

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

## BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR WATER TREATMENT WORKS UPGRADE, BERGVILLE IN THE KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to assist stakeholders participating in the Basic Assessment process for the proposed project. This BID has been developed to:

- Share information about the proposed project;
- Present the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process that will be followed to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA) according to the NEMA
- Provide more details about the Public Participation Process (PPP) which will be followed.

### Project Description

The Bergville Water Treatment Works (WTW) are located within the Okhahlamba Local Municipality (OLM), and UThukela District Municipality (UDM) of KwaZulu-Natal (Figure 1). The scheme currently abstracts raw water from the uThukela River which is then pumped to the Bergville Water Treatment Works (WTW). Treated water is pumped from the Bergville WTW to a set of command reservoirs on the outskirts of Bergville town before being distributed to the town itself and the various rural communities.

The project entails upgrading of water Bergville water treatment works (WTW) from 2.6 mega litres to 10 mega litres per day. The raw water bulk pipeline: from the abstraction works to the WTW will be made larger, i.e. from 200mm to 450mm pipeline diameter. The clear water pipeline diameter from WTW to command reservoir will also increase from 200mm to 450mm. The command reservoir will also be upgraded. The pipelines and related infrastructure will be on portion 2 of 139, erf 140 (boundary), portion 67 of the farm Kleine Waterval 1227, portion 1 of erf 356 and the remainder of erf 356 (see Figure 2).

Chlorine will be utilised as the prime chemical utilised to treat the water to make it acceptable for drinking. The pipeline will be laid at a minimum depth of 750mm using a TLB and manual excavations. These pipelines will be laid within the existing servitude.

This background information document relates to the environmental authorisation application to be lodged with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA).

### Infrastructure Requirements

#### *Power (Electricity) Requirements*

The water treatment works are already operational and will thus continue on the current power supply.

#### *Domestic Water Requirements*

A domestic water supply is to be provided directly from the clearwater rising main (bulk water pipeline 2; Figure 2).

#### *Surface Infrastructure*

The surface infrastructure of the WTW include the following:

- » Access roads
- » Raw Water Pump Station
- » Raw Water Rising Main
- » Sludge Drying Beds
- » Ablutions

### **Needs and Desirability for the Proposed Development**

The existing capacity of the WTW (approximately 2MI/day) is insufficient to provide for the future water demand requirements of Bergville and a major upgrade of the works is therefore required. The treatment works will supply an area of approximately 90km<sup>2</sup> within the Okhahlamba

Local Municipality. The increasing Bergville population and in the interest of service delivery, the Uthukela District Municipality (the applicant) plans to upgrade the Bergville water treatment works from 2 mega litres to 10 mega litres daily. The 2.6 mega litres per day treatment works experienced supply interruptions and hence an upgrade is required. The United Nation's sustainable development goals (goal 6) relates to the need to ensure access to water. South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) also stresses the need for "decent standard of living" and outlines water as a core element.

**Potential Environmental Impacts associated with the Proposed Project**

Potential impacts relate to:

- » **Traffic** - movement of vehicles during construction phase.
- » **Noise** –Noise associated with the movement of light delivery vehicles and/or hauling trucks during construction is also anticipated.
- » **Soil and groundwater pollution** - soil and groundwater pollution may occur due to oil leaks from site operation equipment. Potential for the exposed soil to be susceptible to erosion. Drying beds if not maintained properly could result in ground pollution.
- » **Socio-economic impacts** – the water provision may result in positive socio-economic aspects in terms of improving a quality of life as a result of the improved access to clean drinking water. This could in turn encourage further investments into the town as developments may be attracted due to the increased drinking water supply. During the construction phase of the WTW, employment opportunities will become available.

**Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

The WTW upgrade application, itself, triggers listed activities within the ambit of GNR. 327 Listing Notice 1 and as such requires that a Basic Assessment ("BA") process to be

undertaken in terms of GNR. 327 - the EIA Regulations, 2014 (amended 2017) (see Figure 3 for the basic assessment process diagram).

ZN Geo Services (Pty) Ltd, an independent environmental consultant, has been appointed to undertake the above authorisation process on behalf of Uthukela District Municipality. For this proposed project, the competent authority is the Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA). Uthukela District Municipality can only commence with this intended WTW upgrade once an environmental authorisation (EA) and water use license (WUL) has been granted by the DEDTEA.

**Public Participation Process**

The aim of the Public Participation Process ("PPP") is to allow interested and affected parties ("I&APs") the opportunity to gain an understanding of the project and consider all facets of the proposed activities. The PPP will:

- » Provide I&APs with information about the proposed mining activities and associated potential impacts;
- » Allow I&APs the opportunity to provide input, such as concerns or queries, on the proposed project; and
- » Incorporate the input raised by I&APs in the study and ultimate decision-making process.

The following activities will take place during the public participation process:

- » Advertising the EIA Process (in local press): (i) an advertisement will be placed in a local newspaper and (ii) site notices placed at the project site and
- » Registering I&APs and key stakeholders on the database. A call for stakeholders to register on the project database will be made through the advertisement and site notices, as well as through letters of notification.
- » This Background Information Document ("BID") will be distributed to I&APs (by-hand and/or via e-mail, or post/fax where

necessary) informing stakeholders of the EA and water use license application being applied for by Uthukela District Municipality and other pertinent information as detailed herewith.

