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Environmental Consultants

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Construction of the Hlalanikahle Sewer Network (Ref. No. 17/2/3N-227), Emalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide background information to the proposed project and to obtain comments and contributions from stakeholders with regards to potential environmental impacts – which includes (but is not limited to): ecological, social, economic, physical, aesthetic, etc.

When an applicant proposes to undertake a listed activity, an application must be made for environmental authorization. The application must be supported by a report, which has been compiled as a result of an assessment process. After the competent authority has made a decision on the application, an appeal may be made against the decision, or parts thereof.

Ecoleges, as the independent Environmental Consultant, has been appointed by the proponent/applicant, Nkangala District Municipality, to compile the Basic Assessment (BA) Report and a General Authorisation (GA) or Water Use License (WUL) application, which will be reviewed by the relevant competent authorities (the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism and the Department of Water Affairs, respectively).

The aim of the Reports is to ensure that the environmental impacts are taken into consideration, to ensure stakeholder engagement, and to provide decision makers with sufficient information to make an informed decision on the proposed activities.

The Department's decision whether to grant or refuse an Environmental Authorisation (EA) or a GA/WUL will be based on information provided in the reports.

**YOUR COMMENTS WILL FORM PART OF THE BA AND
GAWUL APPLICATION REPORTS**

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Notice is given in terms of Regulations 21(2)(a) and 54(2)(c) of GN No. R. 543, 18 June 2010, made under sections 24(5), 24M and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

An application was submitted to the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (MDEDET) on 18th February, 2013 to undertake activities identified in Listing Notice 1, GN No. R. 544, and Listing Notice 3, GN No. R. 546, published on 18 June 2010 for:

- The construction of the Hlalanikahle Sewer Network, Emalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga.

Furthermore, an application for a GAWUL in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) may be submitted to the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) for:

- A Section 21 (i) water use - altering the beds, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

The Basic Assessment (BA) process is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify, predict and evaluate the potential and actual environmental impacts of a proposed development or project. It is conducted in compliance with Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) as amended. The EIA regulations, 2010 (Government Notice No. R. 543) identify a list of activities for which a BA must be conducted.

The proposal has the following potential listed activities:

EIA Regulations LN 1 of 2010:

- Activity No. 9 – The construction of facilities or infrastructure exceeding 1000m in length for the bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water...;
- Activity No. 11 - The construction of dams, weirs, buildings exceeding 50m² in size or infrastructure or structures covering 50m² or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse...;
- Activity No. 18 - The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from a watercourse...;
- Activity No. 26 - Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).
- Activity No. 37 - The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water...;
- Activity No 40 - The expansion of (iv) infrastructure by more than 50m² within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse...

EIA Regulations LN 3 of 2010:

- Activity No. 12 - The clearance of an area of 300m² or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetation cover constitutes indigenous vegetation...;
- Activity No.16 – The construction of infrastructure covering 10m² or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse...;
- Activity No. 24 - The expansion of infrastructure where the infrastructure will be expanded by 10m² or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse...

Kindly note that an Assessment of the aforementioned activities was hand delivered to the Department on 19th February, 2013. If the motivation is approved, the BA will be withdrawn and an EMPr will be compiled for approval by the Department. Clarification is also being sought from DWA regarding the applicability of a GA or WUL application.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The overall objective is to undertake and complete a robust and defensible BA process that will serve to inform the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism's (MDEDET) decision on the environmental acceptability of the proposed development. The proposed development involves the construction of the Hlalanikahle Sewer Network (Ref. No. 17/2/3N-227), Emalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

LOCATION

The proposed collector lines will be added to the existing Hlalanikahle Sewer Network, Emalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

1. Sewer Collector Line No. 1

	Latitude (S):		Longitude (E):	
• Starting point of the activity	25°	50.966'	29°	07.579'
• Middle point of the activity	25°	50.952'	29°	07,637'
• End point of the activity	25°	50,938'	29°	07,703'

2. Sewer Collector Line No. 2

	Latitude (S):		Longitude (E):	
• Starting point of the activity	25°	50.834'	29°	07.510'
• Middle point of the activity	25°	50.827'	29°	07,566'
• End point of the activity	25°	50,817'	29°	07,643'

3. Sewer Collector Line No. 3

	Latitude (S):		Longitude (E):	
• Starting point of the activity	25°	50.110'	29°	07.364'
• Middle point of the activity	The vegetation was too thick to get a GPS reading			
• End point of the activity	25°	50,090'	29°	07,398'

4. Sewer Collector Line No. 4

	Latitude (S):		Longitude (E):	
• Starting point of the activity	25°	50.275'	29°	06.309'
• Middle point of the activity	25°	50.251'	29°	06,455'
• End point of the activity	25°	50,229'	29°	06,633'

