

# EXPANSION OF SLUDGE LAGOONS AT THE TEMBA WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS AND DEMOLISHING OF EXISTING MATURATION POND AT THE TEMBA WATER PURIFICATION PLANT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

AUGUST 2012

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform the public of the intention of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality to expand the sludge lagoons at the Temba Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) and demolish an existing maturation pond at the Temba Water Purification Plant. This development will in no way influence the wastewater treatment works. It is only intended to use land that used to be part of the Temba Wastewater Treatment Works for the sludge lagoons that will be used by the Temba Water Purification Plant. A Basic Assessment was undertaken in 2009 for the expansion of the Temba Water Purification Plant and an authorization for the project was issued by the GDARD on 11 November 2011. However, the expansion of the sludge lagoons and demolishing of the existing maturation pond were not included in the Basic Assessment report.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken for the proposed activity and environmental authorisation sought. The reference number for the project is 12/9/11/L959/3. Public consultation is an essential part of the process. You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP). All comments will be recorded and presented to the project team and regulatory authorities. You will receive feedback on how your comments have been taken into account and the outcome of the assessment.

Chameleon Environmental was appointed by BKS (Pty) Ltd to facilitate the EIA and public participation process.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Water Purification Plant at Temba will be expanded by demolishing the existing maturation ponds and utilizing this area for the extension of the plant. The existing sludge lagoons at the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) will be expanded to contain the sludge from the adjacent Water Purification Plant. The Temba area has been earmarked by the municipality for development as the links between rapid urbanization, rural urban migration and pockets of urban poverty are clear. The current

### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) has been compiled and distributed for the following purposes:

- To notify Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed new development;
- To provide a brief project description;
- To describe the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

supply network was not designed to cope with the demands now placed on it. The Temba area receives water from a pipeline fed from the Temba Water Purification Plant but due to high use by communities closer to the source, the supply to Temba is erratic and often interrupted. This development aims to alleviate the backlog in basic services in the area.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be guided by the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), the EIA Regulations, 2010 and environmental management principles and objectives of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, 2010 were promulgated on 18 June 2010 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and came into effect on 2 August 2010.

An Environmental Impact Assessment is a process involving consultation with regulatory authorities and other I&APs that serve to inform a decision on whether or not a development is environmentally acceptable.

The National Department of Environmental Affairs will be the final decision making authority with regard to this project.

### 4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The goal of the EIA is to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts (biophysical and social) associated with the proposed development.

The following tasks are included as part of this process:

- Submit application form to DEA (in terms of Waste Act, 2008);
- Site visit and desk study of available information and identification of key issues;
- Identify and compile a list of I&APs;
- Compile and distribute a Background Information Document (BID) to I&APs;
- Advertise in the local newspaper notifying the public of the project;
- Synthesis issues for preliminary investigation;
- Compile a Draft Scoping Report and make it available for public comment;
- Compile a Final Scoping Report and submit to authorities for approval;
- Conduct specialist studies;
- Compile EIA Report and make it available for public comment;
- Submit Final EIA Report to environmental authorities for approval.

### 5. SPECIALIST STUDIES

It is anticipated that the following specialist studies will be undertaken as part of the EIA process:

- Aquatic study;

- Geo-hydrological study;
- Archaeological study.

Specialist consultants will be appointed to assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed project.

The aim of this specialist studies are for the specialist to assess the impact of the project actions on the environment. The specialists will analyse the current situation and will assess the potential impacts of the project actions (and feasible alternatives) on various aspects of the particular issue during the construction and operation phases of the proposed project.

The impacts will be assessed in terms of various criteria such as extent, duration, intensity and whether the impact is positive or negative. The significance of the impact will then be determined through a synthesis of the various criteria used. The specialist will also recommend mitigation actions that they believe can materially affect the significance rating of impacts.

## 6. AUTHORISATION

The DEA will consider the final EIA Report and will issue a Waste License for the proposed project.

## 7. COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

It is proposed that the project will be put out to tender once the waste license is received from the DEA. Construction cannot commence without authorisation from the environmental authorities. Any enquiries regarding the tender or employment opportunities should be directed to the applicant.

## 8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A number of opportunities for public involvement are provided during the EIA Process.

Please contact Chameleon Environmental if you require further information on the application and or activity, please submit your name, contact information, interest and relevant issue on the matter before or on the 15 May 2012. The contact details are:

Postal Address: P O Box 11788, Silver Lakes, 0054

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Fax number: 086 6855 080

Written representations can be submitted to DR J BOTHMA

