

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS & WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS

THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF MEERENSEE GRAVITY SEWER AND PUMP STATIONS AND UPGRADING OF THE RICHARDSBAY MAIN OUTFALL SEWER AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, KWAZULU-NATAL.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

4 MARCH 2019

1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The aim of this document is to:

- Provide background information to parties interested in and/or affected by the proposed development;
- Provide information of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and Water Use Licence application (WULA) process to be followed for the proposed upgrading of Meerensee gravity sewer and pump stations and upgrading of the Richards Bay main outfall sewer and associated infrastructure, KwaZulu-Natal.
- Indicate how you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), can become involved in the EIA process.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of uMhlathuze requires the upgrading of the Meerensee main outfall sewer, the MS2 pump station and the MS9 pump station to accommodate anticipated flows from Mzingazi as well as the upgrading of the Birdswood sewage pump station to accommodate the anticipated additional flows from Mandlanzini in the near future. The following upgrades listed below forms part of the above sewer infrastructure that is required:

- Birdswood Sewage Pump Station
- Meerensee 9 Sewage Pump Station (MS9)
- Meerensee 2 Sewage Pump Station (MS2)
- Meerensee Outfall Sewer (Garrick Rise)

3. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed works is located within the Meerensee and Birdswood suburb of Richards Bay, and falls within the City of uMhlathuze Local Municipality in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality in northern KwaZulu-Natal. The upgrade within the Birdswood suburb of Richards Bay falls within Ward 3 and Ward 4 and is located within the quarter degree

grid cell 2832CA. The Meerensee Sewer pump stations namely MS9, MS2 and the Meerensee Outfall Sewer (Garrick Rise) falls within Ward 1 and is located within the quarter degree grid cell 2832CC.

The centre point geographic coordinates of the different areas at which the upgrades will take place is listed in the table below:

Place	Co-ordinates (start and end points)
Birdswood	Rising Main Start: 28°44'58.38"S/ 32°4'57.78"E End: 28°44'26.84"S/ 32°4'10.78"E Length: 1.75 km Pump Station 28°44'58.33" S/ 32°04'57.88" E
Meerensee main outfall sewer (Garrick Rise)	Rising Main Start: 28°46'45.37"S/ 32° 5'44.02"E End: 28°47'10.41"S/ 32° 5'18.01"E Length: 1.23 km
Meerensee MS2 sewerage pump station	MS2 pump station site Start/End: 28°46'17.68"S/32°06'23.00" E Discharge point Start/End: 28°46'38.07"S/ 32°05'52.37" E
Meerensee MS9 sewerage pump station and rising main	MS9 pump station site Start/End: 28°45'57.28" S/ 32°07'23.77" E MS9 Rising Main Portion 1 Start: 28°45'57.46"S/ 32° 7'23.48"E End: 28°46'3.91"S/ 32° 7'15.35"E Length: 0.37km MS9 Rising Mail Portion 2 Start: 28°46'3.91"S/ 32° 7'15.35"E End: 28°46'17.71"S/ 32° 6'22.97"E Length: 1.88 km

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS - LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in Government Notice (GN) No. R. 326 of 7 April 2017 under Section 24(5),

and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, of the intent to carry out the Basic Assessment Process (in terms of listed activity 19,31, 46, 48 and 54 of Listing Notice 1 – GN R327 and listed activity 12, 14 and 23 of Listing Notice 3 -GN R324).

GN R327 - NEMA EIA Listing Notice 1 of 2017:

Activity 19:

The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 m³ from a watercourse.

Activity 31

The decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure for—

(i) any development and related operation activity or activities listed in this Notice, Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or Listing Notice 3 of 2014; (ii) any expansion and related operation activity or activities listed in this Notice, Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or Listing Notice 3 of 2014; (v) any activity regardless the time the activity was commenced with, where such activity:

- a) is similarly listed to an activity in (i) or (ii) above; and*
- b) is still in operation or development is still in progress;*

Activity 46

The expansion and related operation of infrastructure for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, waste water, return water, industrial discharge or slimes where the existing infrastructure— (i) has an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more;

Activity 48:

The expansion of (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100m² or more where such expansion occurs – (a) within a watercourse;

Activity 54

The expansion of facilities (ii) in an estuary in respect of – (e) infrastructure or structures where the development footprint is expanded by 50m² or more;

GN R324 - NEMA EIA Listing Notice 3 of 2017:

Activity 12:

Clearance of 300m² of indigenous vegetation in (d) KwaZulu-Natal (iv) within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; (v) Critical

biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (vi) within littoral active zone or 100m inland from the high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greatest; (xi) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose; (xiii.) In an estuarine functional zone

Activity 14:

The development of – (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 m² or more, where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse in (d) KwaZulu-Natal (i) in an estuarine functional zone (vii) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (xi.) Inside urban areas:

(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;

(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, zoned for a conservation purpose;

Activity 23:

The expansion of (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 m² or more, where such expansion occurs (a) within a watercourse in (d) KwaZulu-Natal (iii) in an estuarine functional zone; (vii) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (xi) inside urban areas

(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;

(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, zoned for a conservation purpose;

National Water Act (NWA), (Act 36 of 1998) for the listed activities in Section 21.

A Water Use Authorisation in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA), (Act 36 of 1998) will also be required for the construction in a wetland which is classified by the Act as a watercourse.

The EIA Process consists of the following two very closely interlinked processes:

- A technical process, which entails the identification and management of possible environmental issues/concerns; and

- A public participation process, which requires public consultation in order to assist in the identification of possible environmental and/or social issues and/or concerns.

5. ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

It is anticipated that the following environmental aspects will be significant and will hence be addressed by the project team during the assessment process:

- Impacts on vegetation and faunal habitats;
- Impacts on water resources and wetlands;
- Impacts on the socio-economic dynamics during construction.

Management guidelines will be developed for the above-mentioned issues and incorporated in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

You are welcome to comment on the above list and provide additional anticipated issues and possible impacts that should be assessed.

6. SPECIALISTS

Apart from environmental screening, numerous specialist investigations have informed the design criteria to date for the proposed upgrades. These include:

- Vegetation Assessment
- Wetland Delineation and Functionality Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA) or other stakeholders may require additional specialists' studies if necessary.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public Participation is any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision-making and forms an integral part of the EIA and WULA. The Public Participation Process (PPP) provides people who may be affected by the proposed development, with an opportunity to provide comments and to raise issues of

concern, or to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project.

Comments and issues raised during the PPP will be captured, evaluated and included in a Comments and Response Report, which will be incorporated into the draft BAR and WULA. The draft BAR, draft WULA and draft EMPr will be made available for public review prior to submission to the relevant environmental authority.

8. APPROVING AUTHORITY

The DEDTEA is the relevant authority which will review the BAR. The DEDTEA has to reach a decision as to whether, and under what conditions, the project may proceed, based on environmental considerations.

The process to be followed is depicted in Figure 1 as per the amended 2014 NEMA regulations.



The DWS is the relevant authority which will review the WULA. The registered I&APs and relevant stakeholders will be notified of the availability of the draft WULA for review. A decision on the application will be made by DWS based on content which has been provided in the WULA.

9. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Exigent Engineering Consultants has been appointed by Ilifa Africa Engineers on behalf of the City of uMhlathuze to manage and facilitate the environmental process and PPP required for the project.

We would like to encourage you to participate in this EIA process. Should you wish to get involved, receive project information, and/or to raise issues, please provide your written comments together with your name, contact details, preferred method of notification (e.g. email or fax) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you have in the application by **4 April 2019** to:

EXIGENT ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

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Figure 2. Locality Map

