

# BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE UPGRADING OF WATER PIPELINE IN EMBALENHLE GOVANI MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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Date: Tuesday August 16, 2022  
Page No: 1

CaseID: 19083

## Interim Comment

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Mr Charles Chigurah  
Minenviro (Pty) Ltd  
Unit 53 Village 6 Stone Arch Estate  
Corner Sunstone and Brookhill Road  
Castlevuew  
1401

**The scope of works includes the construction of suitable designed and sized parallel pipelines associated fittings too upgrade the supply and to cater for the future expansion of eMbalenhle. The parallel lines will replace the existing aging infrastructure. The project will be divided into 4 phases as it is estimated to be a lengthy construction period and expensive project. The following phases are proposed: • Phase 1: New 630mm diameter line from the Rand Water connection up to the Abdullam Reservoirs. • Phase 2: New 500mm line from Abdullam reservoirs up to the traffic circle branch connection. • Phase 3: New 400mm line from the Traffic circle branch up to the 5ML reservoir • Phase 4: New 355mm line from the old reservoir and pressure tower to the 5ML reservoir The four (4) main pipe materials which are considered are to be used as follows: • HDPE – Mainly in CBD areas where trenching will cause undesirable disruptions. In these areas pipe cracking methods will be employed to put the DDPE pipes in place with minimal excavations required. • uPVC – Used in most other area where trench excavations are possible. This method is considered more affordable and labour intensive, therefore allowing for employment creation. • PVC-O – Used for large diameter (450 – 600mm) or high pressure (16 – 25 bar) sections of pipeline where HDPE and uPVC pipes won't be sufficient. • Steel – Only to be used in possible extreme situations where the above materials are insufficient**

NKT Consulting Services has been appointed by CV Chabane and Associates Consulting Engineers to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed water pipeline replacement to Embalenhle from the Rand Water Line on the N17, Mpumalanga Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include the construction of bulk water pipelines parallel to the existing bulk water pipeline with trenching in some areas.

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Integrated Specialist Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Miilo, T. 2022. Phase 1 Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Proposed Upgrading of Water Pipelines in Embalenhle Govani Mbeki Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.*

One municipal cemetery was identified alongside the proposed pipeline route, however, the cemetery is not protected by the NHRA and will not be discussed further.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- The identified municipal cemetery must be preserved in situ and properly mapped before any construction activity commences;
- The planners for the proposed pipeline upgrade must provide for a 30m buffer zone for the recorded cemetery or alternately divert the route to avoid the cemetery completely;
- The proposed pipeline upgrade may be approved to proceed as planned under observation that project work does not extend beyond the surveyed pipeline route.
- The construction team must be inducted on the possibility of encountering archaeological resources that may be accidentally exposed during clearance and excavations of pipeline trenches along the pipeline route in order to ensure appropriate mitigation measures and that course of action is afforded to any chance finds;
- If archaeological materials are uncovered, work must cease immediately and the SAHRA be notified, and activity should not resume until appropriate management provisions are in place.

## Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests that an field-based assessment of the impact to palaeontological resources be conducted as part of the EA application process as the proposed route is located in areas of moderate and very high sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map. The field-based assessment can be limited to the areas of very high sensitivity. The assessment must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist and must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards refers to a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption for Further Studies that may be submitted,

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should the appointed specialist deem it appropriate.

The applicant is advised to extend the BAR process in terms of section 19(1)b of the NEMA EIA Regulations in order to comply with this comment. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested report and a revised BAR that includes the results of the palaeontological assessment.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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Natasha Higgitt  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/601408>  
(MDEDET, Ref: 1/3/1/16/1 G-254)