

NCWABENI : OFF CHANNEL STORAGE DAM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE: PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

MEETING TYPE: Public Meeting to present the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report
DATE: 22 November 2012
TIME: 14H00 – 16h00
VENUE: Ugu District Municipality Offices, 96 Marine Drive, Oslo Beach, Port Shepstone

Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Telephone	Email
Reshina Maharaj (RM1)	Umgenti Water	084 262 7464	reshina.maharaj@umgeni.co.za
Pierre van Niekerk (PVN)	AC Water	083 635 9119	pierre@acenergy.co.za
Paddy Norman (PN)	WESSA	039 695 2827	paddyn@telskomsa.net
Paul Watson (PW)	Ugu District Municipality	082 566 4550	Paul.watson@ugu.gov.za
Sizwe Malinga (SM)	Ugu District Municipality	079 289 0554	Sizwe.malinga@ugu.gov.za
Kobus Bester (KB)	DWA	012 336 8071	besterk@dwa.gov.za
Donovan Henning (DH)	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1730	donovanh@nemai.co.za
Rivani Maharaj (RM2)	Nemai Consulting	031 266 3884	rivanim@nemai.co.za

Apologies:

- V. Pillay (Illovo)

Note:

These minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments at the meeting, but a summary of the discussion which took place.

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The meeting commenced at approximately 14H00. DH acted as the facilitator of the meeting.

2 PURPOSE AND RULES OF THE MEETING

DH explained that the aims of the meeting were as follows:

1. To provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
2. To present key findings from the EIA Phase; and
3. To provide a platform for project-related discussions.

3 PROJECT OVERVIEW

KB presented the background to the project and provided an overview of the project components.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DH presented an overview of the Draft EIA Report, which included a description of the following:

- Project Description;
- Specialist studies conducted;
- The profile of the receiving environment;
- Impact Assessment;
- Examples of Environmental issues identified during construction and operation phases;
- Analysis of alternatives;
- Public participation conducted to date; and
- Conclusions and recommendations.

5 DISCUSSION

The salient points discussed during the meeting follow.

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
5.1	PW: Has confirmation been received from Eskom regarding the supply of electricity for the project?	KB: Eskom indicated that they currently do not have the infrastructure in the area to supply electricity for the operation of the pump station. This will need to be explored further. PN: Eskom is in the process of planning a transmission line that will traverse the area.	-
5.2	PW: Have you considered alternative energy?	KB: The pump will only be operated for approximately 2 months in a year. Consideration has been given to utilising the electricity generated by a hydro-power scheme on Camro Estate.	-
5.3	PN: With reference to the current high rainfall experienced in KZN, has climate change been considered?	KB: Umgeni Water has conducted various studies on climate change, with varying results. DH: Climate change was considered on a desktop level during the EIA.	-
5.4	PVN: Requested that a wind survey be undertaken to determine the possibility of using alternative energy.	PW: The dam will be associated with infrastructure for abstraction, purification and distribution and therefore wind energy may constitute a more appropriate source of clean energy. DH: From an environmental perspective clean energy is promoted. Request to be considered further.	KB
5.5	PN: Will evaporation upstream of the weir not cause a substantial loss of water?	KB: The dam's full supply capacity will be approximately 16 million m ³ . Evaporation depends on the climate and the surface area.	-
5.6	PN: What mitigation measures have been considered for the spillway and	KB: At this stage, a flip bucket is proposed as the preferred option for energy dissipation.	-

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
	the possibility of erosion?		
5.7	DH: A Resource Management Plan will be developed in the future for the dam.	Noted	-
5.8	PN: Recommended that a plan must be in place to manage the siltation of the dam.	KB: Releases will be based on DWA operating rules to ensure that optimal water quality is achieved during releases from the OCS dam.	-

6. Way forward & Close

The meeting was concluded at approximately 16h00.