

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF PIPELINES FOR THE UPGRADE OF CUBHU WATER TREATMENT WORKS (WTW) AND 9KM RISING MAIN LINE FROM CUBHU WTW TO EXISTING FOREST RESERVOIR IN UMHLATHUZE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE

INTRODUCTION

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is undertaken in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) which requires that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process be conducted for activities that may have potential impact on the receiving environment.

The proposed project constitutes of listed activities which fall under Listing Notice No.R.327 of 2017, published under Notice No. 327 in Gazette No. 40772 dated 7 April 2017, published under sections 19 and 46 with the following descriptions:

Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than [5] 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than [5] 10 cubic metres from [—(i)] a watercourse;

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; or (ii) has a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more; and (a) where the facility or infrastructure is expanded by more than 1 000 metres in length; or (b) where the throughput capacity of the facility or infrastructure will be increased by 10% or more.

And Listing Notice No. 324 of 2017, published under section 16vi and has the following description:

Activity 2dvi: The development of reservoirs for bulk water supply in sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

uMhlathuze Local Municipality proposes the upgrade of Cubhu Water treatment works (WTW), 9km rising main pipeline and construction of 15ML reservoir in Esikahleni, uMlathuze LM, KwaZulu Natal Province. The project will occur in two phases as described below:

Phase One

- Upgrade of the Cubhu Water Treatment Works (WTW) from 36ML to 60ML

Phase Two

- Upgrade of a 9km rising main line from 600mm to 1000mm
- Construction of a new 15ML reservoir at the Forest Reservoir at Esikhaleni

EXPECTED PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Provision of water needs to households in the targeted community
- Creation of temporal jobs
- Improvement of hygiene and sanitation

PROJECT LOCATION

The project starts at Cubhu WTW and ends at Esikhaleni Forest Reservoir

Phase 1: Upgrade of Cubhu WTW

S28°50'43.95" E 31°57'18.05"

Phase 2: Bulk Pipeline upgrade and construction of 15ML reservoir at Esikhaleni Forest reservoir

Pipeline starts: S28°50'43.95" E 31°57'18.05"

Pipeline ends: S28°51'41.51" E 31°52'41.26"

Reservoir construction: S28°51'41.51" E

31°52'41.26"

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

AMAP Engineer Ltd was appointed by Kukhanya Projects (Pty) Ltd on behalf of uMhlathuze Local Municipality to undertake a basic assessment study for the proposed upgrade of Cubhu WTW, 9KM rising main line and the construction of a 15ML reservoir in Eskhaleni, uMhlathuze LM. The process will involve the compilation of a basic assessment application, conducting of specialist studies, organising public consultation, compilation of draft basic assessment report, review of draft report, and compilation of final basic assessment report.

The purpose of these procedures is to provide the competent authority with adequate information to make decisions which ensure that activities which may impact negatively on the environment to an unacceptable degree are not authorised, and that activities which are authorised are undertaken in such a manner that the environmental impacts are managed to acceptable levels.

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner is also responsible for ensuring that a public participation process is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and for taking into account any comments that are made during this process in the compilation of the reports that will be submitted to the competent authority.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) govern most aspects of EIAs, including public participation. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs). During the Public Participation Process, inputs from the proponent, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to contribute to a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process. The Regulations require that the public be given an opportunity to comment on applications for environmental authorisation. Members of the public who want to participate in the

assessment process are registered and called interested and affected parties (I&APs).

For this project the public consultation will be a one phase process which will involve identifying all stakeholders including the interested and affected parties, registering the interested and affected parties, organizing a public meeting to explain the proposed project and the potential negative and positive impacts and mitigating measures against negative impacts, providing the interested and affected parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed development, provide the draft basic assessment report for community and stakeholders' review and comment.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE AS AN INTERESTED OR AFFECTED PARTY IN THIS PROJECT:

You are invited to participate in the above process. An important part of the EIA process is public consultation, which will assist with the identification of issues and concerns and help the authorities make an informed decision.

If you or your organisation would like to participate in the study and / or if you know of any other organisation or person interested in or affected by the proposed project please contact AMAP Engineers Ltd, represented by **Dr Matilda Azong 0739634612**, e-mail: azongm@amaplimited.com