399

<http://www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/WRCS/default.aspx>