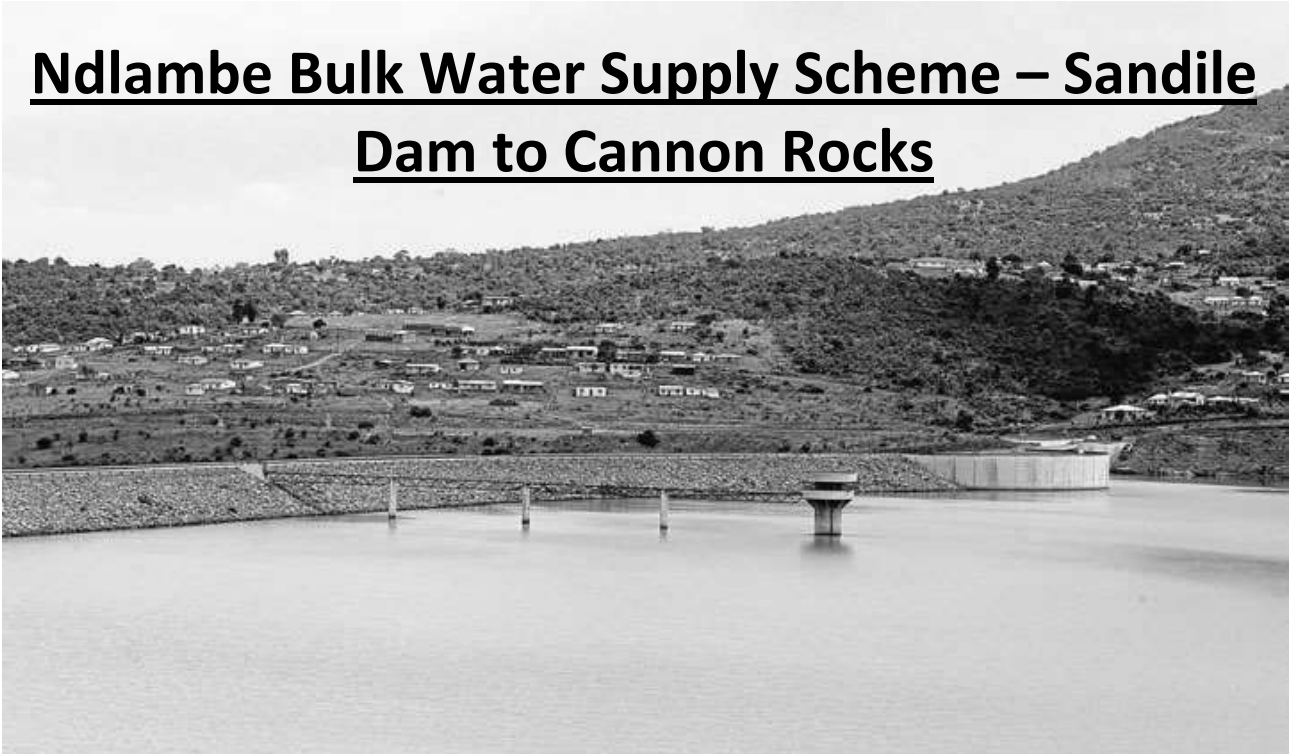


ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Ndlambe Bulk Water Supply Scheme – Sandile Dam to Cannon Rocks



Proposed by: Amatola Water on behalf of the Ndlambe Local Municipality



Return address for comments:

EOH Coastal & Environmental Services

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AIM OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to ensure that **people interested in or affected by the proposed project are provided with information about the proposal, the process being followed and provided with an opportunity to be involved** in the EIA process.

Registering as an **Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)** allows individuals or groups the opportunity to **contribute ideas, issues, and concerns regarding the project**. I&APs also have an opportunity to **review all reports and submit comments** on those reports. All comments received are included in the reports submitted to the Competent Authority.

THE PROPONENT

Amatola Water has been appointed by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA), on behalf of Ndlambe Municipality, to implement a regional bulk water supply project within the Ndlambe Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Coastal & Environmental Services (CES) was established in 1990 as a specialist environmental consulting company.

Recently EOH Group of Companies acquired the shares in CES. EOH is the largest provider of enterprise applications, technology, outsourcing, cloud and managed services. The group is active in South Africa, Africa and the United Kingdom and has a strong Black Economic Empowerment profile. This integration will allow CES to combine EOH's great reach and reputation with CES's recognised excellence in environmental and social advisory services, thus maximising CES's strengths and comprehensive offerings in the environmental and social fields.

