



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Attention: Ms N. Shange

RE: BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR PROPOSED UPGRADE AND REHABILITATION OF NYANDA GRAVEL ROAD, WARD 21 ABAQULUSI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Reference is made to the above mentioned document received by this office on the 15th April 2013, dated 11th April 2013. This Department has the following comments:

(A) SPECIFIC COMMENTS

- 1) The applicant is advised that the proposed activity will require a water use authorisation from this Department. The proposed activity constitutes a section 21 c and (i) water use as far as the National Water Act (No 36 of 1998) is concerned.
- 2) This Department requires that the impacts of the activity that may lead to the alteration of the characteristics of the water course are minimised. Major direct impacts of this activity are on the characteristics of the water resource as the activity may affect:
 - The energy of the watercourse.

- The morphology (bed, banks, macro-channels) of the watercourse, including changes affecting the riparian and in-stream habitat characteristics,
 - The physical characteristics (e.g. the removal of riparian vegetation, changes to geology),
 - The chemical characteristics (change in temperature, pH, turbidity, etc.),
 - Flood dynamics,
 - Biotic components (e.g. a change of habitat that will lead to a change in the composition of the biota)
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- 3) Furthermore the applicant shall need to make sure there is minimisation of impacts or extent of the impacts that may result from the diversion or impedance of the water course during construction, as it is possible that there may be:
- an obstruction to the flow of water in a watercourse or,
 - Diversion some or all of the flow in or from a watercourse.
 - Influence on the flow regime in a watercourse.
 - Impeding or diverting structures that can fully or partially extends into the stream or river, forcing the natural flow direction to be re-directed by the structure.
 - Impeding or diverting can be temporary, for example during the construction of a road bridge. It can also be permanent, such as the building of a low water bridge across a river where the flow is permanently impeded as it moves under the bridge.
- 4) Care should be taken when working around the water resource banks and beds to reduce the footprint of the affected area.
- 5) The applicant shall need to make sure the banks are stabilised and landscaped with natural vegetation after construction.

(B) SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- All waste generated at the proposed development must be disposed of in a suitable manner so as not to cause any surface or sub surface water pollution or health hazard.
- All solid waste generated must be disposed of at a permitted landfill site allowed to accept such waste, proof of this must be made available if required.
- This Department must be contacted if any other disposal route is to be followed.
- This Department fully supports recycling of waste generated as a result of day-to-day activities of the development.

(C) SEWAGE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

- Contaminated wastewater must be managed in a suitable manner so as not to cause any surface or sub surface pollution or health hazard. This management plan must be submitted to this Department prior to construction commencing.

- Effluent treatment, disposal facilities and any other infrastructure must preferably be located outside the 1:100 year flood line, away from any boreholes.
- Chemical toilets must not cause any pollution to water courses as well as pose a health hazard and these toilets must be located out of the 1:100 year flood line of a watercourse.

(D) STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- The stormwater drainage network system must be kept separate from the effluent system.
- After construction, the site should be graded to ensure free flow of runoff and to prevent ponding of water.
- Drainage must be controlled to ensure that runoff from the site will not culminate in off-site pollution or cause water damage to properties further down from the site.

(E) EROSION CONTROL

- Soil erosion on site must be prevented at all times, i.e. pre-, during- and post-construction activities. Suitable erosion control measures must be implemented in areas sensitive to erosion such as near water supply points and edges of slopes. These measures could include:
- The prompt rehabilitation of exposed soil areas with indigenous vegetation to ensure that soil is protected from the elements.
- The removal of vegetation, only as it becomes necessary for work to proceed.
- Prevent the unnecessary removal of vegetation especially on steep areas.
- All the necessary precautions in terms of design and construction of earthworks, cuts and fills must be taken.
- The soil or any other materials shall not be allowed near a watercourse or water body to prevent pollution or impediment to surface runoff.

(F) GENERAL

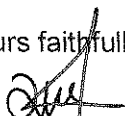
- No forms of secondary pollution should arise from the disposal of sewage and refuse. Any pollution problems arising from the above development is to be addressed immediately by the Applicant.
- The proposed development must not be in conflict with any South African legislation, local municipal plans, or by-laws.
- The applicant must exercise suitable precautions with the storage, handling and transport of all materials that could adversely affect the environment. If pollution of any surface or groundwater occurs, it shall immediately be reported to this Department and appropriate mitigation measures must be employed.
- Storage of material, chemicals, fuels, etc. must not pose a risk to the surrounding environment and this includes surface and groundwater. Such storage areas must be located outside the 1:100 year floodline of any watercourse and must be fenced to prevent unauthorised access into the area.

- Every effort must be made by applicant to ensure that any ecologically significant areas such rivers, wetlands, pan or marshes are protected during spill. A means to ensure continued protection of the sensitive areas after a spill must be implemented.

Notwithstanding the above, the responsibility rests with the applicant to identify any sources or potential sources of pollution from his undertaking and to take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the environment. Failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) could lead to legal action being instituted against the applicant.

If there are any queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours faithfully,



MAKWABASA N (ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER: CONTROL)

On behalf of (11065)

The Regional Director-KWAZULU-NATAL
NM/nm