

11 March 2011

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party

**RE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION
OF THE WELGEDACHT WATER CARE WORKS
(Gaut002/08-09/NO732)**

**AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AND
ASSOCIATED PUBLIC MEETING**

This letter serves to notify you that the EIA process for the above-mentioned project is currently underway. You are cordially invited to attend a Public Meeting to discuss the findings of the impact assessment phase of the process.

Since the last Public Meeting on 31 March 2009, a number of specialist studies were conducted. These studies included:

- Geotechnical investigations;
- Ecology assessment;
- Visual impact assessment;
- Noise impact assessment;
- Air quality impact assessment;
- Heritage impact assessment; and
- Social impact assessment.

These studies have now been concluded and the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for public review and comment between 14 March 2011 and 13 April 2011. At the close of the comment period, the report will be finalised and submitted to the relevant competent authority (i.e. the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, (GDARD)) for decision making.

AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

VENUE	ADDRESS	CONTACT	HOURS		TEL NO.
<i>The report will be available from Monday 14 March 2011 until Wednesday 13 April 2011</i>					
Bakerton Library	Cnr. First & Teabush Ave, Bakerton	Head Librarian	09:00 – 16:30 (Mon – Fri)		011 999-8826
Daveyton Library	Admin Building, Cnr. Eiselen & Embusweni Streets, Daveyton	Head Librarian	08:00 – 16:30 (Mon – Fri)		011 999 6867
Springs Library	55 Fifth Ave, Springs	Alice Duvenhage	09:00 – 16:30 Mon – Fri	09:00 – 13:00 Sat	011 999 8802

PUBLIC MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend a public meeting, details of which are:

DATE: Thursday 31 March 2011

TIME: 18:00 for 18:30

PLACE: Hall of the Dutch Reformed Church, Springs North (Cnr. Botha Street & Milner Avenue, Geduld Extension).

Please direct any questions or issues to myself (Marita Oosthuizen) of MasterQ Research. Contact details are as follows:

E-mail: marita@masterq.co.za

Telephone: 082 378 4903

Yours sincerely,

Marita Oosthuizen

WELGEDACHT WATER CARE WORKS (BLESBOKSPRUIT FORUM)
FOCUS GROUP MEETING
WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2010
AUDITORIUM, ERWAT HEAD OFFICE, BAPSFONTEIN ROAD, KEMPTON PARK
10:00

DRAFT MINUTES

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Ms Marita Oosthuizen of MasterQ Research opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present, after which the attendants introduced themselves.

2. PRESENT

Please refer to the attendance register.

3. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

- Annemarie Maurizio (Ekurhuleni)
- Phyllis Mapphakala (DWA)
- Rene Booysen (Lonmin)
- James Mofokeng (DWA)
- Sarah Lebetle (Ekurhuleni)
- Phaliso Mushudu (Rand Water)
- Amelia Briel (Knight Piesold)
- Steve Lurie
- Karen Marx (WESSA North)
- Garth Barnes (WESSA North)

4. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Ms Oosthuizen indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Provide stakeholders with information regarding the proposed project and the preliminary viewpoints and potential implications.
2. Provide stakeholders with the opportunity to give inputs regarding the potential project findings and implications.
3. Facilitate a constructive process that enables stakeholders and specialists to work together to ensure maximum benefits from the project process.

5. BACKGROUND AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT

Ms Govender of Savannah Environmental Pty Ltd provided an overview of the project. A copy of the presentation is included within Appendix A.

Need for the project: The current sewer works was designed to have a capacity of 35MI/d. Currently the works is under severe pressure due to increasing wastewater volumes being directed towards the works. It was therefore decided that the capacity be upgraded to 135MI/d over a 30 year period, which would be implemented in two phases of an additional 50MI/d extension in each phase.

The following discharge options were investigated through the technical, economical and environmental feasibility studies during the EIA phase:

- Discharge in the Blesbokspuit as is currently the case
- Discharge in the Blesbokspuit at a point below the RAMSAR site
- Transfer of the effluent to the Olifants or Crocodile catchment
- Sale and re-use if this effluent by other users within the catchment

The preferred option would be nominated in the EIA for consideration by GDARD and DWA.

