

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CULVERT STRUCTURE ON THE ROAD L1511 PROJECT IN OKHAHLAMBA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN UTHUKELA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT February 2021

WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with background information regarding the proposed project for the construction of culvert structure on the road L1511. The proposed project is undertaken by the Province of KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.

This document will provide information regarding the Basic Assessment (BA) process to be undertaken for the proposed project. Furthermore, the document advises how you can become involved in the project, receive information and/or raise issues, which may concern and/or be of interest to you. The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Public participation plays an important role in the undertaking of a BA as input from I&APs ensures that all potential issues are considered within the study.

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

The Province of KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has proposed the construction of a double celled box 2.4m x 2.4m culvert structure on the road L1511 in Okhahlamba Local Municipality under uThukela District Municipality. There is currently no existing river crossing on the proposed location, the previous culvert structure was washed away during floods.

Project area:

L1511 road is located in Ngoba area which is approximately 26,0 km from Bergville via R616, the coordinates for the structure location are 28°51'57.30"S and 29°16'48.00"E. The gravel road L1511 is about 5.0m wide along the length of the structure. The proposed river crossing structure for L1511 will better connect communities and also provide access to different services and markets for local community members.

The proposed project will consist of construction of:
L1511 Culvert

The proposed infrastructure will consist of the following dimensions:
L1511 double celled 30m x 2.5m box culvert.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

During the assessment process specialist and desk-top studies combined with a site visit will identify potential issues which require further investigation within the Basic Assessment Report.

Specialist studies which have been identified and will be conducted include:

- Ecological Impact Assessment;
- Wetland Delineation; and Functionality
- Heritage Impact Assessment

Input from the public through the public participation process provides valuable input in the identification of issues requiring investigation within this BA process. The study will highlight areas that should be avoided in order to minimise potential impacts, and evaluate the project alternatives.

The Basic Assessment will aim to achieve the following:

- to provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environment of the affected area by the proposed construction of the project;
- to undertake a detailed assessment of the project in terms of environmental criteria including the rating and significance of impacts;
- to identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for significant environmental impacts; and
- to undertake a fully inclusive public participation process to ensure that I&AP issues and concerns are recorded and commented on.

WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Government Notice Regulation (GNR) No. 326 of 2014, published in terms of Section 24(5), and read with Section 44, of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998), the KwaZulu Natal Department of Transport will require environmental authorisation (EA) from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (KZN EDTEA) for undertaking the proposed project as it includes activities listed under Government Notice Regulation (GNR) No.327 and Government Notice Regulation (GNR) No. 324 of the NEMA EIA.

The following activities of GNR 327 are being applied for the EIA:

Government Notice Regulation (GNR) No. 327 of 2017 Activity 19; The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres 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.

Government Notice Regulation (GNR) No. 324 of 2017 Activity 14 In KwaZulu-Natal [d] the development of [x] buildings exceeding 10 square metres in size, in [aa] areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any terrestrial protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve.

Province of KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has appointed At Gedezar Consulting as independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required environmental studies. As part of these environmental studies, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through a public participation process (PPP).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the public participation process from the onset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps:

STEP 1: Advertise the BA Process (local newspaper)

STEP 2: Register I&APs and key stakeholders on the database (on-going)

STEP 3: Consultation with, and transfer of information to, I&APs through consultation and stakeholder engagement

STEP 4: Invite I&AP comment and input on the draft BA report (30-day comment period)

STEP 5: Record all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs within an issues trail, which will form an integral part of BA Reports

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
2. By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to At Gedezar Consulting;
3. In writing contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
4. By reviewing and commenting on the draft BA Report within the allowed 30-day review period.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become involved in the process and provide comment, or raise those issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key part of the environmental studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying response form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and ensure that your comments, concerns or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

Interested I&AP's are invited to register by submitting their name, contact information and interest in the project to the Environmental and Public Participation consultant before the **30th March 2021**.

At Gedezar Consulting
31 Macleroy Road, Northern Park
Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Direct | 033 342 0677
Fax | 086 723 4520
E-mail | Nonjabulodl@gedezar.co.za

Ngoba

Location for L1511 culvert structure

Legend

- Route
- L1511 - Bridge

L1511 - Bridge
L1511 - Bridge L1511 - Bridge

Google Earth

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

February 2021

YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME

Please **complete** this Comment Form in full before **30 March 2021**, and return to:

Ms. Nonjabulo Dladla

31 Macleroy Road, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

E-mail: Nonjabulodi@gedezar.co.za

Phone: 033 342 0677

Fax: 086 723 4520

TITLE (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		FIRST NAME	
SURNAME			
CAPACITY (e.g. Secretary/Director)			
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS		POSTAL CODE	
TEL. NO.: ()		CELL NO.:	
FAX NO.: ()		E-MAIL ADDRES:	

What comments / concerns would you like to rise regarding this proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required)

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PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) ON THE PROJECT DATABASE:

Name:		Organisation:
Contact details:		
Address:		
Tel.:	Fax:	Cell:
E-mail:		

IF YOU WOULD NOT LIKE TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT AND WOULD PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT DATABASE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS WHO'S CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE.

YES, please remove me from the project database	SIGNATURE:
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