
	<b>DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING</b> <b>DEA Pre-Application Consultation Meeting</b>	<b>Queries:</b>	Donavan Henning ☎ 011 781 1730 📠 011 781 1731 ✉ donavanh@nemai.co.za
<b>Client Details:</b>	 water & sanitation Department: Water and Sanitation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	<b>Project Name:</b>	EIA for the Development of Foxwood Dam
<b>Date:</b>	18 March 2015	<b>Time:</b>	11h00 – 13h30
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Siboniso Mbense	<b>Venue:</b>	Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Rd, Pretoria

Present	Organisation	Telephone	Email
Siboniso Mbense ( <b>SM</b> )	DEA	012 399 9387	SMbense@environment.gov.za
Seoka Lekota ( <b>SL</b> )	DEA	123 999 573	SLekota@environment.gov.za
Fiona Grimett ( <b>FG</b> )	DEA	012 399 9393	fgrimett@environment.gov.za
Nyiko Nkosi ( <b>NN</b> )	DEA	012 399 9392	nnkosi@environment.gov.za
Sindiswa Dlomo ( <b>SD</b> )	DEA	012 399 9390	sdlomo@environment.gov.za
Sanet van Jaarsveld ( <b>SvJ</b> )	DWS	012 336 7284	VanJaarsveldS@dwa.gov.za
James Bristow ( <b>JB</b> )	Arup	011 218 7600	james.bristow@arup.com
James Hampton ( <b>JH</b> )	Arup	011 218 7600	james.hampton@arup.com
Donavan Henning ( <b>DH</b> )	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1730	donavanh@nemai.co.za

Apologies	Organisation	Telephone	Email
Milicent Solomons	DEA	012 399 9382	msolomons@environment.gov.za
Menard Mugumo	DWS	012 336 6838	MugumoM@dwa.gov.za

**Note:** These minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of the meeting, but rather as a summary of the salient discussions which took place.

Item.	Description	Action	Target Date
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>		
1.1	The meeting commenced at approximately 11H00. SM acted as the chairperson and welcomed everyone present. Attendees were requested to introduce themselves.	-	-
<b>2.</b>	<b>Confirmation of Agenda</b>		
2.1	The agenda was accepted without any amendments or additions.	-	-
<b>3.</b>	<b>Project Overview</b>		
	<i>Refer to presentation contained in Appendix B.</i>	-	-
3.1	SvJ provided an overview of the project background and motivation.	-	-
3.2	SM noted that the viability of the proposed dam is linked to supplying water for domestic and irrigation purposes. How will the land be acquired to undertake the irrigation development? SvJ indicated that the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian	-	-

Item.	Description	Action	Target Date
	Reform had been engaged with during the Feasibility Study with regards to the implementation of the proposed irrigation development.		
3.3	JH explained that the intention was to identify sufficient land that would cater for a sustainable and commercial agricultural venture rather than subsistence agriculture. JH further noted that no objections to the irrigation development had been received during the initial engagements with stakeholders and the public as part of the Feasibility Study.	-	-
3.4	DH noted that the irrigation development was not part of the scope of the current Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). SvJ emphasised that the project needed to be viewed as providing “enabling” infrastructure to promote agriculture.	-	-
3.5	JB presented the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project programme;</li> <li>• Water requirements and resources;</li> <li>• Physical project works;</li> <li>• Potential for irrigation development;</li> <li>• Economic impacts; and</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement and public consultation (Feasibility Study).</li> </ul>	-	-
3.6	SM requested that the project programme be expanded to provide greater detail. JB indicated that a detailed programme was available as part of the Record of Implementation Decisions. DH also noted that a detailed programme had been developed for the EIA.	-	-
3.7	DH indicated that although the irrigation development of the project has been excluded from the EIA, it is inevitable that comments regarding this component will be received from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the Public Participation process. A separate category will be provided in the Comments and Response Report for the irrigation development to allow DEA to distinguish between this component and the scope of the EIA.  SM noted that the EIA must be clear in the manner in which the issues raised will be addressed. SvJ explained that the project team can only address those issues related to the dam and associated works, as we will not have all the necessary information related to the irrigation development. SvJ further indicated that the EIA for the irrigation development will take into consideration and address all matters raised during the Foxwood Dam EIA that are related to this component.  SM expressed concern regarding the uncertainties pertaining to the irrigation development, and the reliance of the overall project on this component. Suggested that the EIA reports clearly state the gaps in knowledge in this regard.	-	-
3.8	SB enquired about the implications of supporting subsistence farming as opposed to commercial farming. SvJ explained that this would affect the economic viability of the project and place a higher burden on government.	-	-
3.9	SL asked whether land-related impacts had been assessed during the Feasibility Study. DH indicated that an environmental screening report had been compiled, which primarily included a desktop assessment of the site. SvJ noted that as part of the investigations for the irrigation development an onsite appraisal of the land conditions and soils had been conducted.	-	-
3.10	FG asked whether Eskom had provided any comments on the proposed relocation of the power line that will be affected by the	-	-