The following aspects were considered:

- Effect on the flow rate
- Effect on water levels and inundated width
- Effect on salt concentrations
- Effect on Phosphate
- Other water quality water effects
- Effect of other Welgedacht WCW effluent disposal options
- Effect of Grootvlei Gold Mine closure

Issues identified and described during scoping

Potential impacts during desktop specialist studies and public consultation:

- *Geology and soils* localized and restricted to the site
- *Ecology* impacts on terrestrial and wetland areas and aquatic ecosystems
- *Visual* impacts – WCWs have the potential to be visually exposed to several suburbs and other receptors due to the flat topography
- *Noise* – potential impact on neighboring residential areas
- *Air quality* – upgrade of the WCWs would change the emission rates of pollutants and dust
- *Social environment* – both positive and negative impacts were identified but no issues were identified as fatal flaws

Do nothing option:

- Would be detrimental to the environment
- Would be assessed during the EIA phase of the process

Conclusion

In conclusion **Ms Govender** stated that:

The impacts resulting from the upgrade is expected to be overall positive and that, up to this stage, no fatal flaws were identified.

Various specialist studies were recommended for further investigation in the EIA phase:

- Hydrological and water quality impacts
- Ecology impact assessment
- Air quality impact assessment
- Noise impact assessment
- Visual impact assessment
- Social impact assessment

The final scoping report was submitted the GDARD on 28 April 2009.

6. DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

No	DISCUSSION
1	<p>Mr De Fontaine requested clarification regarding the aim of phase 1, was it to take the capacity up to 50MI/d or extend it by 50MI/d?</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Ryan Botha replied that the aim was to extend the capacity by 50MI/d so the end result would be 85MI/d for phase one and the total capacity after the upgrade is completed would be 135MI/d.</i></p>
2	<p>Dr. Van Eeden wanted to know what the impact of the sludge would be on the Blesbokspruit.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha pointed out that it was currently not possible to provide an answer as there were studies still outstanding.</i></p>
3	<p>Mr. Pather asked when the upgrade would be completed.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha indicated that the aim was to have it completed by middle 2014.</i></p>
4	<p>Mr. De Fontaine observed that there was an existing shortfall of 25MI/d and after such a long period to completion of phase 1, the shortfall would be even greater.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha said that the calculations were done to address this situation so that it should not be the case. The works currently manages the situation by retaining some wastewater in the overflow dams to be processed later during off-peak times.</i></p>
5	<p>Dr. Van Eeden asked what 'manage' meant in this situation?</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha explained that the process design allowed the works to be compliant with standards stipulated by DWA.</i></p>
6	<p>Dr. Van Eeden pointed out that none of the works were '100% compliant'; Toxicological assessments had to be conducted. International research regarding the chemicals used in similar works indicated that there were still toxic content when discharged – this was never measured and accounted for, e.g. pharmaceutical & personal care products (P&PC). He reminded the meeting of the Rietvlei dam situation and continued that water use licences fail to manage these types of impacts. The Constitution states that citizens have the right to clean water and successful</p>

No	DISCUSSION
	<p>management thereof is essential.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha indicated that he could only comment on the current project. Department of Water Affairs (DWA) set standards to be complied with and this process under discussion was designed to address the compliance with these standards set for this works.</i></p>
7	<p>Dr. Van Eeden retorted that DWA did not have the expertise to handle that kind of 'stuff'. He continued that the sludge normally landed up with farmers and through agricultural activities eventually land up on our plates – this was an ever escalating issue.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Ms. Thomas replied that the EIA would focus on the water quality and that Mr. Chris Herold would focus on the toxicity issues.</i></p>
8	<p>Dr. Van Eeden enquired about the availability of the scoping report.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Ms. Thomas replied that it was available on the Savannah website (www.savannahSA.com) and it was also at public libraries within the study area. The scoping report was completed and submitted in March 2009 and discussed at a previous meeting. The long time lapse between the completion of the scoping and this meeting was caused by the need to clarify various issues, including the discharge point and water quality issues.</i></p>
9	<p>Dr. Van Eeden asked where the discharge point would be. He indicated that the Crocodile and Olifants Rivers had the same issues and the same situation would arise should they be affected.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha explained that various options had been investigated within a feasibility study. This study had been presented to DWA. A decision on the discharge point would be made in consultation with DWA once information on the Reserve of the Blesbokspruit and hydrological assessment were available.</i></p>
10	<p>Dr. Van Eeden asked who the users would be if the discharge were to be sold.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha indicated that there were studies still ongoing and that a decision would be made before the end of 2010.</i></p>
11	<p>Mr. De Fontaine wanted to know why ERWAT did not consider upgrading to the full 100MI/d in one phase. He pointed out that we tend to play catch-up instead of addressing the issue to be ahead of the curve.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha replied that alternatives were considered and that this was seen as the best option.</i></p>
12	<p>Mr De Fontaine remarked on the questions regarding the reuse of the water and pointed out that the Blesbokspruit, together with the Grootvlei mine, had a history of</p>

