

BASIC ASSESSMENT

NOTICE OF BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT ON SOUTHERN FARMS, FARM NO 410 PORTIONS 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 AND 8, SKUIT DRIFT, NORTHERN CAPE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

27 MAY 2015

GNEC REFERENCE NO. : 20331

1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide stakeholders with information about the proposed pipeline development at Farm No. 410 Portions 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 and 8.
- Introduce and explain the Basic Assessment and Public Participation process to be followed for the proposed development, in terms of applicable environmental legislation (National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), (Act No. 107 of 1998)), as amended; 4 December 2014.
- Invite all stakeholders to comment on any aspect related to the proposed development; and
- Notify all stakeholders that the Interested and Affected Party registration period is from **Wednesday 27 May 2015 – Monday 29 June 2015**

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Southern Farms (PTY) LTD (hereafter referred to as 'The Client'), Farm No. 410 (hereafter referred to as 'The Property') is situated within the Skuit Drift district, Kail! Garib Local Municipality. The Property is located approximately 120 km North-West from Kakemas, 62 km North-West from the Augrabies Falls National Park and the N14 road, which connects Kakemas and Pofadder, runs to the south.

Bordering the left bank of the Orange River, The Property, currently comprises 390 ha vineyard and 64 ha date orchards, is solely dependent on this water source in order to irrigate existing crops. The Client has already obtained environmental authorisation to expand existing agricultural activities with 10 ha vineyard and 236 ha date orchards.

In order to successfully irrigate additional crop fields 11 500 m³ and 14 500 m³ of water is needed respectively. As current water rights allows these quantities to be extracted and utilised, The Client wish to develop three (3) pipelines (0.4 m diameter) with a combined length of approximately 6 km, which crosses Portions 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; and 8 of The Property, that connects with existing pipelines and will ultimately link to the five (5) existing pump stations and three (3) dams that are present on The Property. Southern Farms currently employs 450 permanent - and 1100 seasonal workers. These numbers will inevitably increase due to the expansion of agricultural activities thus additional labour housing (approximately 1.5 ha) is required and is proposed to be developed in the near future, within the next 3 – 5 years.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998), AS AMENDED 4 DECEMBER 2014

Environmental Assessment

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (ACT No. 107 of 1998) identifies the proposed application for the construction of a residential development as an activity that may have significant detrimental effects on the environment with the following listed activities:

Government Notice No. R. 983 of 2014:

Activity 9

The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water – (i) With an internal diameter of 0.36 metres or more; or (ii) With a peak throughput of 120 litres per second

Activity 12

The development of: (i) Canals exceeding 100 square metres in size; (ii) Channels exceeding 100 square metres in size; (iii) Bridges, exceeding 100 square metres in size; (iv) Dams where the dam, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres in size; (v) Weirs, where the weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres in size; (vi) Bulk storm water outlet structures exceeding 100 square metres in size; (vii) Marinas, exceeding 100 square metres in size; (viii) Jetties exceeding 100 square metres in size; (ix) Slipways exceeding 100 square metres in size; (x) Buildings exceeding 100 square metres in size; (xi) Boardwalks, exceeding 100 square metres in size or (xii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of exceeding 100 square metres or more; where such a development occurs: (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse – excluding – (aa) the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbor; (bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbor, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies; (cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies; (dd) where such development occurs within an urban area; or (ee) where such development occurs within existing roads or road reserves

Activity 19

The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic meters from: (i) A watercourse; (ii) The seashore; (iii) The littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 meters inland of the high water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater – But excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving; (a) will occur behind a development setback; (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken with a maintenance management plan; or (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this notice, in which case that activity applies.

Activity 27

The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for – (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

Activity 45

The expansion of infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water or storm water where the existing infrastructure – (i) Has an internal diameter of 0.36 metres or more; (ii) Has a peak throughput of 120 litres per second; and (a) Where the facility or infrastructure is expanded by more than 1000 metres in length; or (b) Where the throughput of the facility or infrastructure will be increased by 10% or more; excluding where such expansion – (aa) relates to transportation of water or storm water within a road reserve; or (bb) will occur within an urban area.

Government Notice No. R. 546 of 2010:

Activity 12

The clearance of an area of 300m² or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. (d) **In the Northern Cape** (i) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; (ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; (iii) Within the littoral zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas; or (iv) On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning

Definition of Environmental Impact Assessment

An environmental impact assessment (EIA) is not only a good planning tool to assist in the identification, evaluation and assessment of potential positive and negative impact of a proposed development on the environment, but also recommends ways to either avoid- or reduce negative impacts, thus ensuring that developments are sustainable without affecting people's lives and the environment adversely.

