

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS MOOI-MGENI TRANSFER SCHEME PHASE 2

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 4(6) of the regulations published in Government Notice R1183 under Section 26 of the Environment Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989) of the intent to carry out the following:

The National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) are proposing Phase 2 of The Mooi-Mgeni Transfer Scheme (MMTS-2) to augment the growing water requirements from the Mgeni System. The MMTS-2 will encompass:

- Spring Grove Dam and pump station;
- Eskom switch yard at the Spring Grove pump station;
- Transfer pipeline from Spring Grove Dam to the Mpopana River;
- Two river flow gauging weirs: one on the Mooi River and one on the Mpopana River;
- A break pressure tank at Gowrie;
- An artificial fish barrier weir on the Mooi River upstream of Inchbrakie Falls;
- Realignment of the access roads to the Vaalekop South Smallholdings and the property Riverholm;
- Protection of the embankment of the Nottingham Road (en route to Loteni);
- Relocation of services such as power lines, telephone lines and water and sewage reticulation;
- Off-site rehabilitation of degraded wetlands on properties in the Mooi, Little Mooi and Mgeni rivers;
- Location of construction housing and a construction camp, including site office, parking, temporary storage of fuel, and storage of plant equipment and material;
- Access from Michaelhouse to Balgowan; and
- A potential quarry site.

The proposed dam site will be located about 2 km south from Rosetta Village along the Mooi River on the properties commonly known as Springvale and Rosetta Farm. Rosetta is situated between the towns of Nottingham Road and Mooi River in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. The impoundment, which will be approximately 10.3 km² in area when full, will extend from the proposed dam wall near Rosetta to beyond the Inchbrakie Falls, which will become submerged once the dam has been constructed. The proposed transfer pipeline from Spring Grove Dam to the Mpopana River will traverse a wetland, some Rosetta smallholding properties, the R103 and the railway line before running parallel to the existing Mearns pipeline in the existing 25m wide servitude. At Gowrie, the pipeline will cross the access road to the N3. The water being transferred will discharge into the Mpopana River approximately 1.2km north of Balgowan.

The original farms that may be affected by the MMTS-2 include VAALEKOP 3297, SPRINGGROVE 2169, RIVERHOLM 15967, INCHBRAKIE 14850, THE BEND 14880, STOCKTON 14870, AVON 10487, EBERNBURG 2210, ROSETTA 2983, SPRINGVALE 2170, GOWRIE 1930, WELLINGTON 2212, WATERFORD 15946, and WILDE ALS SPRUIT 1085.

Coarse aggregate to be used in the construction of the dam can be mined from a potential quarry site located on the properties WELLINGTON 2212 (80% of the quarry) and SPRINGVALE 2170 (20% of the quarry). The quarry site is situated on top of the mountain to the east of the Rosetta railway station. The DWAF has in terms of section 106 (2) of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) and GNR 26501 been exempted from the obligation to apply for a permit to develop a quarry for the development of state owned infrastructure. The DWAF has however commissioned the compilation of an Environmental Management Plan Report (EMPR) which will form part of the overall EIA report for this project. The EMPR will indicate to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs and/or the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism the environmental impacts of the quarry, and indicate to the Department of Minerals and Energy the proposed environmental management of the quarry, inclusive of the rehabilitation of the quarry at the end of construction.

Cymbian Enviro-Social Consulting Services have been appointed by BKS (Pty) Ltd, the independent environmental consultant, to manage the Stakeholder Engagement Process. This process includes the consultation with parties that may be affected by, or have an interest, in the project. The purpose of this notice is to notify all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) of the upcoming opportunity to raise issues or concerns regarding the aforementioned activities. Parties wishing to formally register as I&APs in order to offer their comment on the proposed project are requested to forward full contact details within 30 days of the publication of this advertisement. Registered I&APs will be forwarded all future correspondence, and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process. The details of the Public Participation Consultant are:

Cymbian Enviro-Social Consulting Services

Contact Details: Paula Tolksdorff

PO BOX 1676, CRESTA, 2118

Tel: (011) 678 6680; Fax: 086 659 7270;

E-mail: info@cymbian.co.za