Item.	Description	Action	Target Date
	impoundment. JB indicated that Eskom had not been engaged with during the Feasibility Study. DH noted that contact had been made with Eskom and that the relevant representatives had been notified of the project as part of the EIA announcement.		
3.11	DH indicated that the EIA will cover the relocation of all infrastructure affected by the impoundment, which include a power line, telephone line and roads.	-	-
3.12	DH noted that the Economic Study had been undertaken as part of the Feasibility Study and would be appended to the Environmental Impact Report (EIA). A separate Socio-economic Study would be conducted under the EIA.	-	-
3.13	FG asked whether any dwellings needed to be relocated. JB explained that only the dwellings of farm labourers needed to be relocated.	-	-
3.14	SM requested clarity on the public participation undertaken during the Feasibility Study. SvJ indicated that it had primarily entailed targeted engagement with stakeholders and an Agricultural Technical Working Group. JB noted that a Public Participation Report had also been compiled.	-	-
3.15	SD enquired about the borrow pits and quarry. JB explained that the proposed composite dam would require clay from borrow pits and rock from a quarry. The borrow pits are located in the basin and the quarry site is situated outside the basin along the R344. JH provided an overview of the geotechnical investigations and indicated that a commercial source might also be considered. SD noted the potential impacts associated with the hauling of the material which needed to be assessed during the EIA.	-	-
<b>4.</b>	<b>EIA Matters</b>		
	<i>Refer to presentation contained in Appendix B.</i>	-	-
4.1	DH presented the EIA timeframes based on the 2014 regulations. SD suggested that the Application Form and draft Scoping Report, which has been subjected to a 30-day review period, be submitted to DEA at the same time to avoid potential problems associated with the strict timeframes.	-	-
4.2	DH enquired whether specialist studies could be conducted upfront, taking into consideration the timeframes associated with the EIR and seasonal constraints related to the biodiversity assessment. SD agreed with this approach.	-	-
4.3	DH asked if the mining-related activities would need to be approved by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). SD clarified that DEA as the lead authority would also need to authorise these activities. This would need to be confirmed with DMR.	DH	25/03/15
4.4	SM indicated that formal confirmation would be required with regards to the project's status as a Strategic Integrated Project (SIP).	SvJ	01/04/15
4.5	DH indicated that there are no locational alternatives for the dam. SD stated that alternatives must be considered during the EIA and the justification for selecting the current site would need to be provided. JH noted that options had been investigated as part of the Feasibility Study in terms of the dam size and type, and what is currently presented is the optimal and preferred option. DH indicated that the Scoping Report will include a discussion on the screened alternatives and that the feasible alternatives will include the dam type and size, which will be comparatively assessed. Additional alternatives may be identified by specialists and I&APs. SL noted that it is important to	DH	25/03/15

