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AMENDMENT TO FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RIVERTON – BOSHOF – DEALESVILLE WATER PIPE LINE, FREE STATE

Tokologo Local Municipality, which is part of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, is planning an extraction water pipeline from the Vaal River at Riverton in the Northern Cape, to supply water to the towns of Boshof and Dealesville in the Free State. The pipeline will follow the existing 56km gravel road from Riverton to Boshof and another 60km of farm tracks to Dealesville. The installation will include a raw water dam, water treatment works and a storage reservoir at Boshof. The Boshof – Dealesville line will deliver treated water through two booster pump stations to the existing infrastructure at Dealesville.

Thewo Engineering, from Bloemfontein, commissioned the first phase archaeological and heritage impact assessment. The investigation is based on an inspection along the route, with focus on the occurrence of archaeological, historical and any other cultural material.

A new abstraction point has been suggested by the developers. This point lies about 900m from the bridge along the river, 520m from the bend to the river and 700m from the new pump station to the bridge (Fig.1).

According to the land owner there is a cluster of shallow graves near where the pipeline will be passing (Point Y).

Mr Raymond Smith, the owner of the neighbouring farm, confirmed that the cluster of graves is located about 200m from the turn-off from the tar road on the left side (river side) of the road.

I am, therefore, convinced that the graves will not be affected by the installation of the pipeline on the opposite side of the road.

I recommend that the developers should be aware of the possibility of graves in the area and that they should be very cautious not to disturb any graves or human remains.

I recommend that these graves should be avoided during the planning of the pipeline. Mitigation measures will be necessary during the construction phase where any other human skeletal material or unidentified heritage resources are found.

Further planning of the proposed project may continue.



Fig.1 New position of the pump station on the farm Boland. Point Y indicates locality of graves.