

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF DRIEFONTEIN
WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, NQUTHU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PREPARED ON BEHALF OF:

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SIGNATURE	
DATE	

**Information outlined in this report has been obtained from various sources and acknowledged in the report.*

PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

SAT Environmental Consultants was appointed by Makhaotse, Narasimulu and Associates (Pty) Ltd as an independent environmental consultant to conduct an Environmental and a Water Use License Application for Driefontein water supply scheme- Phase 1 and 2A.

The purpose of the background information document (BID) is to provide a brief project description and application processes, allowing the opportunity for Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&AP's) to lodge any concerns and provide comments in relation to the proposed development. **Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) are invited to complete and submit the attached "Comments and Registration Sheet attached to this document.**

Input from the Interested and Affected Parties forms a crucial component of the Public Participation Process (PPP) and ensures that all potential environmental issues are considered during the submission of the application processes.

This document contains the following information:

- Proposal and Project Background
- Project Location
- Need and Desirability of the project
- Summary of Specialist Assessments
- Potential Environmental Impacts
- Associated Environmental Processes
- Roles of an I&AP
- Comments & Registration Sheet

PROPOSAL AND PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Umzinyathi District Municipality proposes to construct Driefontein water supply scheme – Excelsior. Driefontein is located in the Nquthu Local Municipality within the jurisdiction of the uMzinyathi District Municipality. The objective of the Driefontein water supply scheme project is to supply the community of Driefontein with clean, adequate, sustainable and safe water to drink. The proposal will entail the following construction activities:

- Offtake meter chambers
- Installation of 1 No.-50KL and 1 KL Break Pressure Tanks
- Construction of Inlet and Outlet chamber
- Laying, testing and disinfecting of 2.28km, 90-110mmØ uPVC pipeline
- Laying, testing and disinfecting of 17.55km, 50-75mmØ HDPE pipeline
- Construction of 43 valve chambers (Air, Scour and Isolation valve chambers)
- Construction of 46 standpipes

PROJECT LOCATION

- The project area is located approximately 91 km South East of Dundee within the jurisdiction of uMzinyathi District Municipality in the Province of Kwa-Zulu Natal. The development site can be accessed via the District Roads (D836 and D799) and Umhlwane River. The area is the only tribal area (Abantungwa-Kholwa) within municipality.

Table 1: Table showing the central co-ordinates of the Driefontien water supply scheme project area

CENTRAL COORDINATES		
Name	Longitude	Latitude
Driefontien	28° 17' 23.56" (S)	30° 53' 38.79" (E)

BASIC ASSESSMENT APPLICATION PROCESS

The Basic Assessment (BA) process for the proposed development will be undertaken in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. As part of the BA process the project will require the approval from the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) prior to commencement of the project for activities triggering any Listing Notices contained in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS

A Water Use Licence Application under the provision of the Nation Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) is also required for the project. Water Use License (WUL) must be lodged with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for approval. Water uses defined in Section 21 of the said Act relevant to the development includes:

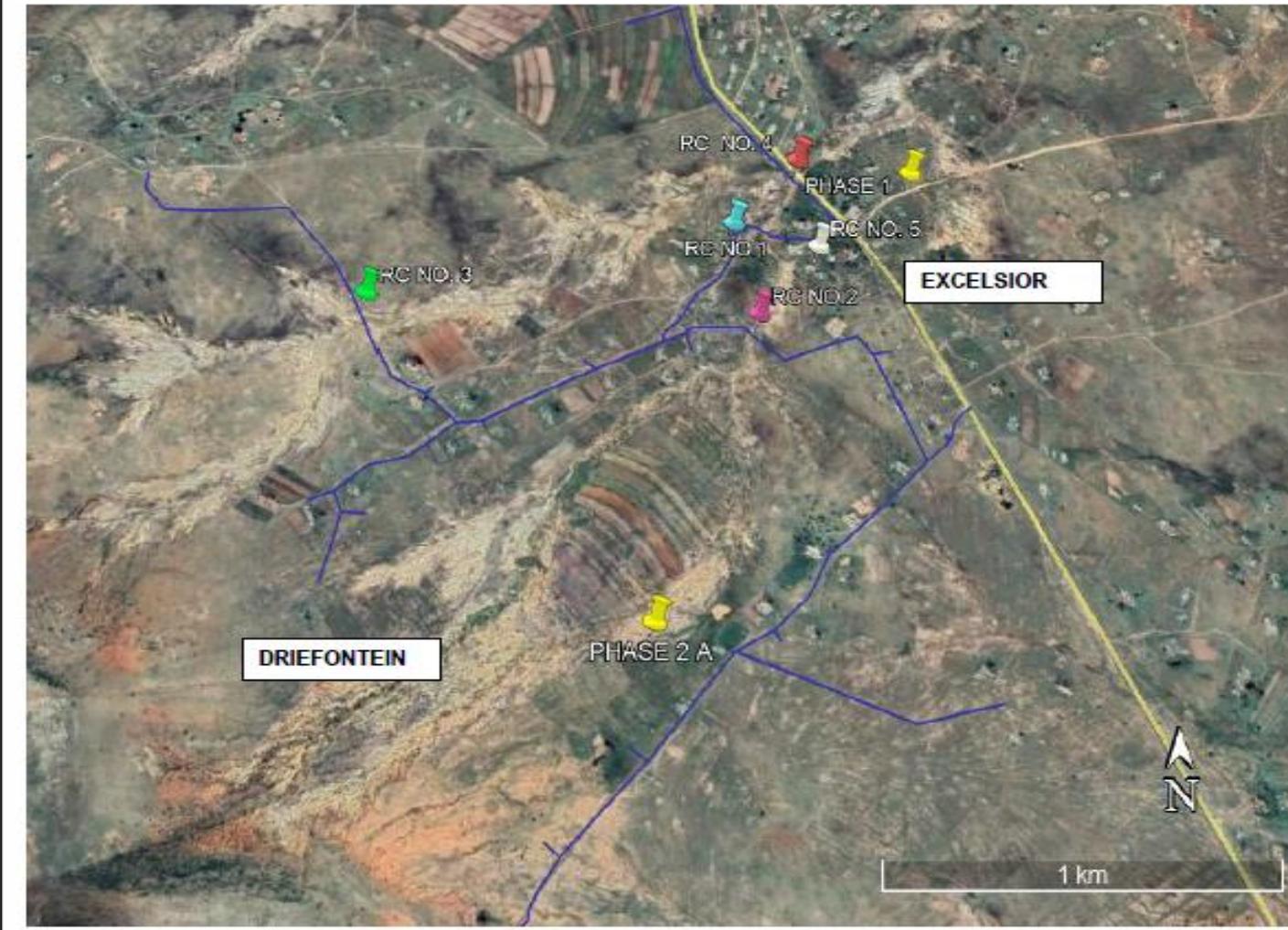
- Section 21 (c) of Act, *“Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse”*.
- Section 21 (i) of Act, *“Altering the bed, banks or characteristics of a watercourse”*.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Public Participation Guideline in terms of National Environmental Management Act, (Act 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, describes public participation process as *“a process by which potential interested and affected parties are given opportunity to comment on, or raise issues”*. Therefore, the public participation process will provide for the opportunity for interested and affected parties, stakeholders and competent authorities to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the environmental impacts associated with the proposed project.