No	DISCUSSION
	<p>flooding properties. He warned that the communication directed to the public should be carefully worded. He indicated that the management of the water cycle is bigger than what Welgedacht proposes. It has to consider issues like how to address all issues within Blesbokspruit. In the communication to the public all options should be fully explained, and it should be indicated how the developer/department(s) propose to address the existing issues.</p>
13	<p>Dr. Van Eeden commented on the reuse of the water and argued that one should aim to be fully self-sustainable by utilising the bio-gas generated from the waste water treatment as done internationally to generate electricity. The stealing of electrical cables is becoming far too common and seems like a lame excuse for non-compliance. Other communities internationally are self-sufficient and one should aim for that.</p>
14	<p>Mr. Pather indicated that some processes were too expensive to finance, take the quality of effluent for instance – management of e-coli levels is tricky and at present bacteria do get released. Should the upgrade take effect, even more e-coli would be released.</p>
15	<p>Dr. Van Eeden replied that financial constraints did not serve as an excuse. DWA had a mandate to treat the water and should therefore take samples as indicated and not cut back on it. The Constitution states that we are entitled to clean water and one should look at different alternatives to stop the spreading of bacteria and do not have a huge impact on the quality of the water.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha indicated that alternatives were considered and that studies were undertaken but that formal results were not available at present.</i></p>
16	<p>Mr De Fontaine said that this was a crucial project and expressed the need to stay informed regarding the hydrological surveys, etc. He stated that he sensed a lack of confidence in the process.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha pointed out that due diligence was done and that they were contracted by ERWAT since 2008. He undertook to make the information available as soon as it became available. After the hydrological report was available, there is every reason to believe that the Department would decide on the discharge issue. The decision was also needed for the EIA.</i></p>
17	<p>Dr. Van Eeden remarked that the environmental practitioner should conduct an unbiased study and not a client-directed study.</p>
18	<p>Dr. Van Eeden requested clarification about the discharge and asked what DWA's position in this matter was.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Ms. Thomas replied that there had been several meetings and follow-up meetings with Mr Rademeyer and Mr Keet of DWA to determine the required standards and discharge point. The team are currently waiting for subsequent meetings. It is an ongoing discussion.</i></p>

No	DISCUSSION
19	<p>Mr. De Fontaine pointed out that clear answers were needed regarding the effluent discharge point before they could comment on it. He stated that he did not believe that stakeholders could significantly influence the decisions on the discharge issue. He requested an indication from the consultants whether export from or release into the catchment had already been considered.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha reiterated that no final decision was reached in this matter. He said that all current issues as well as the consequences of the different discharge options were to be taken into consideration. A number of consultants did studies but there has been no final decision yet. The final decision will be informed by DWA.</i></p>
20	<p>Mr. De Fontaine confirmed that the discharge issue was critical and that there were time constraints. He asked Mr. Herold what the size of the scope was that they were looking at for the discharge into the Blesbokspruit/Barrage.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Herold replied that the hydrological study included the Vaal Barrage.</i></p>
21	<p>Dr. Van Eeden asked whether this study looked into the effect of another 100MI/d discharge. He said that they were busy registering the wetland and pointed out that the discharge would impact greatly on the wetland and its registration with RAMSAR.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha confirmed that the full 100MI/d extension was considered. He stated that the project might go out on tender towards the end of 2010 but no turning of earth would be done until all required authorisations are obtained. For time management purposes the Environmental Authorisation (EA) process and tender process may run parallel as it reduces the time lapse between the EA and allocation of the tender.</i></p>
22	<p>Dr. Van Eeden pointed out that they should know what the process would be like if they are ready to go out on tender. He asked what the use of the meeting was in this case.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha pointed out that the tender may change due to the conditions of the decision and that such a clause would be included in the tender documents.</i></p>
23	<p>Dr. Van Eeden voiced his concern about the apparent lack of 'unbiasedness' of the practitioners working on this project. He pointed out that South Africa is flawed due to situations like this where practitioners presume the outcome of a process before it has run its course.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Ms Thomas noted that it is not a legal requirement to await a decision before a tendering process can be undertaken. She indicated that ERWAT were aware that this tendering process would be undertaken at risk.</i></p>
24	<p>Mr. De Fontaine argued that a good portion of the work was supposed and that the final issues / decisions would be left open during allocation of tenders. It would be well documented that these issues would be decided on at a later stage.</p>

