

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED BRAKPAN EXTENSION 12 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - REM OF PORTION 51 OF THE FARM MODDERFONTEIN



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

JUNE 2020



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a brief description of the proposed development and the EIA Process that will be followed. The aim is to inform Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) on how to participate in the EIA Process and to obtain initial comments from IAPs on the issues pertaining to the proposed development. Findings of the EIA Process, including concerns raised by IAPs will be submitted to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration (GDARD).

INTRODUCTION

Phumaf Holdings was appointed by the Department of Human Settlements to assist with all preplanning, planning, design and construction of the Brakpan Extension 12 Housing Development. Phumaf subsequently appointed K2M Environmental to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the Brakpan Extension 12 Housing Development.

The remaining extent of Portion 51 of the Farm Modderfontein 761R of the Brakpan Extension 12 Township make up the project area. This property forms part of the Gauteng Rapid Land Release Programme which is aimed at fast tracking the release of State-owned land for development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND DIRECTION TO THE SITE

The total extent of the site is approximately 18.44Ha and is located within Ward 97 of the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The project area is bordered by a residential complex to the north, vacant land to the west, wetlands to the east and informal residential dwellings to the south.

Access to the site can be via Location Street and Fourie Street.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATES

Latitudinal Extent: 26° 14' 1.253" S

Longitudinal Extent: 28° 23' 35.7" E

CURRENT LAND USE

The project area is currently vacant. It should be noted that the site is fenced/walled off and internal roads have previously been constructed. No CBAs, ESAs and protected areas have been identified however majority of the site is classified as HPAL, graves are present, and a non-perennial watercourse is adjacent to the east of the property.

Figure 1: Proposed Project Area



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed housing development is aimed at providing suitable housing to beneficiaries within the City of Ekurhuleni Municipality. The property was initially classified as mining land, however with the promulgation of the new Town Planning Scheme of 2014, the property is zoned as "Agriculture". The proposed development will entail the construction of approximately 400 Mixed use, Residential 1 and Residential 4 housing units.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The EIA process for this proposed development will be conducted in accordance with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended in 2017), published in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998).

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 2014 EIA Regulations lists activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, and which consequently require environmental authorization from the competent authority. The regulations also specify the environmental assessment process, and information that is required to enable GDARD to make a decision regarding the proposed activity.

The Basic Assessment Process is required to be followed with accordance to the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017), as the following activities have the potential to be triggered by the proposed development:

LISTING NOTICE 1

Activity 9: *The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 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 or more;*

Background:

The proposed development may entail the construction of pipelines for the purpose of transporting water and storm water.

Activity 10: *The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, wastewater, return water, industrial discharge or slimes -*

- (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or*
- (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second.*

Background:

The proposed development may entail the construction of pipelines for the purpose of transporting sewage.

Activity 24: *The development of a road-*

- (ii) a road with a reserve wider than 13.5 metres, or where no reserve exists where the road reserve is wider than 8 metres.*

Background:

The proposed development may entail the construction of roads that are wide than 8 metres.

Activity 27: *The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for -*

- (i) the undertaking of linear activity; or*
- (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.*

Background:

The proposed development may entail the removal of more than 1 hectare of indigenous vegetation.

Activity 28: *Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development-*

- (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1ha.*

Background:

The proposed development will take place on land that is zoned for agricultural purposes.

LISTING NOTICE 3

Activity 4: *The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.*

v. Within sites identified within threatened ecosystems listed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)

vi. Sensitive areas identified in an environmental management framework adopted by the relevant environmental authority;

vii. Sites identified as high potential agricultural land in terms of the Gauteng Agricultural Potential Atlas;

Background:

The proposed development may entail the development of roads wider than 4 metres.

Activity 12: *The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation -*

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;

Background:

The proposed development may entail the removal of indigenous vegetation that is classified as endangered.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

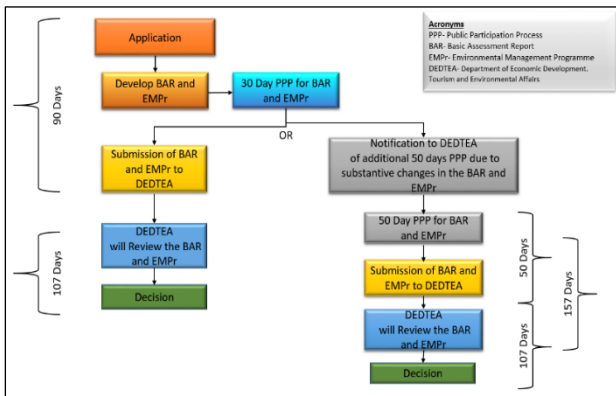
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment.

THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project methodology involved with the required Environmental Authorization Process is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Illustration of the Basic Assessment Process



POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

GEOPHYSICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL:

- Clearance of indigenous vegetation for the construction of residential units. A Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken to identify sensitive areas within the site and will provide adequate mitigation measures for the proposed development.
- A Geotechnical Assessment will be undertaken to determine the stability of the soil.
- An Agricultural Potential Assessment will be undertaken to determine the extent of the HPAL and provide mitigations and recommendations for the site.
- An Environmental Management Programme will be developed with which to monitor and mitigate any environmental impacts before they occur, during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES:

- The proposed development will impact existing road network during the construction phase of development.
- Influx of migrant workers during the construction phase.
- Potential increase in criminal activity in the Brakpan area during the operational phase of development.
- Increase in ambient noise level during the construction phase affect surrounding households.

CULTURAL-HISTORIC ISSUES:

- Exhumation of onsite graves. The proposed development will be submitted to SAHRA for their comment as well as establish whether a Heritage Impact Assessment will be required.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is the foundation of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) guide various aspects of the EIA process, including public participation which involves provision of sufficient information, in a transparent manner, to IAPs. During the Public Participation Process input from the proponent, specialists, government, and non-government organizations as well as all other potential IAPs are gathered to enable more informed decision-making.

Public Participation during the Basic Assessment Process will entail the EAP notifying all IAPs about the draft Basic Assessment Report. IAPs will then be given the opportunity of at least 30 days to comment and raise issues and/or concerns of the draft BAR. Once the 30-day commenting period is over, the EAP will then compile the Final BAR which will be inclusive of comments and responses and submit to GDARD for assessment. IAPs will then be notified in writing of the decision taken by GDARD pertaining to the project.

COMPILED BY

From the information provided to K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd and as per the site assessment conducted on the 18th November 2019, a Basic Assessment Process is required to be followed for the proposed development.

This Background Information Document was compiled by:

Mr Gert Watson

On behalf of K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Further information pertaining to this project can be obtained from:

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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED BRAKPAN EXTENSION 12 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - REM OF PORTION 51 OF THE FARM MODDERFONTEIN

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) and/or bring to the attention of K2M Environmental the following comments.

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	Initials:
Organization:		Designation:	
Postal Address:			
Tel no:		Cell no:	
Fax no:		Email:	

Comment:

Date: _____