



# LIMPOPO

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

### REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

#### DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

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**Attention: Donavan Henning**

#### **LEDET COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED INTERIM PIPELINE TO AUGMENT THE SUPPLY FROM MOKOLO DAM (PHASE 1), WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

The above-mentioned matter has reference.

This Department has reviewed the content of a Draft Scoping Report dated November 2009 regarding the abovementioned development.

The information contained in the Draft Scoping Report indicates that the development proposal entails the an interim pipeline to augment the supply from Mokolo dam until a transfer pipeline from Crocodile River (West) can be implemented via a system consisting of:

- Rising main from Mokolo Dam to Wolvenfontein balancing dams;
- Gravity line from Wolvefontein to Matimba Power Station; and
- Gravity line from Matimba Power Station to Steenbokpan.

In light of the above and grounds of the information currently available, the Department wishes to submit the following:

1. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have an adverse impact on the fauna and flora as the pipeline route is proposed to follow the route of the existing Exxaro pipeline.
2. The following mitigation measures are however essential:
  - The appropriate agency must implement an ongoing monitoring and eradication programme for all invasive and weedy plant species growing within 200m of the route.
  - Any post-development re-vegetation or landscaping exercise must only use species indigenous to South Africa. Plant species locally indigenous to the area are preferred.
  - It is also recommended that plants (naturally growing along the route) that may be destroyed during construction be used for re-vegetation/landscaping purposes. Should some of these plant

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be listed as protect species, a permit must be acquired from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries prior to any removal and/or relocation of such plants.

- Where the pipeline is proposed to traverse a wetland or river, measures are required to ensure that the pipeline has minimal effect on the flow of water through the wetland or river, e.g. by running the pipeline over a high level bridge or box culverts.
  - The disturbance of the wetland adjacent to the crossing site must be minimized during construction.
  - No activity such as temporary housing, temporary ablution, disturbance of natural habitat, storing of equipment or any other use of the buffer/flood zone, may be permitted during the construction phase. The demarcated buffer/flood zone must be fenced during construction phase to prevent any misinterpretation of demarcated no-go zone.
3. It was note in page 4 of the Draft Scoping Report dated November 2009 that the pipeline to be constructed in phase 1 is for interim period until a transfer pipeline from Crocodile River (West) is implemented. Page 34 of the report indicates that decommissioning of the pipeline is not applicable to the scheme. In light of the aforementioned, clarity is required as to whether the pipeline will be decommissioned or not. Should decommissioning be required, a description of the decommissioning measures to be implemented must be submitted with EIA report.
  4. No surface storm water generated as a result of the pipeline development may be directed directly into any natural drainage system.
  5. No activity may take place outside of the demarcated pipeline reserve.
  6. The responsible heritage resources authority (SAHRA) must be notified about the proposed activity. SAHRA will in terms of section 32(2)(a) of the NHRA notify the proponent to submit a heritage impact assessment report if there is a reason to believe the heritage resources will be affected by the proposed change of land use. Confirmation of SAHRA's requirements, if any must be submitted with the final BA report.
  7. A geotechnical study must be conducted and report with adequate conditions be submitted as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. In addition, Proof must be submitted indicating that the geological conditions of the site would be suitable for the proposed development.
  8. The potential disturbance of the aquifer or contamination of groundwater during construction stage must be investigated in EIA process. In addition, a plan for the maintenance of underground pipes to avoid bursting submitted with EIA report.

The proponent is reminded that any development (including earthworks and pegging of the site) prior to authorisation from the Department is in contravention of Section 22(1) of the National Environmental Management Act and will therefore result in appropriate action by the Department.

Please contact this Department if you have any queries with regards to the contents of this letter.

Yours faithfully

~~Wals~~

**MANAGER  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT**

DATE: 08/01/2010