No	DISCUSSION
25	<p>Dr. Van Eeden remarked that smaller sewer processes were adopted worldwide and asked which alternatives were considered.</p> <hr/> <p><i>It was noted that the management of smaller sewer systems would be more difficult than that of larger works such as Welgedacht. It has been noted earlier that DWA did not have the capacity to monitor the current works and therefore it would be even more difficult for these authorities to monitor smaller works which would be more widespread.</i></p>
26	<p>Dr. Van Eeden elaborated on the smaller waste water facilities and stated that the developer should build his own small waste water treatment division and should take responsibility for monitoring; this would spread the sewage treatment works around over the area. He stated that DWA's capacity to monitor the situation was questionable and that this process should be managed well. He said that stakeholders had to speak up to get mediated answers.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Herold stated that South Africa had a huge problem with water supply and that one could not make the small plants the responsibility of the developers. He pointed out that ERWAT treated effluent on behalf of municipalities – it did not have a mandate to supply water and that the quality of water fed back into the system was not the responsibility of ERWAT. DWA should have extra plants to improve the quality of the water. He continued that ERWAT's responsibility included possible reuse of water and that it looked at the whole water cycle.</i></p>
27	<p>Mr. De Fontaine said that Mr. Herold hit the nail on the head with his remarks about ERWAT. He pointed out that reuse was determined by industries that signed contracts to that effect. -One should draw a line as to what the works would do and be liable for.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Wilken replied that it was in ERWAT's interest as well to sell effluent.</i></p>
28	<p>An attendant asked whether the facility would accommodate the peak line to facility efficiently.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mr. Botha confirmed that the outfall sewers were adequate to manage the growth in the area.</i></p>
29	<p>Ms. Oosthuizen asked what the water of the Blesbokspruit was used for as the social impact assessment team needed this information.</p> <hr/> <p><i>The attendees replied that there were (1) informal water users of the Blesbokspruit; (2) water was used for recreational purposes e.g. fishing, boating, canoeing; (3) direct use (potable water for informal settlements); (4) farming, e.g. livestock watering; (5) ecology; (6) industrial use. They pointed out that the water eventually ends up in Oranjemund and that people downstream use the water for various uses – from Parys onward people became dependant on the water quality by previous users.</i></p>

No	DISCUSSION
30	<p>Ms. Oosthuizen suggested that another meeting should be called as soon as the outstanding issues regarding discharge could be addressed. She suggested that the outstanding results from studies / surveys hampered the discussion and that the results should be sent to the stakeholders as soon as they became available.</p> <p>This suggestion was put to the vote and everyone indicated that they were in favour of a follow-up meeting after the results were available.</p>

7. CLOSURE

Ms. Oosthuizen requested that everybody sign the attendance register to ensure that the information could be sent to them. She invited the attendees to send any further questions or remarks to her. **Ms Oosthuizen** thanked the attendants for their time and input and closed the meeting at 11:30.

