

UMKHOMAZI WATER PROJECT PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – AMAQADI COMMUNITY

MEETING TYPE: EIA Scoping Phase Public Meeting to announce the uMWP-1
DATE: 24 October 2013
TIME: 09H00 – 11h00
VENUE: Ncwadi Primary School

ATTENDANCE

As per attached Attendance Register.

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 09H30. Bongji Shinga (BS) facilitated the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Discussions were held in IsiZulu.

2 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

BS 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.

Kobus Bester (KB) from DWA presented the Project Background and Motivation, as well as an overview of the uMkhomazi Water Project Phase 1 (uMWP-1).

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

- Legal Framework;
- EIA Process;
- Feasible Alternatives;
- Public participation; and
- EIA time frames.

4 DISCUSSIONS

| No. | Question / Statement | Response | Action |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Mr Ngcobo (Ingwe Local Municipality): Our community has a shortage of water. How will the community benefit from the project? Umgeni Water should ensure that the water is provided to the community since they are using the local catchment. | KB: The relevant municipalities are responsible for water provision to the communities. DH: The Sisonke District Municipality will be requested to attend the next meeting with the community to explain water provision to the community. | - |
| 2. | Mr Ngcobo: Will the tunnel release water along its length? What method will be used for tunnel construction - excavation or blasting? | KB: The tunnel will be too deep underground to release water along its route. The tunnel will be created with a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM). | - |
| 3. | Sampson Ngcobo: Please explain the process of relocating the affected households. | DH: The EIA will assess the impacts to the local community. A Relocation Action Plan will be compiled. People's rights will be protected. | - |
| 4. | Mlawuli Nzimande: Will the project create job opportunities during and after the construction phase? Will there be any student training provided? Can the Dam be used for recreational purposes? | KB: There will be job opportunities available. However, most of the construction workers will be categorised as skilled labour. In the greater context of the project, the water provision will promote economic development in Pietermaritzburg and Durban. DH: The feasibility of recreational use at the dam will need to be explored through a dedicated process to develop a Resource Management Plan. As part of the EIA process, we need to engage with the community and take into consideration their needs. | - |
| 5. | Mr Phewa (Induna): The Government speaks of Rural Development. I believe this project is an opportunity for development to take place in this community. We will not fail to act when water is taken from our land to benefit other areas and not us. Noted that a borehole that was created as part of the geotechnical investigations had created a wetland. What will happen to the waste from the tunnel? | DH: Comments noted. Borehole to be examined. Spoil material generated from tunnelling would need to be disposed of at sites located at the tunnel inlet, central adit and outlet. | DWA |

5 WAY FORWARD & CLOSE

BS thanked all parties present for their attendance and participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11H30.