



ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

PROPOSED TWEEFONTEIN GAUGING WEIR, BOTHAVILLE, NALA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



Environmental Assessment Practitioner	NSVT Consultants Lorato Tigedi Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Project Name	Proposed construction of Tweefontein Gauging Weir, Bothaville, Nala Local Municipality
Applicant	Free State Department of Water and Sanitation
DESTEA Reference Number	To be issued
NSVT Reference Number:	NSVT-BA-B-0830
Document	Background Information Document
Date	02 February 2023

NSVT Consultants

Environmental Assessment Practitioner: - Lorato Tigedi Reg. EAP (EAPASA) *Pr. Sci. Nat.*
Tel: 061 500 8461 | Fax: 086 239 9133 | Cell: 082 784 8259 | E-mail: lorato@nsvt.co.za

P.O. Box 42452; Heuwelsig; 9332

1 Fourth Street, Office 1A, Arboretum; Bloemfontein; 9301

Overview of the proposed development

The proponent, the **Free State Department of Water and Sanitation**, intends to construct a new gauging weir of approximately 400m², with a total development footprint of 5500m² on Vals River, which will be used to monitor the flow of the river. The gauging weir will be located on Vals river between Farm Botha's Drift No. 286 (right banks) and Farm De Brug No. 897 (left banks). Therefore, construction of the weir will be within a watercourse, necessitating excavation, removal and infilling of material and there will be the clearance of indigenous vegetation on an area of more than 300m² near a watercourse.

General co-ordinates: S27⁰ 29' 42.25''

E26⁰ 39' 34.40''

An application for Environmental Authorisation will be submitted to the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and a Basic Assessment process will be undertaken, in order to ascertain whether the impacts of the proposed development on the affected environment are significant and can be effectively avoided or reduced by implementing adequate mitigation measures.

The following Specialist Studies will be undertaken as part of the Basic Assessment Process.

- ✓ Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment
- ✓ Ecological (Terrestrial Biodiversity) Assessment
- ✓ Hydrological Assessment

Basic Assessment Process

In the South African legislative framework, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998) as amended regulates development activities that may pose a risk to the integrity of the ecological and human environment. Coupled with NEMA, listed activities are given, which describe the types of development, limits, expanse, and nature where an environmental impact assessment (EIA) will be needed. These are referred to as the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations as amended on 07 April 2017.