8. ATTENDANCE REGISTER

NAME & SURNAME	ORGANISATION & DESIGNATION	POSTAL ADDRESS	CONTACT DETAIL
Mr Bob Dehning	GCA & Smits Forum Conservancy: Committee member		Tel: 011 316 1426
			Cell: 082 651 1501
			Fax: 086 510 7814
			E-mail: dehning@mweb.co.za
Mr Ryan Botha	SSI: Project Manager		Tel: 011 798 6224
			Cell: 082 822 4654
			Fax: 011 798 6012
			E-mail: ryanb@ssi.co.za
Mr Charl van der Merwe	Exxaro Zincor Base Metals Blesbokspruit Trust		Tel: 011 812 9769
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Ms Marita Oosthuizen	MasterQ Research	49 Muller Street Yeoville 2198	Tel: 011 477 3265
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Mr Marc de Fontaine	Rand Water		Tel: 011 682 0266
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NAME & SURNAME	ORGANISATION & DESIGNATION	POSTAL ADDRESS	CONTACT DETAIL
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			Cell: 083 640 0873
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Mr Chris Herold	Umfula Wempilo: Director		Tel: 011 463 5203
			Cell:
			Fax: 011 463 5203
			E-mail: herold@wirelessza.co.za
Mr Thya Pather	DWA: Solid Waste Specialist		Tel:
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			Fax:
			E-mail: thya@dwa.gov.za

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (EIA):
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING WELGEDACHT WATER CARE WORKS TO
FACILITATE A CAPACITY EXTENSION OF UP TO 100 ML/DAY
BLESBOKSPRUIT FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2011 at 11:30
ERWAT HEAD OFFICE**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Ms Marita Oosthuizen of MasterQ Research opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present, after which the attendants introduced themselves.

1.1 Present

Jo-Anne Thomas	(JT)	Savannah Environmental
Alicia Govender	(AG)	Savannah Environmental
Ryan Botha	(RB)	SSI
Cecelia Matjitji	(CM)	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
Dave Smith	(DS)	SAPPI
Freddie Viljoen	(FV)	Interested and Affected Party
Marc de Fontaine	(MdF)	Rand Water
Annemarie Maurizi	(AM)	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
Sonia Mothodini	(SM)	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
Marita Oosthuizen	(MO)	MasterQ Research
Elbie Oosthuizen		MasterQ Research

1.2 Apologies received

Jaco Wepener
Andrew Barker
Murray Reid
Sipho Magesa

2. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Ms Oosthuizen briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide the Blesbokspruit Forum stakeholders with background information on the proposed project, feedback on the findings of the various specialist studies that were conducted, an opportunity for I&APs to seek clarity on the proposed project and findings of the EIA, and to record comments raised to inform the finalisation of the EIA.

3. BACKGROUND TO ERWAT AND THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Ms Alicia Govender of Savannah Environmental presented the background to the proposed project as well as the key findings of the specialist studies that were conducted during the Scoping Phase of the EIA process.

The existing Welgedacht Water Care Works (WCW) that is owned and operated by the East Rand Water Care Company (ERWAT) was commissioned in 2003 with a design capacity of 35 MI/d. At present this WCW is receiving in the region of 68 MI/d and is experiencing severe pressure as a result of the increasing wastewater volumes to the plant. To ensure that the plant is able to adequately treat wastewater and maintain the quality of effluent, ERWAT proposes the expansion of the Welgedacht WCW by a capacity extension of up to 100 MI/d over the next 30 years. The first upgrade will extend the plant's capacity by 50 MI/d, which is urgently required. The second phase entails the addition of another 50ml/d extension. The total capacity will be 135 MI/d. The extension will take place within the existing footprint, to the southwest and adjacent to the current WCW. The second phase would be implemented by 2021.

Ms Govender presented the meeting with photos of the current infrastructure at the WCW. She also presented a locality map indicating the location of the current WCW in relation to the surrounding area, as well as an aerial photograph outlining the proposed location of the proposed extensions, which would include screw pumps to receive the raw wastewater, an emergency storage dam, inlet works with mechanical screens, and Vortex degritters.

In addition to the expansion infrastructure as outlined above, a number of options were investigated from a technical and economic perspective. Only one technically, feasible alternative exists, i.e. Discharge into the Blesbokspruit, as is currently the case.

4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF THE DRAFT EIA

A number of issues had been identified and described during the scoping phase, which included potential impacts on ecology, air quality, visual, noise, heritage, and the social environment, as follows:

- ✦ **Ecology:** the significance without mitigation is high to medium and the significance with mitigation is medium to low;
- ✦ **Visual:** the significance without mitigation is moderate to high and the significance with mitigation is low to moderate;
- ✦ **Noise:** the significance without mitigation is low and the significance with mitigation is also low;
- ✦ **Air quality:** the significance without mitigation is medium to low and the significance with mitigation is low;
- ✦ **Social:** the significance without mitigation is high to medium and the significance with mitigation is low, and
- ✦ **Heritage:** there is no impact on this area.