EOH-CES has considerable experience in terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecology, the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) process, state of environment reporting (SOER), Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMP), Environmental Management Plans (EMPs), Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF), public participation, as well as the management and co-ordination of all aspects of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes (www.cesnet.co.za). EOH-CES has been active in all of the above fields, and in so doing have made a positive contribution towards environmental management and sustainable development in the Eastern Cape, South Africa and many other African countries. We believe that a balance between development and environmental protection can be achieved by skilful, considerate and careful planning

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Coastal and Environmental Services (CES) has been appointed by Amatola Water to undertake the necessary environmental investigations for the project, and to apply for approval from the Competent Authority (Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)), for the construction and operation of the water supply scheme, as required by South Africa's environmental legislation.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014), promulgated in terms of section 24(5) of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)(Act No 107 of 1998, as amended) identify activities which may not commence without an authorisation from the competent authority, who in this case is Department of Environmental Affairs, (DEA- National). In order to apply for authorisation for the development, the assessment and communication of potential impacts of the activities must follow the procedure as described in regulations 26 to 35 of Government Notice No. R 982 of the EIA Regulations.

The proposed project is subject to a **Basic** Environmental Impact Assessment in terms of the following listed activities:

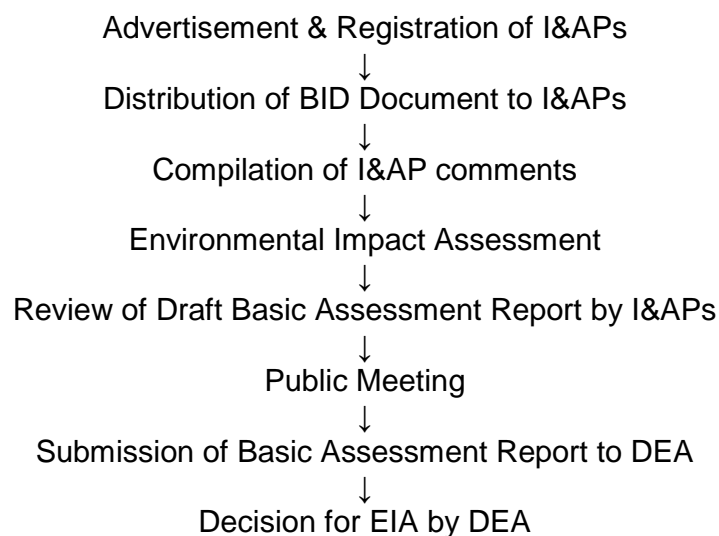
NOTICE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ASPECT
GNR 983		
9 (i) and (ii)	The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 meters in length for the bulk transportation of water or stormwater – (i) With an internal diameter of 0.36 meters or more; or (ii) With a peak throughput of 120 liters per second or more	The pipeline from Sandile dam to Cannon Rocks will be approximately 180 km long, with at least XY% of the pipeline constructed using pipes with an internal diameter of more than 0.36 meters. The peak throughput of the pipeline, particularly at the start will be in excess of 120 liters per second.
12 (xii) a	The development of – (xii) infrastructure with a physical footprint of 100 square meters or more; a. Within a watercourse	The pipeline will cross the Great Fish River. At this point the river is xm wide and the pipeline diameter is Y. A total development footprint of xy is anticipated as a minimum.
13	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water, including dams and reservoirs, with a combined capacity of 50 000 cubic meters or more.	Numerous reservoirs will be constructed along the length of the pipeline. It is anticipated that the combined volume of the reservoirs will exceed 50 000 cubic meters.
17 (ii) f	Development – (iii) In an estuary; f. Infrastructure with a development footprint of 50 square meters or more	The pipeline will cross the Great Fish River within the estuarine area. At this point the river is xm wide and the pipeline diameter is Y. A total development footprint of xy is anticipated as a minimum. Other estuaries to be crossed include the Kowie River, Kariega River, Boesmansrivier, and the Boknes River.
19 (i) and (iii)	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic meters from – (i) A watercourse	A minimum number of 50 watercourses will need to be traversed by the pipeline. Some of these will definitely be crossed using conventional trenching technology, where the pipeline is buried beneath the bed of a watercourse.
GNR 985		

NOTICE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ASPECT
2 (b) iii (dd)	The development of reservoirs for bulk water supply with a capacity of more than 250 cubic meters. (b) In Eastern Cape iii Outside urban areas (dd) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans	The pipeline route traverses a number of Critical Biodiversity Areas as outlined in the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan (a systematic biodiversity plan applied in the Eastern Cape). Currently the locations of the reservoirs are unknown, but it is likely that at least one of these will fall within a CBA.

APPROACH TO THIS REPORT

The EIA for the proposed project is presently in the ADVERTISEMENT AND REGISTRATION phase. This phase serves primarily to inform the public and relevant authorities about the proposed project. Impacts identified will be extensively addressed by specialists in the field during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) phase. Only after the full EIA report has been submitted to the DEA will a decision be made.

