

PROPOSED FILLING STATION ON PORTION 42 OF FARM ORANGE FALL 16, AUGRABIES, NORTHERN CAPE



DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

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PROPOSED FILLING STATION ON PORTION 42 OF FARM ORANGE FALL 16, AUGRABIES, NORTHERN CAPE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROPOSED FILLING STATION ON PORTION 42 OF FARM ORANGE FALL 16, AUGRABIES, NORTHERN CAPE.

It is proposed that a filling station be constructed that has storage tanks with a volume not exceeding 500 cubic meters (500 000ℓ). This will provide fuel for the local community and tourists because of its location that is in close proximity to the Orange Falls Nature Reserve and the farmers in the area.

During the table grape and citrus season there are allot of truck traffic and many of them have to drive long distances to fill their tanks. There are only two nearby filling stations to the proposed site. The closest filling station is inside the Augrabies Falls National Park about 6km from the proposed site. To get there you have to pay a visitors fee to enter the park and the fuel prices are slightly more expensive than at a filling station in a town there is also limited hours that the filling station is open. The other filling station is at Kaap Agri in Augrabies town about 10 km from the proposed site, it is not advertised for the public and only used by local farmers and town residents. They are also too small to serve the public especially the truck traffic during grape and citrus season.

There will also be a retail shop, convenience store and offices present during the operational phase of the activity.

The site co-ordinates are 28°38'22.30"S, 20°21'00.77"E.



Figure 1: Aerial image showing the location of the proposed site and the nearby filling stations relative to the proposed site.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE R983 (LISTING NOTICE 1):

Activity no. 14: The development of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.

The development of a filling station involves the storage of fuel which then triggers this activity. However, the storage tanks will not exceed 500 cubic metres.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed site is developed into raisin drying platforms which mean that the area is already disturbed and transformed with no natural vegetation present.

This property currently houses a main residential home, 3 small homes for farm workers as well as a barn. The existing homes on the site will remain, and will not form part of the development.

The site is agricultural zoned and the surrounding area of the site is already disturbed as a result of commercial and residential land-uses or agricultural practices.

CIVIL AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Electricity is currently available on Portion 42 of Farm Orange Fall 16, but only 100kva, therefore an application for an upgrade will be submitted once the rezoning application is approved.

Currently there is an allowed amount of 20m³ that can be withdrawn from the river without a water use licence, this amount will be sufficient for the operational phase of the proposed property.

Sewage and refuse will be collected by the local municipality services.

ACCESS

The R359 that passes the involved property will provide a high rate of visibility as well as accessibility to the proposed development.



Figure 2: Arial image of the proposed site and its surroundings.

CONCLUSION

The best environmental option would be the no-go alternative. However, the massive social benefits of the proposed project would not be realised.

Although the establishment of the filling station will cause some disturbance, with the implementation of the Environmental Management Programme and recommendations from the specialist, the proposed activity is expected to have a low negative impact. However, the benefits of the proposed activity are expected to outweigh any potential negative environmental impacts

It is therefore recommended that this application be authorised with the necessary conditions of approval as described throughout this BAR.