In essence, the expected impacts as a result of the proposed project were regarded to be positive in nature overall. It was also mentioned that the **no go** option would be detrimental to the environment as non-implementation would cause effluent discharge to be of a substandard quality. Impacts include:

- ✦ Severe pollution of the Blesbokspruit;
- ✦ Downstream water users who extract water, and
- ✦ Health and well-being of people in close proximity of the WCW.

The conclusion of the draft EIA showed that no environmental fatal flaws were identified and that negative impacts can be minimised by implementation of the mitigation measures proposed in the EMP (Environmental Management Plan). DWA effluent standards for the catchment can be met with the implementation of the proposed extensions to the Welgedacht WCW. The no-go alternative is not preferred from an environmental perspective as there would be higher consequences compared to implementation.

Ms Govender pointed out that at this stage there were no impacts of high significance. The project should be authorised by GDARD (Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) provided that the recommended mitigation is implemented. Implementation of EMP would achieve appropriate environmental management standards and that relevant permits must be obtained by ERWAT, i.e. Water Use License. She added that unnecessary disturbance to habitats should be strictly controlled during construction and by maintaining communication and consultation with the community representatives would be imperative.

5. DISCUSSION

QUESTION		RESPONSE	
DS	Expressed concern about the site specific impacts, especially the effects of the discharge on the water system downstream of the discharge point, as well as the impacts on the Ramsar site in terms of water volumes. He asked how it would be managed.	JT	The impacts on the river system had been assessed within the EIA Report, the ecology report and the hydrology report.
MdF	Why did DWA agree with the option of the current discharge point?	RB	There had been no firm ruling as yet from DWA. All options were presented to DWA for their consideration. From an economic and technical perspective, only one option (i.e. the current discharge point) was considered feasible). The decision from DWA was still awaited.
MdF	Remarked that DWA previously indicated that they would give an idea to the stakeholders about what would be decided, but no feedback was received. The Forum members were not given a significant explanation and it was not good enough to state that the document was available – the findings must be explained in laymen’s terms. One must get to the basics with the Forum so that everybody understands what was to be expected in terms of additional volumes within the system. It seemed that only a selected few were involved and one got the feeling that the Stakeholders were not truly valued. <i>The next meeting of the Blesbokspruit Forum is on 5th May 2011; he urged the presenters to get permission to explain the proposed development to the members during that meeting. He indicated that if a presentation could not be given at this meeting, one should be</i>	MO	Explained that there was a public meeting held on 31 st March 2011. Although about 62 people were invited, only those present turned up for the meeting.

QUESTION		RESPONSE	
	<p><i>given at the next meeting to be held in August. He stated that this should however not hold up the EIA process. The <u>Chairperson</u> is Ephraim Matseba of DWA, cell 082 809 5727. DWA was involved since the beginning.</i></p>		
DS	Had the conservation Department been contacted regarding the Ramsar site?	JT	Confirmed that they were invited to comment on this process through GDARD.
FV	Had reuse of the wastewater been considered? Who would be the users of the discharge?	RB	Discussions were underway with various parties who had expressed interest in this regard.
AM	What was planned for the management of the sludge?	RB	Sludge from the plant was currently irrigated. It was proposed to install digesters as part of the plant expansion. The operating shifts of the current sludge dewatering plant would be increased to handle the additional sludge loads. It was proposed that sludge from the expansion would be fed through the digesters, dewatered and then dried in the sludge drying beds. Various options of handling this sludge were still being considered.
MdF	Would the current sludge management be able to handle all the sludge – current and new?	RB	The expanded works would be designed to cope with the full capacity of the plant, i.e. a total of 85 Ml/d following completion of phase 1 and a total of 135 Ml/d following the completion of phase 2.
MdF	It was important to make it clear that the intention was not to bring in an additional 50Ml/d, but that the works was proposed to be expanded to accommodate current inflows (in the short term) and planned expansions in the catchment (in the long term). The expansion will improve the situation from a treatment perspective.		Noted.
AM	Was the expansion only looking at	RB	There is nothing in the Master Plan