Item.	Description	Action	Target Date
	assess alternatives in terms of ecosystem goods and services. SM cautioned that the less preferred option could be authorised by DEA. SM further suggested that the presentation be amended to reflect the alternatives to be considered.		
4.6	DH explained that the domestic water supply for the town of Adelaide could be addressed by the raising of the existing Adelaide Dam. SM suggested that this not be considered as an alternative, as the intention of the project is to enable the irrigation development.	-	-
4.7	DH indicated that the biodiversity loss associated with the project still needed to be qualified and quantified, but asked whether DEA had any requirements with regards to a Biodiversity Offset Study. SL noted that DEA was in the process of developing a policy for biodiversity offsets. The Biodiversity Assessment for the project first needed to be concluded to understand what will be lost and mitigation measures first need to be considered before a Biodiversity Offset Study is triggered. SM stated that such a study would first need to be concluded as part of the EIA and that any conditions in the Environmental Authorisation would pertain to managing the implementation of the offsets. DH indicated that a follow-up meeting would be convened with DEA to present the findings of the Biodiversity Assessment and to discuss biodiversity offsets further.	-	-
4.8	SL indicated that it would be preferred if the general fauna and flora study be combined. SvJ and DH confirmed that this will be the case.	-	-
4.9	DH enquired about DEA's requirements in terms of assessing potential climate change impacts related to the project. SM noted that the contact details of the DEA Climate Change Unit will be provided.	DEA	To be confirmed
4.10	DH enquired whether the details of the construction camp needed to be provided. The current approach will include assessing the footprint of a proposed camp site. SM noted that this would be acceptable.	-	-
4.11	FG requested that copies of the Scoping Report and EIR also be submitted to SL.	-	-
4.12	SM asked about the authorities meetings to be held during the process. DH noted that meetings would be held with authorities during the project announcement, Scoping phase and EIR phase. SD suggested that this be communicated during the pending authorities meeting scheduled for 25 March 2015.	-	-
4.13	SD requested that the EIA programme be submitted to DEA on a 3-monthly basis to allow for the Department to plan adequately.  <i>A copy of the draft EIA programme is attached as Appendix C.</i>	-	-
<b>5.</b>	<b>DEA Requirements</b>		
5.1	<i>DEA requirements noted as part of discussions under preceding items.</i>	-	-
<b>6.</b>	<b>General</b>		
6.1	<i>No matters raised under this item.</i>	-	-
<b>7.</b>	<b>Closure and Way Forward</b>		
7.1	The minutes will be circulated by 23 March 2015.  The meeting was adjourned at approximately 13h30.	-	-

Annexures
Completed Attendance Register
Presentations
Draft EIA Programme

Approval of Minutes

**Minutes Compiled for: DEA**

Approved By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(S. Mbense)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Minutes Compiled by: Nema Consulting**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(N. Naidoo)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## APPENDIX A

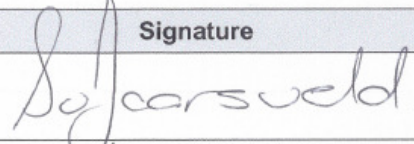

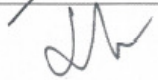




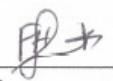
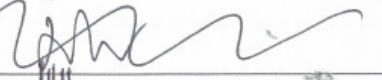

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### COMPLETED ATTENDANCE REGISTER



	<b>DEA Pre-Application Consultation Meeting</b>	<b>Queries:</b>	Donavan Henning ☎ 011 781 1730 ✉ 011 781 1731 ✉ donavanh@nemai.co.za
<b>Client Details:</b>	 <b>water &amp; sanitation</b> Department: Water and Sanitation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	<b>Date:</b>	EIA for the Development of Foxwood Dam
<b>Date:</b>	18 March 2015	<b>Time:</b>	11h00 – 13h30
<b>Chairperson:</b>	M. Solomons	<b>Venue:</b>	Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Rd, Pretoria

#### Attendance Register

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## APPENDIX B

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### PRESENTATIONS



## APPENDIX C

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### DRAFT EIA PROGRAMME

## Proposed Development of Foxwood Dam - Draft EIA Programme