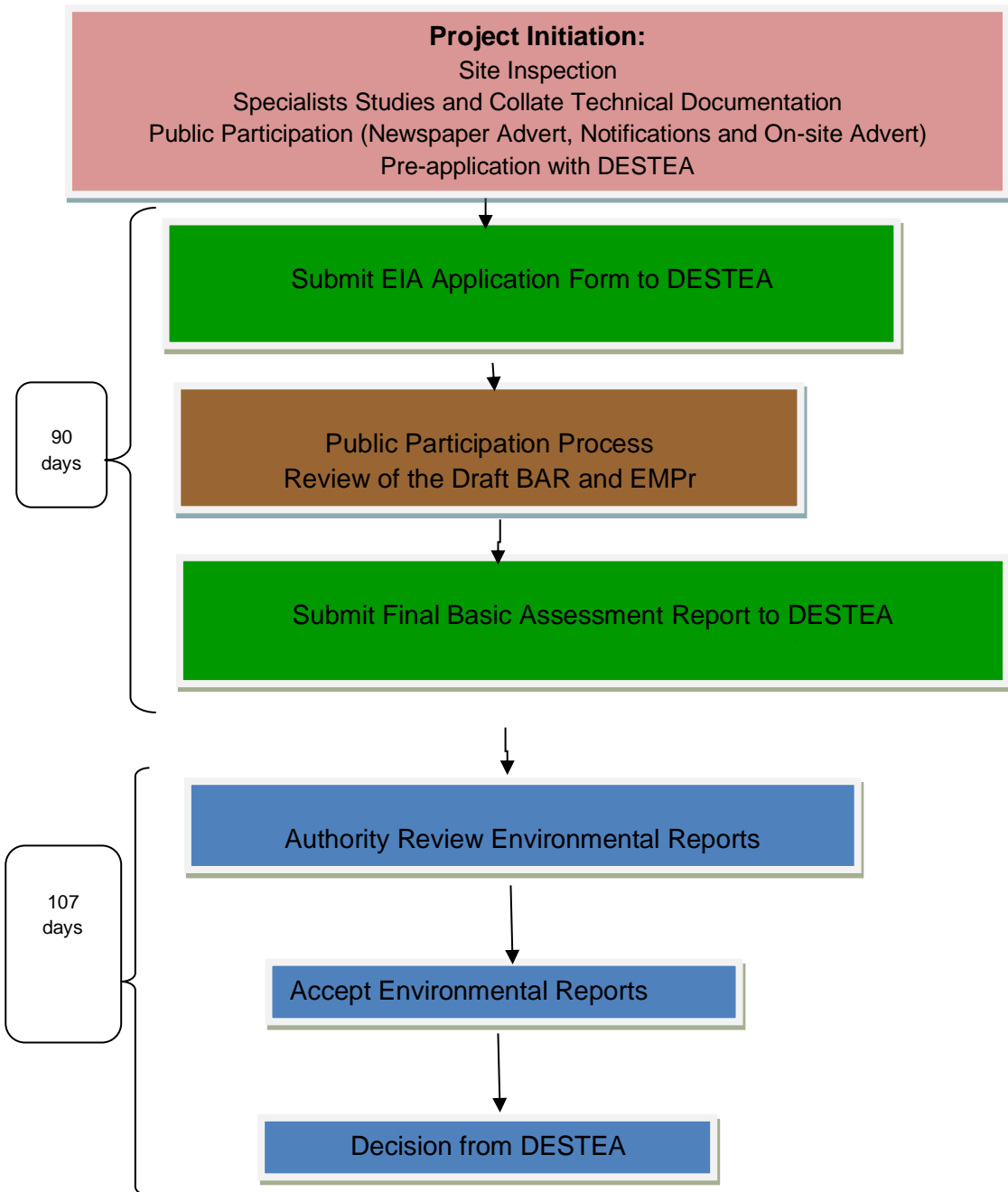
The Listed Activities, which will be triggered by the proposed development are tabulated below.

LISTING NOTICE	ACTIVITY NO.	ACTIVITY
1 GNR 327	12(1)(a)	The development of– (i) dams or <u>weirs</u> , where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, <u>exceeds 100 square metres</u> ; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of <u>100 square metres</u> or more; where such development occurs (a) <u>within a watercourse</u> ; (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 harbour; (bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, 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; (ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves; or (ff) the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of development and where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.
1 GNR 327	19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than <u>10 cubic metres</u> into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving– (a) will occur behind a development setback; (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies; (d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or (e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.
3 GNR R324	12(b)(iv)	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres 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. b. Free State 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;

		<p>iii. 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; or</p> <p><u>iv. Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.</u></p>
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NSVT Consultants was appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP) to undertake the integrated application process, which will include site assessment, public participation process including stakeholder engagement, specialists' studies as well as impact identification, analysis and significance.