QUESTION		RESPONSE	
	accommodating 68 MI/d and not looking at moving water from other works?		regarding diversion of flow from other works. The proposed expansion was required to deal with what was happening in the catchment and cater for increased flows in the future.
DS	What was the resultant percentage increase in flow in the river with the additional 100MI/d.	RB	Chris Herold undertook a hydrological assessment of the proposed additional water in the system. These results were presented to DWA. DWA requires the Reserve Determination to make a final decision regarding the acceptability of the additional discharge. Other consultants undertook a study on determining the reserve. The DWA awaits that report before a decision could be made.
DS	Pointed out that the flow issue was one of the major concerns of the residents and that they must be informed about the decision. He noted that the reserve determination would not be done by DWA. The reserve determination has not been finalised by DWA at present. The latest report is an additional 3 months is required.		Noted.
AM	It was important to understand the risks of the extra water in the Blesbokspruit before moving forward with the process. Remarked that one would not want ERWAT to spend millions / go forward with something that would end up in flooding of houses.		Noted.
CM	Asked whether a study on the Blesbokspruit was done as Ekurhuleni had to understand the receiving area to decide on mitigating measures.	JT	The impacts on the river system have been assessed within the EIA Report within the ecology report and the hydrology report. Numerous other studies had also been undertaken in the area to determine the impact on the system as a result of various other

QUESTION		RESPONSE	
			projects. These included an assessment of the condition of the wetland.
MdF	<p>Asked whether DWA was invited to the meetings?</p> <p>One must close the circle – the specialists knew the situation and types of questions asked by residents.</p>	MO	Indicated that DWA was invited to the meetings.
DS	<p>Remarked that it was important to point out the impacts of the no-go option to the residents as people might not understand this option, when having to decide between no-go and additional flow.</p>		Noted.
MdF	<p>Observed that it was important to simplify explanations and to really address the key issues. What guarantees could be given that it is not going to be over-capacitated once it is built? One would get a better buy-in from the residents when the fully understand and have their minds put at rest about the issue.</p>		Noted.
DS	<p>Warned the meeting that unhappy residents would quickly run to the media, one would not like to have ERWAT being discussed unfavourably on one of the TV shows. It is better to address the key issues upfront.</p>		Noted.
MdF	<p>Asked what DWA or GDARD said about the issue of extra water flow management. The issues as to how to move water through the system quicker need to be discussed. ERWAT could initiate a study to look at the flow in the system and the management thereof as a possible means of mitigating the impacts of the additional flow.</p>		Noted.
DS	<p>Pointed out that the problem areas included the Grootvlei bridge and Ermelo Road. Spoornet bridge downstream is</p>		Noted.

QUESTION		RESPONSE	
	also of big concern. Suggested that the study on the flow in the river undertaken by Irene Lea of Grootvlei be used as a basis to identify areas to implement flood control measures downstream of the works. This would mitigate the additional flows.		
FV	Said that the current situation (occasional flooding) had to be addressed.		Noted.
MdF	When would construction work begin?	RB JT	Construction could only commence once an environmental authorisation has been received. Projected construction time is 28 months. Once the final EIA Report is submitted, GDARD have 105 days to make a decision. DWA have 60 days to comment on the proposed project. No feedback has been received as yet.
AM	Suggested that Sibusiso (082 491 5439) of DWA be contacted to get his comments.	JT	Thanked AM for the contact information.
MdF	Requested that the draft minutes from the previous meeting as well as this meeting be sent to them for approval before finalisation.	MO	Agreed that it would be done.

6. WAY FORWARD

Ms Oosthuizen suggested that the idea to address the members of the Blesbokspruit Forum during the next meeting on the 5th May 2011 should be discussed with ERWAT for a decision. It might be in their favour to use such an opportunity to reach the Forum members. Alternatively it could be arranged for the later meeting in August 2011.

7. CLOSURE

Ms Oosthuizen thanked the attendants for their time and input and closed the meeting at 12:30.