- » The Draft Basic Assessment Report (“BAR”), Environmental Management Programme (“EMPR”) and specialist study reports will be made available for a 30-day public and authority review period. Stakeholders will be informed of the availability of the draft BAR, EMPR and specialist studies through the advertisement and letters of notification. The draft BAR, EMPR and specialist studies will be made available at a public venue in close proximity to the site (i.e. Bergville Public Library) and online (via a Dropbox link).
- » Recording all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs and preparation of a PPP report and Comments & Responses Report (“CRR”).
- » Updating of the BAR, EMPR and specialist studies taking into consideration all comments received; and
- » Submission of the Final BAR, EMPR and specialist studies to the DEDTEA so the competent authority can make a decision on whether or not to grant the EA.

### **Getting Involved**

Surrounding communities, government and other stakeholders such as traditional authorities, community leaders, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and others are invited to register as I&APs.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comment on the draft reports as it is made available, and these comments will be incorporated into the final reports submitted to the DEDTEA. Attached herewith is a Comments and Registration form, and you as a stakeholder are welcome to complete the form and return it to ZN Geo Services. Registration on the project database also means that your details may be shared in the public domain as our reports will contain a

project I&AP database and the CRR which records written comments received from stakeholders.

As a registered stakeholder, you will also be notified as the project progress; up to and including when a decision has been made by the DEDTEA on the EA.

### **How to get involved?**

All persons who wish to take part in the Public Participation Process by commenting on or raising any concerns regarding the development are invited to do so through the following means:

1. Registering as an Interested and Affected Party (in writing at the details provided below);
2. Submit any comments in writing on the response sheet attached to this document if you have any (and return to us within timeframes provided; and
3. Review the Draft Basic Assessment Report, when it becomes available, and raise any concerns or comments in writing within the timeframes provided.

### **Contact Details for Registering as an I&AP and commenting on the proposed project**

Contact: Zama Sithole (Environmental Assessment Practitioner)  
 E-mail: [zama@zngco.co.za](mailto:zama@zngco.co.za)  
 Cell/ Mobile: +27 83 467 3532  
 Fax: +2786 620 3833