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Four new Sewer Collector Lines will be constructed as follows:

1. A new 200mm (OD) sewer collector line, approximately 250m long, will be constructed from an existing manhole to an existing 500mm OD outfall sewer line. The design throughput is 10ls^{-1} .
2. A new 200mm (OD) sewer collector line, approximately 200m long, will be constructed from an existing manhole to an existing 500mm OD outfall sewer line. The design throughput is 10ls^{-1} .
3. A new 200mm (OD) sewer collector line, approximately 40m long, will be constructed from an existing manhole to an existing 800mm OD outfall sewer line. The design throughput is 10ls^{-1} .
4. A new 355mm (OD) sewer collector line, approximately 550m long, will be constructed from Hlalanikahle extension 10 & 11 to an existing 800mm OD outfall sewer line. The design throughput is 99.2ls^{-1} .

Manholes will be constructed at key points along the proposed collector lines. Whilst alternatives are being investigated, no reasonable or feasible alternatives existed at the time of this advertisement.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

- An advertisement will be placed in the Witbank News, a local newspaper, on 08th March, 2013.
- Stakeholders, including adjacent landowners, neighbours within a 100 m radius, and the relevant authorities will be notified of the proposed development in writing on the 05th March, 2013.
- Notice boards advertising the applications will be placed at the site on the 05th March, 2013.
- A Public meeting will be held at 10h00 on 22nd March 2013 at the Hlalanikahle Police Station.

ANTICIPATED ISSUES

Environmental issues that may be addressed in the Report could include the following:

- Wetlands and/or non-perennial watercourses (including 1:100 yr floodline)

YOUR COMMENTS PLEASE!

Your comments on the proposed projects, the public participation process, and issues needing investigation, will assist the technical studies and the authorities in their consideration of the relevant environmental and social aspects.

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and to assist us in:

- identifying possible impacts of the proposed developments on the environment,
- making suggestions for mitigation and/or alternatives, and
- considering the “need” and “desirability”.

Mitigations

Mitigation measures will be developed for the anticipated issues. Stakeholders are however welcome to comment on these issues and provide additional observations.

Alternatives

Consideration of Alternatives is one of the most critical elements of the BA process. Its role is to provide a framework for sound decision-making based on the principle of sustainable development.

Alternatives should be identified as early as possible in the project cycle.

Ecoleges not only welcomes stakeholders' input/suggestions, but also urges the public to submit possible alternatives.

It is important to note that an alternative is defined as a different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to-

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

When submitting alternatives, the recommended alternative must be:

- Practicable,
- **Feasible**,
- Relevant,
- **Reasonable** and
- Viable.

Need and Desirability

'Need and desirability' is determined by considering the broader societal/community needs and interests. The general meaning of need and desirability refers to time and place, respectively, i.e. is this the right time and is it the right place for locating the proposed activity.

In order to ensure that you are registered as an interested and/or affected party, Please complete the enclosed REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET and forward it to the address, fax or email provided below, on or before **Wednesday 10th April, 2013.**

Postal Address:

P.O Box 9005
Nelspruit
1200

Fax: 086 697 9316

E-mail: shaun@ecoleges.co.za

OR For any enquiries or further information

Visit us at:

Physical address:

12 Suikerriet Street
Central Park Business Centre
Unit 59.2
Nelspruit
1200

Cell: 083 981 1031



REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

**HLALANIKAHLE SEWER NETWORK, EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
MPUMALANGA (MDEDET REF NO. 17/2/3N-227)**

ECOLEGES REFERENCE: 2013_002P

Title _____ Name _____

Surname _____

Company Name / Interest Group _____

Postal or Residential Address _____

Town/City _____

Postal Code _____

Tel () _____

Cell _____

Fax () _____

E-mail address _____

In accordance with EIA Regulations, 2010– Regulation 56 (1) - A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions including draft reports made to the competent authority... provided that - (c) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below

Please indicate with an **X** whether you would like to be kept informed of the BA process

YES, I would like to be kept informed	YES
NO, I am not interested	NO

If "YES", how would you like to be informed? (please mark the appropriate block with an "X")

E-mail	
Fax	

COMMENTS: (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

Thank you for your participation

Please be assured that your comments will form part of the final document to be submitted to the decision-making authority

Please complete and return this Registration and Comment sheet to **SHAUN MACGREGOR** by no later than **10TH April 2013**.

**Address: P.O. Box 9005
Nelspruit
1200**

Fax: 086 697 9316

E-mail: shaun@ecoleges.co.za

Please feel free to phone us on 083 981 1031, should you not have access to fax or e-mail