

UMKHOMAZI WATER PROJECT PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

MEETING TYPE: EIA Scoping Phase Public Meeting to announce the uMWP-1
DATE: 23 October 2013
TIME: 16h00 – 18h30
VENUE: Beaumont Eston Farmers Club

ATTENDANCE

Name	Affiliation	Telephone	Email
B. Crookes (BC)	Farmer	082 569 3998	crookesfarm@w2k.co.za
K. Bester (KB)	DWA	084 517 5560	besterk@dwa.gov.za
S. Moodley (SM)	DWA	084 423 4400	moodleys2@dwa.gov.za
L. Archer (LA)	Umgeni Water	083 274 1330	lyn.archer@umgeni.co.za
G. Subramanian (GS)	Umgeni Water	071 671 7164	gavin.subramanian@umgeni.co.za
H. Pieterse (HP)	AECOM	082 564 3638	hermien.pieterse@aecom.com
B. Shinga (BS)	AECOM / ACER	035 340 2715	Bongi.shinga@acerafrica.co.za
A. Doorgapershad (AD)	Knight Piésold	031 262 2950	adoorgapershad@knightpiesold.com
G. Lempert (GL)	Knight Piésold	081 127 8097	aquarius@iway.na
D. Henning (DH)	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1730	donavanh@nemai.co.za
R. Maharaj (RM)	Nemai Consulting	031 266 3884	rivanim@nemai.co.za
K. Mngomezulu (KM)	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1730	khosim@nemai.co.za

Notes:

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

1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The meeting commenced at approximately 16H00. Donovan Henning (DH) facilitated the meeting and welcomed everyone present. DH introduced the project team members.

2 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

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

1. To introduce the project;
2. To provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
3. To provide a platform for project-related discussions; and
4. To obtain input into the Scoping Phase.

3 PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were made by members of the project team. Copies of the presentation are contained in Appendix A.

Salona Moodley from the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) presented the Project Background and Motivation.

Hermien Pieterse (HP) presented the uMkhomazi Water Project Phase 1 (uMWP-1) Raw Water component, which included an overview of the following:

- Smithfield Dam;
- Smithfield Dam - quarries and earth fill borrow areas;
- Smithfield dam - roads (alternatives for current roads);
- Smithfield dam - Eskom infrastructure;
- Raw water conveyance infrastructure;
- Langa balancing dam;
- Langa balancing dam - quarry and earth fill barrow areas; and
- Project programme.

Amal Doorgapershad (AD) from Knight Piésold presented the uMWP-1 Potable Water Component, which included an overview of the following:

- Water demand projections;
- Pipeline routing;
- Water Treatment Works (WTW); and
- Pipeline details.

Dr Günter Lempert (GL) from Knight Piésold presented details of the proposed uMWP-1 Potable Water WTW, which included an overview of the following:

- Potable water;
- WTW;
- Phased implementation –
 - Phase 1;
 - Phase 2;
- Process technology;
- Main process considerations;
- Basic process design philosophy;
- Treatment process envisaged;
- Hydraulic profile; and
- Conclusion.

DH from Nemai Consulting presented the EIA, which included an overview of the following:

- Legal Framework;
- EIA Process;
- Feasible Alternatives;
- Public participation;
- Scoping phase aims;
- Preliminary list of specialist studies;
- Waste management;
- Quarries and borrow pits;
- Water use;

- Heritage resources; and
- EIA time frames.

4 DISCUSSIONS

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
4.1	BC: Water demand would improve if damaged pipes are repaired and water wastage is curbed.	KB: This is also a concern to DWA. The intention is to balance the demand and supply through appropriate strategies. The building of a dam is a 10 -20 year process and serves as a long-term solution. Smithfield Dam was already identified in the 90's but Spring Grove Dam was implemented sooner to supply the interim water requirements of the Mgeni system. Interventions are underway to deal with unaccounted-for water.	-
4.2	BC: Can agricultural practices occur within the servitude once the pipeline has been installed?	LA: The land which is occupied by the servitude will have restricted use in order to maintain the integrity of the pipeline and ensure public safety. Certain farming practices will be allowed following consultation with Umgeni Water.	-
4.3	BC: Will the pipeline servitude be maintained?	LA: Umgeni Water implements an active grass cutting programme for its servitudes.	-
4.4	BC: My land is situated close to an industrial area. If I decide to sell my land in the future for industrial use, what will happen to the pipeline?	LA: The servitude will remain a restriction for future development.	-
4.5	BC: How wide will the servitude be?	AD: The permanent servitude will be 15 meters. LA: The construction servitude will be 30meters.	
4.6	BC: I do not have a problem with the pipeline servitude. However, I object to the WTW. No compensation will be adequate. The land will be sold for industrial use if there is insufficient land left for sugar cane production. The 21 hectares earmarked for the WTW is located in the best area of my farm. If I have to sell that area of my farm I would like to have enough money to buy another farm. The compensation will need to consider the costs incurred	DH: Noted.	-

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
	over a 10 - 20 year period.		
4.7	BC: During the planning of the Eskom power line that traverses the area many local landowners became involved in identifying alternative alignments to the line. However, these alternatives were never considered further. Expressed a lack of faith in the selection of appropriate alternatives due to this prior experience.	DH: Initially, two alternative sites were identified. As part of the refinement of the locational options for the WTW, and in acknowledgment of impacts associated with this facility, an additional option was identified (Option 2). This option is situated in an area on the Baynesfield Estate that was deemed to be less obtrusive. The site is also afforded some screening from the surrounding forestry plantation. The alternative sites for the WTW will need to be evaluated further.	-
4.8	BC: What is the extent of the WTW?	LA: Umgeni Water will acquire the full area earmarked for the works but will only require half of this space for the WTW. The remainder of the area will be kept for possible future expansions.	-
4.9	BC: If the pipeline is gravity fed then the WTW site on my land is not appropriate due to its elevation.	GL: The site on your land is not favourable as it will entail substantial excavation which will generate large volumes of spoil material.	-
4.10	BC: Are all of the WTW optional sites located on agricultural land? Why is it not possible to avoid agricultural land?	DH: Option 2 is situated on land used for timber production. AD: Due to the gradient the water will need to be pumped if the WTW site is moved. LA: All possible sites have been identified. Agriculture is the dominant land use from Baynesfield to Umlaas Road.	-
4.11	BC: Are you implying that it is preferred not to pump the water because it is expensive but it is acceptable for us to lose our land? Suggested that the costs of pumping the water be compared to the loss of the agricultural land.	AD: The scope is to identify the best option for a gravity line. DH: The strategic need for the project needs to be taken into consideration. Included in the presentation that a socio-economic study will be undertaken as part of the EIA. LA: The Department of Agriculture will be involved in the EIA process and will scrutinise the alternatives against the impacts to agricultural land.	-
4.12	BC: How will the sludge from the WTW be disposed of? Expressed dissatisfaction with trucks travelling	GL: There are three options for dealing with the sludge, namely to dispose of it at a landfill, using it as additive for making	-

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
	in close proximity to his house.	bricks, or disposal to land to support an agricultural operation. DH: Noted concerns with regards to movement of trucks.	
4.13	BC: What is the capacity of the reservoir at the WTW? What happens if the reservoir breaks?	GL: The storage capacity of the reservoir is 300 mega litres. The reservoir will be located underground and these structures do not normally fail.	-

5 WAY FORWARD & CLOSE

DH thanked all parties present for their attendance and participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 18H00.

APPENDIX **A**

COPIES OF PRESENTATIONS