Basic Assessment Process



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Amatola Water has been appointed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), on behalf of Ndlambe Municipality, to implement a regional water supply project within the Ndlambe Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. The purpose of the water supply scheme is to augment the existing water supply in the municipality, which is currently under severe strain, particularly in the summer months due to the large influx of tourists to the coastal towns of Port Alfred, Kenton-on-Sea and Boesmansrivier, and others.

It is proposed that the water supply for this augmentation be sourced from the Sandile Dam, on the Keiskamma River. Raw water will be treated at the existing Sandile Water Treatment Works,

before it is reticulated to its end point at Cannon Rocks. The main pipeline will be approximately 180 km long, with off-take pipelines reticulating water to each of the major towns along the route. The pipeline will traverse two large rivers; the Keiskamma River and the Fish River. Smaller rivers affected will include the Kariega, Kasouga, West and East Kleinemonde, Kap, Boesmansrivier, Kowie, and others.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

Site-specific assessments will be undertaken as part of the EIA process in order to confirm the feasibility of the proposal in terms of the environment, and to delineate any areas of environmental sensitivity within the study area. The exact positioning of the pipeline and the associated infrastructure will be informed by the results of the technical and engineering studies conducted by GIBB Consulting Engineers *et al.* as well as the environmental sensitivity identified through the EIA process.

The following specialist studies will be conducted along the proposed pipeline route, to ascertain any potential impacts, positive and negative, that may occur as a result of the potential authorization of the project:

- Heritage/Archaeological Impact Assessment
 - Potential impacts on South African heritage, archaeological and palaeontological features will be assessed.
- Paleontological Impact Assessment
 - Potential impacts on paleontological features will be assessed.
- Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment
 - The location of any species of special concern will be identified, and the location noted in order to inform the mitigation and management measures recommended for the project.
- Aquatic Environment Impact Assessment
 - The pipeline route crosses a number of major and minor rivers and wetlands, including the Keiskamma and Great Fish Rivers. For the purposes of the Water Use License (authorised by the Department of Water and Sanitation), the present ecological status of these rivers must be determined, as well as a thorough impact assessment conducted. Aspects of the aquatic environment to be studied may include: Fish, Macroinvertebrates, Riparian vegetation, Wetland ecology, Geomorphology, Hydrology and Water quality.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

A Public Participation Process (PPP) is being conducted as part of the EIA. The aim of the PPP is to allow everyone who is interested in, or likely to be affected by, the proposed development to provide input into the process.

The Public Participation Process will include:

- Advertisements in the Daily Dispatch;
- Notice Boards on site;
- Circulation of the BID (this document) to all I&APs and stakeholders
- Community and focus group meetings;

- Review of all reports by registered I&APs and stakeholders.

If you consider yourself an interested and/or affected person/party, it is important that you become and remain involved in the PPP. In order to do so please follow the steps below in order to ensure that you are continually informed of the project developments and will ensure your opportunity to raise issues and concerns pertaining to the project.

STEP 1: Please **register** by responding to our notification and invitation, with your name and contact details (details provided on cover page and below). As a registered I&AP you will be informed of all meetings, report reviews and project developments throughout the EIA process.

STEP 2: Register by returning the slip at the back of this document to CES

STEP 3: Attend meetings that will be held throughout the EIA process. As a registered I&AP, you will be invited to these meetings.

CES is required to engage with all private and public parties that may be interested and/or affected by the proposed Great Kei WEF, in order to distribute information for review and comment in a transparent manner.

In the same light, it is important for I&APs to note the following:

1. In order for CES to continue engaging with you, please **ENSURE** that you register on our database by contacting the person below
2. As the EIA process is regulated by specific review and comment timeframes, it is your responsibility to submit your comments within these timeframes.

Who to contact for enquiries and/comments:

Dr Cherie-Lynn Mack
16 Tyrell Road
Berea
East London 5241
P.O Box 8145
Nahoon, 5210
Tel: (043) 726 7809/8313
Fax: (043) 726 8352
Email: c.mack@cesnet.co.za

**I hereby wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the
Ndlambe Bulk Water Supply Scheme EIA process**

Name:

Organization:

Postal address:

Email:

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

My initial comments, issues or concerns are:

Other individuals, stakeholders, organisations or entities that should be registered are:

Name:

Organization:

Postal address:

Email:

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Please return details to: **Dr Cherie-Lynn Mack**: P.O. Box 8145, Nahoon, 5210
Telephone: (043) 726 7809 Fax: (043) 726 8352 Email: c.mack@cesnet.co.za