Public Participation Process can be summarized as follows:

- Distribution of the Background Information Document (BID) to all identified stakeholders, providing an opportunity to register as an I&AP.
- Erecting site notices in close proximity to the site area.
- Placing an advertisement in the local newspaper.
- The draft Basic Assessment & Water Use Technical reports will be circulated to **registered I&APs** for comments. (Should no comments be received within the stipulated timeframes; the Environmental Consultant will take it as **No Comments received** in accordance with the legislation).



Map: Aerial
 Project: Driefontein Water Supply
 Scheme- Excelsior
 Scale: 1:20 000



LEGEND

	PHASES
	RC no.1 (50mm Ø)
	RC no. 2 (75 mm Ø)
	RC no.3 (90 mm Ø)
	RC no.4 (90mm Ø)
	RC no.5(90mm Ø)



Figure 1: Aerial map showing Driefontein

NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

Driefontein is considered a secondary development node under the uMzinyathi District Municipality and is a priority area for social and economic development. Hence, the community of Driefontein is currently being supplied by a borehole that is unable to meet the daily water demand.

According to the Nquthu LM IDP 2017/18, the area is characterised by a number of challenges. These include service backlogs of water and sanitation, lack of economic investment and infrastructure and high rate of unemployment amongst other. Furthermore, the uMzinyathi District Municipality IDP 2018/19 states that the water backlog is to be reduced by 1532 household units by the end of June 2019. Therefore, the proposed construction of Driefontein water supply scheme will directly benefit the community of Driefontein by supplying the community with clean, adequate, sustainable and safe water to drink.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

The following specialist studies have been undertaken:

- Wetland Impact Assessment

REPORT	ORGANISATION
Wetland/Riparian Assessment	Malachite Specialist Services - Mr. Rowena Harrison (Pr. Sci. Nat)

Figure 2: Showing Aerial map

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development have been identified and will be assessed during the Basic Assessment process.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	RESPONSIBLE FOR MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS
Soil erosion, sedimentation & degradation of wetland areas	Addressed in the Wetland Impact assessment undertaken by Malachite Specialist Services
Pollution of Water Resources & Soil	Addressed in the Wetland Impact assessment undertaken by Malachite Specialist Services
Alien invasive species encroachment	Addressed in the Wetland Impact assessment undertaken by Malachite Specialist Services
Water Quality Degradation	Addressed in the Wetland Impact assessment undertaken by Malachite Specialist Services

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	RESPONSIBLE FOR MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS
Waste Generation	Addressed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner in the Basic Assessment Report
Noise Pollution	Addressed by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner in the Basic Assessment Report

ROLE AS AN I & AP

Should you wish to register as an Interested/Affected Party (I&AP) or if you have any comments, concerns or objections regarding the project, kindly follow the procedure outlined below:

1. Complete the **comments and registration sheet attached** to this document and email or post the completed sheet to SAT Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd as per details below.
2. Contact the environmental consultant directly via email or telephonically, if you have any queries or require further information on the project.

Please register by, by completing the attached comments and registration sheet.

For all inquiries, comments and concerns, kindly contact:

Nosihle Mhlongo

Cell: 083 680 4460

Email: info@satenviro.co.za

97 Hyacinth Road

Durban,

4051

COMMENTS & REGISTRATION SHEET

Attention: Nosihle Mhlongo

PROJECT: Construction of Driefontein Water Use Scheme – Phase 1 and 2A

TITLE:		TEL/CELL:	
NAME & SURNAME:		EMAIL:	
ORGANISATION:			
ADDRESS:			

Please tick the appropriate box:

- I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party.

- Please remove me from the distribution sheet for the proposed project. I would prefer not to receive any further correspondence regarding this process.

Do you have any direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of this application?

Yes	No
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If yes please explain:

Comments:

All comments are to be submitted within 14 days of receipt of the BID to: info@satenviro.co.za alternatively contact Nosihle Mhlongo, Tel: 083 680 4460.