



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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REFERENCE: WP 10679

5 November 2012

Dear Stakeholder

INVITATION TO SERVE AS A PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER: THE CLASSIFICATION, COMPREHENSIVE RESERVE AND RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES DETERMINATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE MVOTI TO UMZIMKULU WATER MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)

1. Introduction and invitation to serve on the Steering Committee

The Department of Water Affairs has commissioned a study to classify significant water resources in the Mvoti to Umzimkulu WMA, in order to facilitate an appropriate balance between use of the water resources and protection thereof.

As the Department wishes to follow a transparent process and include stakeholders as required by the National Water Act, (Act 36 of 1998), herein referred to as "NWA", an extensive stakeholder engagement process will be followed. Part of this process involves establishing a Project Steering Committee (PSC) that is representative of sectors important to the study. The PSC will be a voluntary body operating at a strategic level and ensuring that the technical aspect of the study is transparent, open and consultative and that cooperative governance is embraced.

Your organisation is regarded as a key stakeholder in this process. I therefore have the pleasure to invite you to serve as a member of the PSC for this study or nominate a representative that can serve on this committee. The PSC will meet every six months during the 36 months of the study. A brief background on the study is provided below for your perusal.

2. Study Background

On 17 September 2010, Regulation 810, establishing a water resources classification system, was gazetted and published in Government Gazette 33541. The NWA specifies that once the Water Resource Classification System (WRCS) has been gazetted all significant water resources need to be classified. The outcome of the classification process will be the setting of the Management Class (MC) for every significant water resource under consideration.

Due to the fact that there is an accelerated rate of development and demand on South African water resources resulting in a scarcity of water resources and changing weather patterns due to climate change, water resources are becoming more stressed. The classification of water resources will help in maintaining the desired state of the significant water resources, by setting the MC of each significant water resource in South Africa.

The establishment of a MC is necessary to facilitate a balance between protection and use of the water resources. It is recognised that some water resources by virtue of their ecological importance may require a high level of protection, whereas other water resources may serve the country's developmental and economic growth needs. However, in keeping with the Constitutional requirement for sustainable development, all water resources must be able to sustain their use. The classification process therefore requires cooperation with all three spheres of government, participation of stakeholders, and engagement with civil society in order to ensure appropriateness and acceptability of the MC.

3. Contacts

For any enquiries regarding your organisation's involvement or logistics with regards to the first PSC meeting, please contact:

Ms Shane Naidoo	Director: Water Resources Classification	Tel (012) 336 6707 Fax (012) 336 6712	NaidooShane@dwa.gov.za
Ms Tovhowani Nyamande	Project Co-ordinator	Tel (012) 336 7521 Fax (012) 336 6712	nyamandet@dwa.gov.za
Ms Bongsi Shinga	ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants	Tel: 035 340 2715 Fax: 035 340 2232	bongi.shinga@acerafrica.co.za

4. How To Register

Kindly return the completed nomination form. Once registered, you will receive a Background Information Document and details of the inaugural PSC meeting.

We trust that you will take the opportunity to participate in this important initiative.

Yours sincerely


Mr Maxwell Sirehya

Director-General

Letter signed by Ms Ndileka Mohapi

Designation: Chief Director: Water Ecosystems

Date: 2012 -11- 1 2