

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENTS RECEIVED - ONSEEPKANS (MARCH 2016)

Date	Comment	I&AP	Response	Respondent
06-Apr-16	The proposed development is said to be located in a CBA and it may affect the Endangered Lower Gariep Alluvial Vegetation type, therefore it is important to include Nature Conservation as a key stakeholder and authority in the Public Participation Process. They were not included in the lists provided on pages 39 and 40.	Jacoline Mans. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Noted. They will be included as a Registered Interested and Affected Party and will be notified of the availability of the Final BAR	EnviroAfrica
	The proposed development would have a total footprint of +- 6 ha, consisting of a pump station, storage reservoir or dam (footprint 3ha) and a solar plant 2ha). The report stated that the pipeline distance of 2.2km (no indication was given of the width to be cleared of vegetation for installation of the pipeline). Pg 15 of the Draft BAR refers to the length of the linear activity Alternative 1 as 14km. Please specify		Noted. The description of the linear activity Alternative 1 has been changed to 2.2km. 2 pipes will be installed in one trench, one pipe (1000mmØ) supplying water from the pump station to the dam, the other pipe (800mmØ) feeding water from the dam to the irrigation plots. A 22m wide strip in total will be required for the installation of the pipe.	EnviroAfrica/BVi Engineers
	Page 18 of the biodiversity assessment refers to one of the affected vegetation types, namely Eastern Gariep Rocky Desert. Pg 19 refers to plant species generally associated with this vegetation type. Two of the species mentioned, Euclea pseudebenus and ozoroa namaquensis are listed as 'protected' under the NFA as alluded to in the report. The developer should also be on the look-out for provincially protected tree species such as Olea europaea subsp. africana and Combretum erythrophyllum associated with the riparian vegetation on the banks of the Orange River in the vicinity of Onseepkans. Impacts on indigenous and endangered riparian vegetation should be limited to the absolute minimum and if any protected trees are encountered, permits and licence must be obtained prior to disturbance of such trees.		Noted. Supported and a very valued comment. Fortunately, the proposed pipeline will stay within areas which have been mostly transformed as a result of urban settlement and agricultural practices. Phragmites and Prosopis now being the dominant species along river banks in this area.	Peet Botes
	Page 49 recommended the use of herbicides to treat exotic trees growing in the riparian zone. The use of herbicides in a vegetation type classified as 'endangered' should be used with great caution to avoid accidental spills and harm to non-target indigenous plants and trees. The people applying herbicides must have the necessary AVCASA registration.		Supported and this should be included in the EAP recommendation. Recent mechanical removal of Prosopis trees along the lower parts of the current pipeline (earth canal section) has led to sudden dense stands of regrowth, most probably because of coppice shoots. This is believed to be the result of the trees being severed at ground level and root ploughing was not done. Subsequent clearing will now result in much more intensive work.	Peet Botes
	The report stated that no NFA listed protected tree species are present in the proposed development footprint areas. If so, this Department has no objection against the proposed development.		Noted	EnviroAfrica
16-Mar-16	The proposed project area is located within an area of moderate palaeontological sensitivity. A desktop Palaeontological assessment or a Letter of Motivation for Exemption must be completed by a qualified palaeontologist before Final Comments can be issued	Phillip Hine: SAHRA	Noted. Please refer to Appendix D4 for the Desktop Palaeontological Assessment	Enviroafrica
	Based on the information provided, it is unlikely that significant archaeological resources will be impacted by the proposed Onseepkans Bulk Water Supply project. The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections against the development in the DBAR and accepts and promotes the recommendations within the submitted AIA		Noted	Enviroafrica

	The following additional conditions must be adhered to and must form part of the Final EMP: In future, should the licensed activities require any extension, expansion or a borrow pit larger than 500m2 is required for material, SAHRA must be notified of the development in terms of Section 38(1) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)(NHRA).		Noted. This will be included in the Final BAR and EMP	EnviroAfrica
	If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Itumeleng Masiteng/ Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490) must be alerted immediately. A professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required		Noted. This will be included in the Final BAR and EMP	EnviroAfrica
20-Jan-16	According to the BID it is not clear if the proposed activities will form part of a single environmental authorisation process or if the various components such as the solar facility will form part of a separate authorisation process	Phillip Hine: SAHRA	The various components will be included as one project, with one NEMA Environmental Authorisation application process	EnviroAfrica
	It is noted that the author of the specialist report is not a specialist in Stone Age archaeology including archaeology of pastoralism. Although SAHRA is satisfied that the report submitted complies with SAHRA Minimum Standards, the findings of the report would have benefitted from input of a specialist Stone Age specialist		Noted	EnviroAfrica
	The project is situated in an area of low palaeontological sensitivity and no assessment of palaeontological assessment is required		Noted	EnviroAfrica
	Before SAHRA issues a Final Comment on the proposed developments it is requested that the Environmental Assessment Document be submitted to SAHRA to provide further clarity on the proposal. SAHRA will issue further comments and recommendations upon receipt of the requested documents		Noted. Please note that the Draft Basic Assessment Report, including all appendices were loaded onto SAHRIS. The Final BAR will also be loaded onto SAHRIS	EnviroAfrica