As mentioned, a Basic Assessment is undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, and the EIA Regulations.

3. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Potential environmental issues that will be addressed in the assessment include inter alia:

- Noise Pollution
Construction activities could be hindrance in terms of noise to the immediate surroundings. During the operational phase the noise pollution but is not expected to be significant.
- Heritage Impact:
No impact on heritage resources is expected since the proposed site is mostly vacant and has been disturbed by existing agricultural practices in the past.
- Visual Impact:
There will be some visual impacts during the construction phases but this will only be temporary. The visual impact during the operational phase is not expected to be significant since the site is bounded by similar existing infrastructure and agricultural activities east and west of the proposed development. The proposed pipeline will be constructed subsurface and therefore will not be visible.
- Water Impact:
The potential water usages will be assessed as well as current water rights be monitored and evaluated.

As mentioned, the EIA Report will identify measures to reduce identified negative impacts, and optimise positive impacts.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In terms of the NEMA, public participation forms an integral part of the Basic Assessment Process. The public participation process provides people who may be affected by the proposed development with an opportunity to provide comment and to raise issues of concern about the project or to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project.

Comments and issues raised during the public participation process will be captured, evaluated and included in a Comment and Response Report, which will be incorporated into the Final Basic Assessment Report to be made available for public review.

Deliverables

The environmental assessment will culminate in the compilation of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan will be submitted to the Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DNEC) the regulatory authority responsible for the review of the report.

The DENC has to reach a decision as to whether, and under what conditions, the project may proceed, based on environmental considerations. An environmental authorization will be issued based on the information provided in the Basic Assessment Report. Interested and Affected Parties who have registered will be notified of the environmental authorisation.

5. TIMEFRAMES

The table below provides an indication of the proposed timeframes for the project.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS – SOUTHERN FARMS PIPELINE		
Activity	Start Date	Finish Date
Compile draft BAR and EMP	April 2015	May 2015
1 st Public Participation Process (30 days)	27 May 2015	29 June 2015
Possible Specialist studies	June 2015	July 2015
Compile EIA Application	July 2015	July 2015
Amend BAR and EMP and include possible Specialist Assessments	August 2015	August 2015
DEA&DP Review of Application	August 2015	
DEA&DP to Acknowledge Receipt of Draft BAR	August 2015	August 2015
2 nd Public Participation Process of Draft BAR & EMP (30 Days)	August 2015	September 2015
Amend Final BAR	September 2015	September 2015
Submit Final BAR and EMP	September 2015	
DEA&DP to Acknowledge Receipt of Final BAR	October 2015	October 2015
DEA&DP Review of BAR & EMP	October 2015	January 2016
Authorisation – EA	January 2016	
Authorisation – Notify all I&IPs	January 2016	

6. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

GNEC was appointed as an independent environmental consultancy by Southern Farms (PTY) LTD, to facilitate the Basic Assessment and Public Participation Process for the proposed project.

We would like to invite and encourage all stakeholders to complete and return the enclosed registration sheet register as an Interested and Affected Party between the **27th of May 2015 and 29th of June 2015** to which effect all developments in this proposed development will be communicated to all registered parties for comment. Please forward all written registration forms to:

GNEC Attention: Willene Naudé; P.O. Box 2632; Paarl; 7620; Tel: (021) 870 1874; Fax: (021) 870 1873;

Email: wn@gnec.co.za

GNEC Ref No: 20331

Please submit the registration sheet to GNEC by no later than Monday 29 June 2015.



**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF A PIPELINE ON SOUTHERN FARMS, FARM 410, PORTIONS 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 AND 8,
SKUIT DRIFT, NORTHERN CAPE**

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

MAY 2015

GNEC REF: 20331

Title _____ **Name and Surname** _____
Company Name/Interest _____
Postal-or-Residential Address _____
Area _____ **Postal Code** _____
Tel: _____ **Cell Phone** _____
Fax: _____
E-Mail Address _____

Please indicate your preferred method of communication (Please indicate with an X)

Fax		E-Mail		Post	
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Comments (You are welcome to attach more sheets if necessary (Your comments will be considered in the EIA (BA) process)

Please provide details of any other person/company whom you would like us to add to our mailing list

Title _____ **Name and Surname** _____
Company Name _____
Tel: _____ **Fax No:** _____
E-Mail _____

Please complete and return to GNEC by no later than **Monday 29 June 2015**

Attention Willene Naudé

P.O. Box 2632, Paarl, 7620

Tel: 021 870 1874, Fax: 021 870 1873, Cell: 072 727 4775

E-mail: wn@gnec.co.za

Thank You for your participation