

**Environmental  
Resources  
Management**

*Cape Town Office*  
Block A, Silverwood  
Steenberg Office Park  
Silverwood Close  
Steenberg, 7945  
Cape Town  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 (0) 21 702 9100  
Fax: +27 (0) 21 701 7900  
www.erm.com

30 November 2012

South African Heritage Resources Agency  
111 Harrington Street  
Cape Town  
8001

**ATT: Ms Mariagrazia Galimberti**

Dear Madam,

**Basic Assessment Process for the Upgrading of the Water Infrastructure for Pella Drift Water Board in Northern Cape Province, South Africa:  
Request for exemption from site visit**

**Introduction**

Pella Drift Water Board (herein referred to as PWB) intends to upgrade existing water supply infrastructure (ie pipeline, water treatment works and reservoirs). The PWB currently abstracts water from the Orange River, treats and then distributes water to the towns of Aggeneys, Pella, Pofadder and the existing Black Mountain Mine in the Nama-Khoi municipal area.

Due to growing water demands from these towns and the proposed introduction of the new Gamsberg zinc mine, the PWB intends to upgrade the existing water treatment works, pipeline and reservoirs along the pipeline route from the Orange River to the town of Aggeneys. The water pipeline covers a total distance of approximately 60 km and is currently located within an existing registered servitude already impacted by the current pipeline and maintenance road.

Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd (herein referred to as ERM) has been appointed to undertake the Basic Assessment process for the proposed water infrastructure upgrades.

**Request for exemption**

*Current Impacts*

The existing servitude currently has an above ground bulk water pipeline supplying Aggeneys, Pella, Pofadder and the existing Black Mountain Deeps Mine. The pipeline is placed on supporting stilts above ground and /or buried – especially where river crossings are encountered. The pipeline is also recently (2010) fitted with ionising conductors, some of which were buried next to the pipeline. A single lane gravel road is constructed within the servitude and is utilised for repair and maintenance purposes of the existing water pipeline. The road is also sometimes utilised by adjacent landowners.

*Postal Address:*  
Postnet Suite 90  
Private Bag X12  
Tokai, 7966



*Registered Company address:*  
Environmental Resources  
Management  
Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd  
Building 23, 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor  
The Woodlands Office Park,  
Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, 2148

*Company registration number*  
2003/001404/07

*Directors*  
Jeremy Soboil (Managing)  
Grant Bassingthwaighte  
John Alexander (UK)  
John Simonson (UK)

*Offices worldwide*

A member of the  
Environmental Resources  
Management Group

***Current evaluation***

The current status of the servitude has been logged by means of a picture catalogue taken at frequently calculated intervals along the servitude. A sample of this catalogue is attached for your perusal to provide perspective of the current state of affairs. The complete catalogue of 100 photos will be provided to the independent specialist appointed for the study.

***Legal Requirement***

In terms of Section 38 (1) of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) (NHRA), the proposed upgrading of the PWB water infrastructure will exceed 5000 m<sup>2</sup> in footprint and exceed 300 m in length, and is therefore subject to the NHRA requirements. A Notice of Intent to Development and Phase 1 Heritage and Archaeological Impact Assessment will be compiled and submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

***Potential Impacts***

The proposed pipeline will run adjacent to the existing pipeline and the existing maintenance road will be used. Associated reservoirs will be located within this registered servitude. During the construction phase of the existing pipeline and subsequent maintenance activities, the registered servitude is likely to experience further impacts.

***Formal Request***

In light of the above, we would like to enquire on behalf of PWB, if the Heritage specialist may be exempted from a site visit based on the disturbed nature of the surrounding environment.

A key motivation for the request is the double impact the significant reduction of the staff component at the MacGregor Museum has on the availability of the specialist to conduct a site visit as well as the limited timeframe to complete the project to ensure adequate water supply timeously.

Based on the existing environmental context, we seek confirmation from the Heritage authorities if the suggested approach is acceptable. We trust the above is in order and should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



Mel Pillay  
*Senior Consultant*

*Attached: Sample Photo Catalogue*

## Picture Catalogue – Map of Pipeline: Starting from Aggeneys Township





**Aggeneys Township starting point**



**Servitude, road and kokerboom pump station**



**Location for new reservoir**



**Servitude Road with blasted material on road verge**



**Water crossing (pipe underground)**



**Private landowner crossing**



**Servitude with pipeline on right**



**Gamsberg evaporation pond – possible location for reservoir 2**



**Pipeline N14 Crossing**



**Existing small take-off for new pipeline installation**



**Alternative site for reservoir location**



**Servitude with pipeline on Right hand side**



**Pipeline River Crossing – pipeline on right**



**Servitude with pipeline on left**



**Servitude with pipeline on Right hand side**



**Horse shoe reservoir**



**Pipeline Public Road Crossing**



**Servitude with pipeline on left**



**Pofadder take-off**



**Pipeline on Right hand side**





**Servitude with pipeline on right**



**Servitude with pipeline on right entering riverbed**



**Pipeline in riverbed area - pipeline on right**



**Pipeline on Right hand side (chamber valve)**



**Pipeline in riverbed area - pipeline on right**



**Pipeline crossing over inside riverbed (left to right)**



**Pipeline crossing over under road (left to right)**



**Pipeline exposed in riverbed**



**Pipeline exit riverbed area to pump station**