Time Schedule for Integrated Application Process-197 days



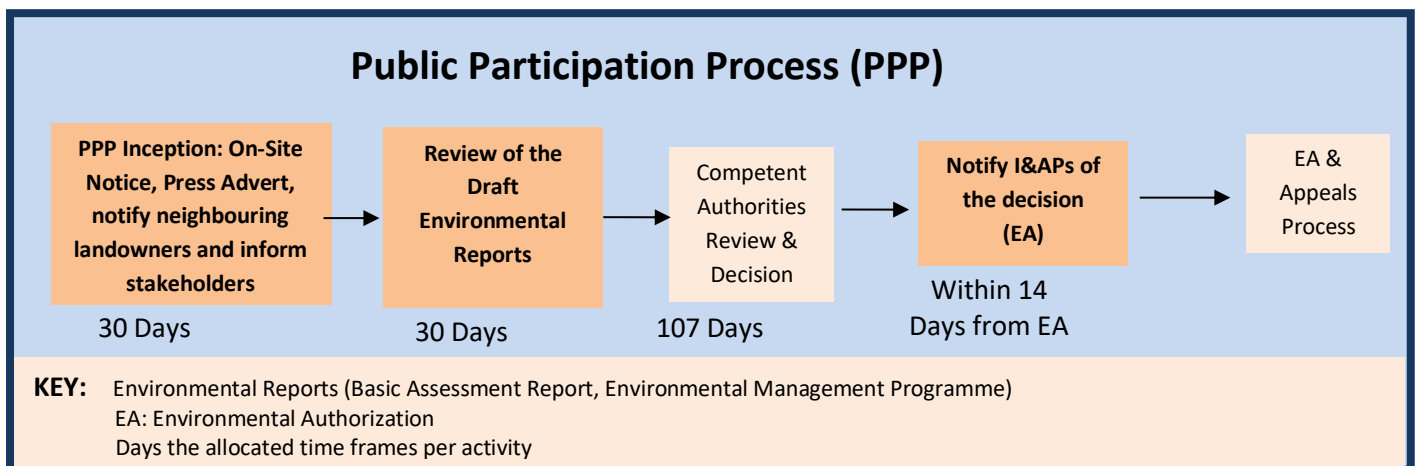
Public Participation

For effectiveness, Environmental Assessment Practitioners are legally required to engage stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties as part of the Basic Assessment Process.

The benefit of engaging the public and stakeholders can be:

- Identifying the values and needs of the public;
- Debating issues and finding solutions;
- Soliciting “hidden” knowledge of the wider community and their key concerns;
- Encouraging transparency and accountability;
- Achieving the development of an integrative, inclusive nature in alignment with the principles of sustainable development.

Therefore, this notice is given in terms of Regulation 41 (2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended. The bolded blocks in the Figure below show when the public will be consulted and the allocated timeframes throughout the process.



The purpose of this document is to provide background information of the project and obtain comments and contributions from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and stakeholders with regard to the environmental impacts they perceive to occur as a result of the proposed. I&APs and stakeholders will have an opportunity to contribute issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits. In addition, they will be able to verify that their contributions have been considered and to comment on the findings of the specialist assessments.

If you intend to register as an I&AP, please forward the attached registration sheet to NSVT Consultants before 30 days lapse from 03 February 2023 to the details provided in the form at the bottom.

KINDLY COMPLETE THE ATTACHED I&AP COMMENT FORM AS ONLY REGISTERED I&APs AND COMMENTING AUTHORITIES WILL RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT.

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TWEEFONTEIN GAUGUNG WEIR, BOTHAVILLE
NALA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

REGISTRATION AND RESPONSE FORM FOR INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

DATE			
PARTICULARS OF THE INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY			
NAME			
POSTAL ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
STREET ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
WORK/ DAY TELEPHONE NUMBER		WORK/ DAY FAX NUMBER	
CELL PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS		

PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR INTEREST IN THE PROJECT:

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS HERE:

Please return completed forms prior to 30 days lapsing:

Lorato Tigedi Reg. EAP (EAPASA) Pr. Sci. Nat.
NSVT Consultants
P.O. Box 42452, Heuwelsig, 9332
(t) 061 500 8461 or (c) 082 784 8259
(f) 086 239 9133
Email: lorato@nsvt.co.za






APPENDIX A

GOOGLE SATELLITE IMAGERY

Bothaville Weir

Write a description for your map.

Legend

-  Bothaville
-  Doorn Safari's
-  Feature 1
-  Feature 2
-  Senwes Grainlink Silo: Schuttesdraai



Google Earth

Image © 2023 Maxar Technologies



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