

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

Proposed Construction of Off Take 8D Potable Water Pipeline as part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply at Highridge, Stanger, Ilembe District Municipality, KZN

A Project of iLembe District Municipality



10 DECEMBER 2014

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Client / Applicant: iLembe District Municipality

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Compiled and Authorised by:

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide information to interested and affected parties (I&APs) regarding the Proposed Construction of Off Take 8D Potable Water Pipeline as part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply at Highridge, Stanger, iLembe District Municipality, KZN.

Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions (hereafter referred to as Triplo4) was appointed as Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner by Black Balance Projects (on behalf of their client, iLembe District Municipality) for the proposed construction of the Off Take 8D Potable Water Pipeline.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The site is situated approx. 35km north of Ballito and approx. 2.5km north east of Glenhills in Stanger in Northern KwaZulu-Natal. The proposed development falls within the KwaDukuza Local Municipality and iLembe District Municipality.

Co-ordinates of proposed pipeline (please refer to Google Image below):

Pipeline starting point:

Latitude /Longitude	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
South	29	19	5380
East	31	14	17

Pipeline End Point:

Latitude /Longitude	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
South	29	18	51.93
East	31	17	08.56

Figure 1: Locality Map showing the location of the Proposed Pipeline Route



PROJECT DETAIL

The proposed construction for Off Take 8D forms part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply Scheme, project initiated by iLembe District Municipality and co-funded by the Department of Water Affairs & Sanitation. The construction of Off Take 8D is part of the sections of the potable water pipeline that forms part of the broader Bulk Water Supply Scheme in the lower Thukela Region. The proposed pipeline is approximately 5.35 km in length with an outside diameter of approximately 300mm to 600 mm. The proposed Off Take 8D bulk water pipeline project makes provision for Bulk Supply of Potable water to the Lower Thukela Region.

PROJECT MOTIVATION

There is a growing need and urgency to provide adequate potable water to many communities that do not have access to the life sustaining resource particularly in rural areas. The proposed construction of the Off Take 8D pipeline forms part of the Lower Thukela Bulk Water Supply Scheme that has been developed to address the challenges associated with poor supply of reticulated potable water in Northern KZN. Overall there is an ongoing need to address the current and future water supply backlogs of which requires continued investment in new infrastructure to areas that lack access to safe water.

Thus the construction of the Off Take 8D Pipeline for Bulk water supply meets the objectives of addressing the challenges of inadequate water service provision. The project also brings about socio-economic benefits as it promotes healthier and uplifted communities as the number of people that have access to clean water will increase and the risk associated with use of untreated water will be reduced significantly. The proposed construction of the Off Take 8D pipeline is in the interest of the greater public as improving water service provision to those who currently do not have access to safe potable water is indeed a priority that is on top of the development agenda for KZN.

SPECIALIST EVALUATION

An Ecological and Wetland Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment have been conducted by the Specialists and findings and recommendations will be discussed in the Basic Assessment Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES

Relevant Environmental Legislation

The below mentioned environmental activities are potentially being triggered by the proposed development, requiring an Environmental Authorisation from KZN EDTEA:

Listing Notice 1 (GNR 544, 2010):

Activity No.	Listed activity as per the project description
Activity 11	The construction of infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse. This activity will be confirmed upon receipt of the specialist study during the basic assessment process.
Activity 18	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 metres from a watercourse. It is anticipated that more than 5 cubic meters of soil, sand or rock will be excavated or moved during the construction of the pipeline.

A person who wishes to commence, undertake or conduct an activity listed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, or NEMA EIA Listing Notice 1 activities must conduct a basic assessment process.

Legal requirements for the proposed pipeline

This development triggers activity 11 and activity 18 of Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations and will conduct a Basic Assessment Report as per The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). A Water Use License Application is required for the proposed pipeline. A Water Use License (WUL) is a legal process governed by DWA requiring the authorisation of all water uses defined in section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) [NWA]. The above mentioned project requires Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses. The NWA defines a Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses as: Section 21 (c) – Impeding and diverting the flow of water in a watercourse, Section 21 (i) – Altering the bed, bank, course or characteristics of a watercourse.



Basic Assessment Process

The basic assessment process being followed comprises of the following:

- Submission of an Application for Authorization to EDTEA;
- Public participation Process:
 - Submission of a Background Information Document (this document) to identified stakeholders;
 - An advertisement in the local newspaper (Stanger Weekly Newspaper);
 - Placement of a site notification at the site notifying I&AP's of the proposed activity and inviting them to register; and;
 - Relevant I&AP's consultation to address issues and concerns raised;
- Compilation of Draft Basic Assessment Report for I&AP's review and comments, which will be available for review and comment at **Stanger Manor Library** for a period of 40 days from **30 January 2015 to 10 March 2015**.
- Submission of a Basic Assessment Report and details of I&AP consultation to the EDTEA, for a decision;
- Communication to I&AP's regarding the Environmental Authorisation.

Public Participation Process

The public participation process and time frames are summarized as follows:

Announcing the opportunity to participate and register, 15 January 2015

- Distribution of the Background Information Document to all identified stakeholders to announce the project and inviting stakeholders to register as an I&AP and participate in the public participation process;
- Posting of the site notice at the site;
- Advertisement in the "Stanger Weekly Newspaper" which will be available on **10 December 2014**

Obtaining initial comment,

- Providing this BID and comment sheets to stakeholders; and
- Capturing all comments in a Comment and Response Report / Issues Trial.

Draft BA Report 15 January 2015 to 10 March 2015

- Availability of the draft BA report at **Stanger Manor Public Library** and Trplo4 Sustainable Solutions Office and website (www.trplo4.com), which will contain a full project description, alternatives considered, and relevant information.

Submitting the draft BA report to Authorities, providing a comment period of 40 days (excluding public holidays); and Submitting the final BA report to EDTEA for consideration and communicating the decision to I&AP's.

Your contributions are important

You can get involved in the process:

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 e-mailing, posting or faxing it to Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions;
3. In writing contacting or telephoning consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
4. By reviewing and commenting on the BA Report within the allowed 40-day review period.

In terms of the NEMA Regulations (GN 543) you are invited to formally register as an I&AP.

Please note that in terms of Regulation 56 (c), I&AP's need to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

Please register by **15 January 2014** by completing the enclosed registration and comment sheet and please declare the interest with regard to the project with your comments.



REGISTRATION FORM:
**Proposed Construction of Off Take 8D Potable Water Pipeline,
iLembe District Municipality, KZN**

Attention: Hantie Plomp / Marilyn Govender

Cell: 083 308 8003

E-mail: hantie@triplo4.com / marilyn@triplo4.com

Fax: 032 946 0826

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Phone	
Name		Fax	
Organisation / Interes		E-mail	
Signature			

Please tick the appropriate circle and confirm your contact details above:

Registration

<input type="radio"/>	I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the BA process for this Project
<input type="radio"/>	Non stakeholder: I would like you to take me off your distribution sheet for the Proposed. I would not like to receive any further information regarding this process.

Other

If you know of any other individual or organisation that would be interested in registering as an Interested and Affected Party please provide their contact details:

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Phone	
Name		Fax	
Organisation / Interes		E-mail	
Signature			

