

Proposed Construction of Waste Water Pipelines, as part of the Upgrade of the Mpophomeni WWTW, located within the uMngeni Local Municipality, Kwazulu-Natal

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

June 2013



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed project, and to invite them to participate;
- ◆ Provide a brief background on the proposed project; and
- ◆ Explain the aims and objectives of the Environmental Basic Assessment process.



WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The Applicant, uMgungundlovu Municipality, proposes to establish pipelines as part of the upgrading of the Mpophomeni Wastewater Treatment Works. The proposed pipeline to the east will be 2820 metres in length and the pipeline to the west will be approximately 850 metres.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations under Section 24(5), 24M and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) published in Government Notice No. R. 543 of 2010, the proposed development triggers Listed Activities published in Government Notice No R. 544. The Listed Activities which are applicable to the proposed development are:

GNR 544	Part 9	<i>The construction of facilities or infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water, sewage 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, excluding where: a. such facilities or infrastructure are for bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water or storm water drainage inside a road reserve; or b. where such construction will occur within urban areas but further than 32 metres from a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</i>
GNR 544	Part 11	<i>"The construction of: (vi) bulk storm water outlet structures; (xi) infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse¹ or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line."</i>
GNR 544	Part 18	<i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell</i>

		<p>grit, pebbles or rock or more than 5 cubic metres from:</p> <p>(i) a watercourse;</p> <p>(ii) the sea;</p> <p>(iii) the seashore;</p> <p>(iv) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the highwater mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving;</p>
GNR 544	Part 37	<p>The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water where: (a) the facility or infrastructure is expanded by more than 1000 metres in length; or</p> <p>(b) where the throughput capacity of the facility or infrastructure will be increased by 10% or more— excluding where such expansion:</p> <p>(i) relates to transportation of water, sewage or storm water within a road reserve; or</p> <p>(ii) where such expansion will occur within urban areas but further than 32 metres from a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</p>
GNR 544	Part 40	<p>The expansion of...</p> <p>(iv) infrastructure by more than 50 square metres within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, but excluding where such expansion will occur behind the development setback line.</p>

Thus a Basic Assessment is required.

The Applicant is required to appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the environmental authorisation process. The Applicant, uMgungundlovu Municipality, has appointed Green Door Environmental to conduct the Basis Assessment Process for the proposed pipeline.



WHAT IS PROPOSED?

Two pipelines are proposed: a 2820 metre long pipeline to the east and an 850 metre pipeline to the west, as part of the upgrading of the Mpophomeni Wastewater Treatment Works. The refurbishment will benefit the growing Mpophomeni communities, as the effluent produced at Mpophomeni will be processed by the refurbished plant.

Refer to Figure 1 for a locality map.



WHERE IS THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT?



Figure 1: Aerial Map showing the route of the proposed pipeline and surrounding areas (Source: Google Earth).



WHAT IS THE AIM OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA)?

The Basic Assessment process aims to:

- ◆ Inform and involve all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- ◆ Identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) that the proposed development may have on the ecological and socio-economic environment;
- ◆ Provide recommendations based on the identified impacts and conduct further specialist studies if necessary; and
- ◆ Provide the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) with enough information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed development.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE EIA PROCESS FOR BASIC ASSESSMENT?

The Basic Assessment process can be described as follows:

1. *Application Form:*

An official Application Form is required to be completed and submitted to the Competent Authority. This Form provides information on the property, a description of the proposed development and lists the relevant listed activities which are triggered by this proposed development.

2. *Public Participation:*

The general public and relevant Authorities are notified of the proposed development through newspaper adverts, site notices and direct consultation. Alternative methods will be employed to inform those I&APs who may be illiterate, disabled or otherwise disadvantaged. Should you be aware of anyone who might be interested in this project, but has not been notified, please send the relevant contact details to Green Door Environmental. This Background Information Document will be circulated to neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and any other persons registered as I&APs following the adverts and site notices.

3. *Identification of Impacts and Alternatives*

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible development alternatives will be identified using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits, and consultation with authorities and the public.

4. *Impact Evaluation*

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated in terms of their expected extent, intensity, duration and probability of occurrence.

5. *Mitigation and Management Measures*

Measures to manage and minimise impacts to within acceptable levels, as well as measures to maximise the socio-economic benefits associated with the development, will be identified and recorded in the Basic Assessment Report. An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will be compiled to facilitate the implementation of mitigation measures.

6. Reporting

The Basic Assessment Report and Draft EMPr will be made available for review and comment by all I&APs and relevant authorities. The Final Basic Assessment Report and EMPr, will include comments received on the circulated Basic Assessment Report, and will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA).

7. Authority Decision

The Final Basic Assessment Report will be used by DAEA as the basis for the decision on whether the proposed development should be approved or not.



WHAT POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE INITIALLY BEEN IDENTIFIED?

The following issues have been identified as potentially problematic and will, amongst other issues, be investigated during the Basic Assessment Process:

- ◆ Potential impacts on the drainage lines;
- ◆ Impacts on local residents; and
- ◆ Soil erosion associated with construction activities.



HOW CAN I&APs COMMENT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT?

The need for public input and involvement is of critical importance. All I&APs (neighbours, authorities, organisations etc.) are invited to comment on the proposed development. Comments can be communicated to us by post, telephone or email (contact details are provided below).

In order to ensure that your comments are addressed and incorporated, please ensure that we have received all comments by **29 July 2013**.



Thank you