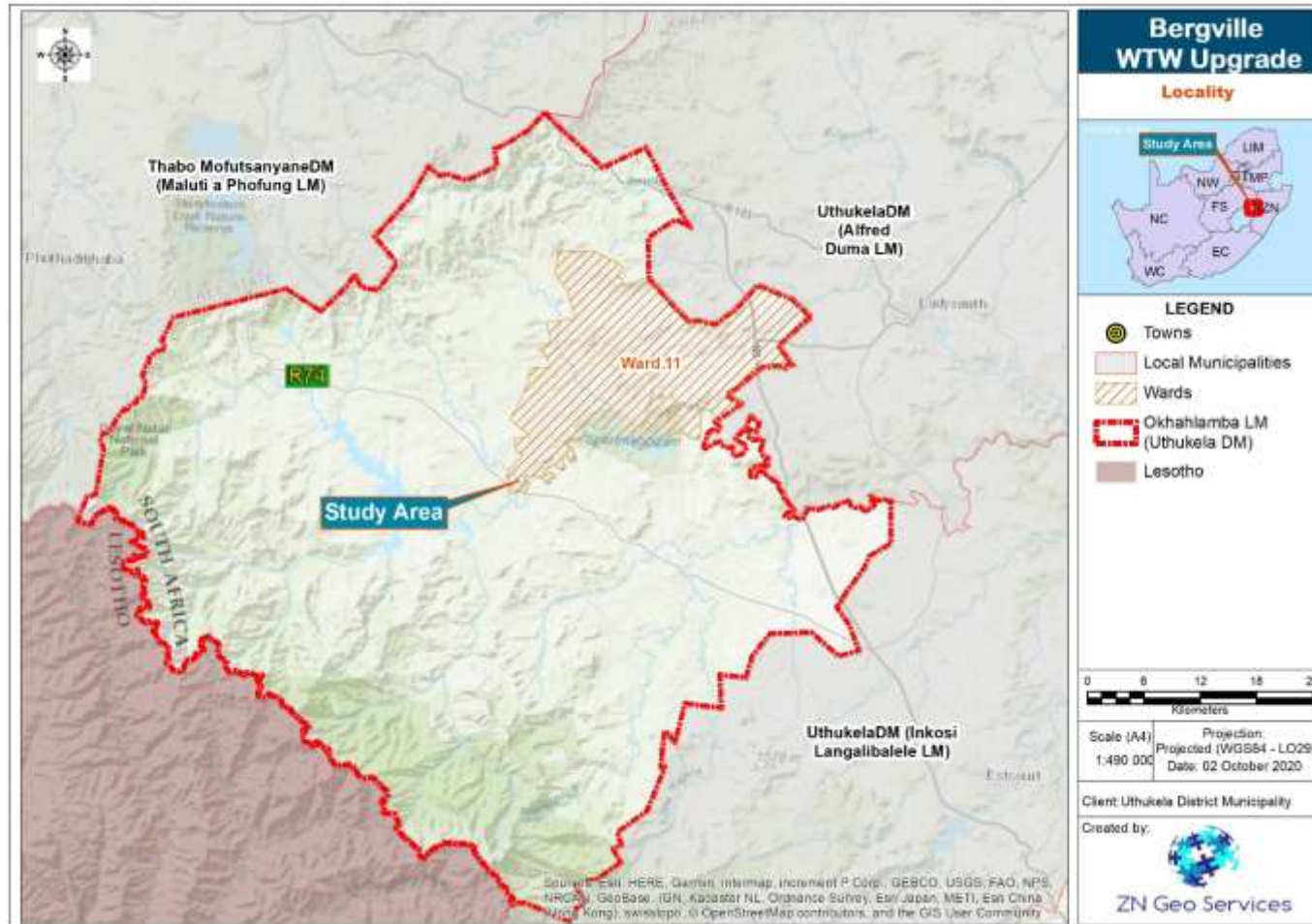


Figure 1: Locality Map





Figure 2: Site Layout Map

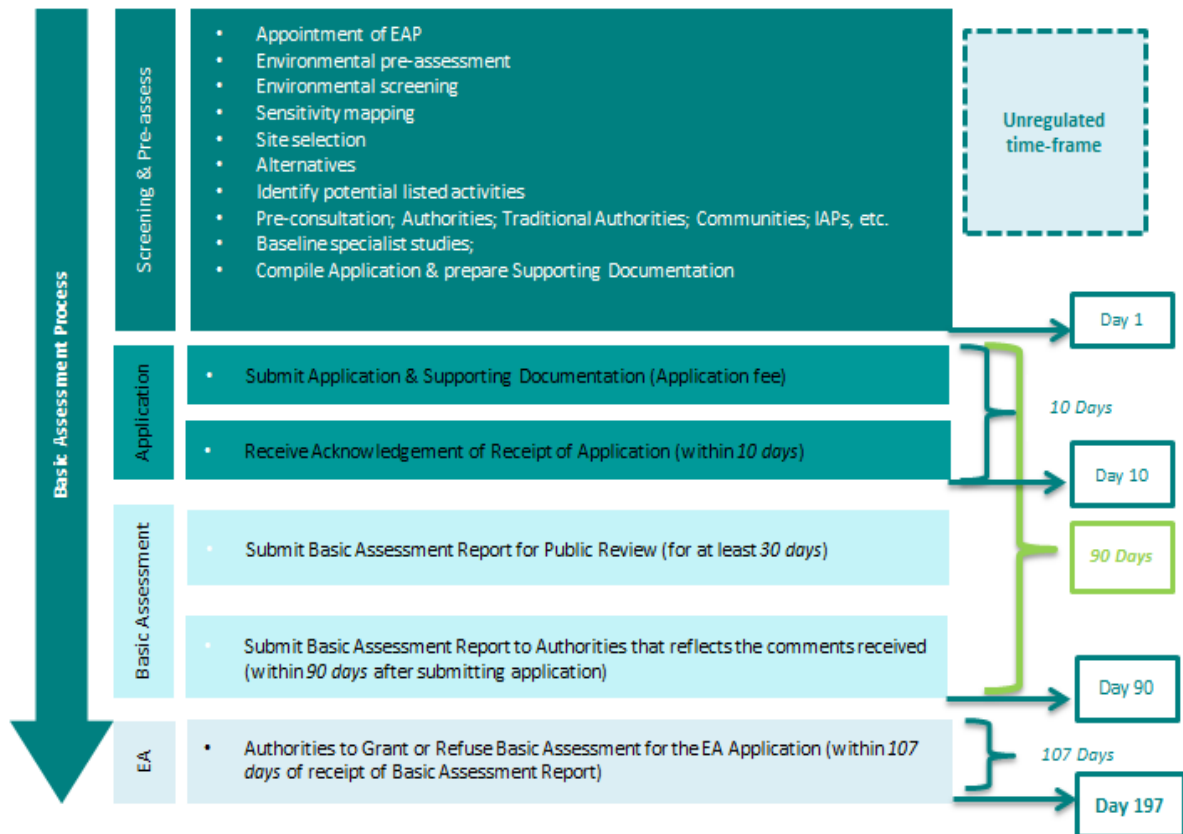


Figure 3: Basic Assessment Process

## COMMENTS AND REGISTRATION FORM

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name and Surname:	
Organisation and Designation:	
Physical Address:	
Postal Address (if different to the Physical Address):	
Contact Number (Landline and/or Mobile/Cell):	
E-mail Address:	

Would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP)?

**YES**

**NO**

*Please Note: Once registered on the project database, your details may be included in public documentation.*

Please state your interest in the Proposed Project (insert additional pages if necessary):

Please list your questions, views or concerns regarding the Proposed Project (insert additional pages if necessary):

Please provide contact details of other persons who you may regard as a potential I&AP:

*(Include Name & surname, contact number, email, etc.)*

**Contact Details for Registering as an I&AP and commenting on the proposed project**

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