8. ATTENDANCE REGISTER

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER FOR THE
BLESBOKSPRUIT FORUM MEETING WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2011 at 11:30**

Name	Company	Telephone no.	Fax no.	E-Mail
Annamarie Maurizi	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	T :011 999 8736 C : 082 453 2945	086 210 8033	annamarie.maurizi@ekurhuleni.gov.za
Dave Smith	Sappi Paper and Paper Packaging	T: 011 360 0406 C: 082 788 8922	086 683 3663	Dave.Smith2@sappi.com
Ryan Botha	S S I	T: 011 798 6224	011 798 6012	ryanb@ssi.co.za
Cecelia Matjitji	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	T: 011 999 3316		Cecelia.matjitji@ekurhuleni.gov.za
Freddie Viljoen	Citizen	C: 082 800 6657		Freddie.viljoen@telkomsa.net
Marc de Fontaine	Rand Water	T: 011 682 0264	011 682 0733	marcdef@randwater.co.za
Sonia Mothodini	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	T: 011 999 3395		Sonia.mothodini@ekurhuleni.gov.za
Alicia Govender	Savannah Environmental	T: 011 234 6621	086 684 0547	Alicia@savannahsa.com
Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental	T: 011 234 6621	086 684 0547	joanne@savannahsa.com

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (EIA):
PROPOSED UPGRADING OF THE EXISTING WELGEDACHT WATER CARE WORKS TO
FACILITATE A CAPACITY EXTENSION OF UP TO 100 ML/DAY
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2011
DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH SPRINGS NORTH, GEDULD EXTENSION
18:30**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Ms Marita Oosthuizen of MasterQ Research opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present, after which the attendants introduced themselves. An apology was received ~~by~~ from Annemarie Maurizio.

2. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Ms Oosthuizen briefly outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was to provide stakeholders with background information on the proposed project, as well as feedback on the findings of the various specialist studies that were conducted to date (during the scoping phase). An ~~opportunity~~opportunity for I&APs to seek clarity on the proposed project and findings of the EIA and to record comments raised to inform the finalisation of the EIA.

3. BACKGROUND TO ERWAT AND THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Ms Alicia Govender of Savannah Environmental presented the background to the proposed project as well as the key findings of the specialist studies that were conducted during the Scoping Phase of the EIA process.

The existing Welgedacht Water Care Works (WCW) that is owned and operated by the East Rand Water Care Company (ERWAT) was commissioned in 2003 with a design capacity of 35 MI/d. At present this WCW is receiving in the region of 68 MI/d and is experiencing severe pressure as a result of the increasing wastewater volumes to the plant. To ensure that the plant is able to adequately treat wastewater and maintain the quality of effluent, ERWAT proposes the expansion of the Welgedacht WCW by a capacity extension of up to 100 MI/d over the next 30 years. The first upgrade will extend the plant's capacity by 50 MI/d, which is urgently required. The second phase entails the addition of another 50MI/d extension. The total capacity will be 135 MI/d. The extension will take place within the

existing plants' footprint, to the southwest and adjacent to the current WCW. The second phase would be implemented ~~by~~ⁱⁿ 2021.

Ms Govender presented the meeting with photos of the current infrastructure at the WCW. She also presented a locality map indicating the location of the current WCW in relation to the surrounding area, as well as an aerial photograph outlining the proposed location of the ~~proposed extensions, which would include screw pumps to receive the raw wastewater, an emergency storage dam, inlet works with mechanical screens, and Vortex degritters.~~

In addition to the expansion infrastructure as outlined above, a number of options were investigated from a technical and economic perspective. Only one technically, feasible alternative exists:

- Discharge into the Blesbokspruit, as ~~was~~^{is} currently the case.

4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF THE DRAFT EIA

A number of issues had been identified and described during the scoping phase, which included potential impacts on ecology, air quality, visual, noise, heritage, and the social environment, as follows:

- ⤴ **Ecology:** the significance without mitigation is high to medium and the significance with mitigation is medium to low;
- ⤴ **Visual:** the significance without mitigation is moderate to high and the significance with mitigation is low to moderate;
- ⤴ **Noise:** the significance without mitigation is low and the significance with mitigation is also low;
- ⤴ **Air quality:** the significance without mitigation is medium to low and the significance with mitigation is low;
- ⤴ **Social:** the significance without mitigation is high to medium and the significance with mitigation is low, and
- ⤴ **Heritage:** there is no impact on this area.

In essence, the expected impacts as a result of the proposed project ~~was~~^{were} regarded to be positive. The reason was the necessity of the project as well as the fact that negative bio-physical impacts could be mitigated. The social impact would also be positive. It was also mentioned that the **no-go** option would be detrimental to the environment as non-implementation would cause effluent discharge to be of a substandard quality. Impacts include:

- ⤴ Severe pollution of the Blesbokspruit;
- ⤴ Downstream water users who extract water, and
- ⤴ Health and well-being of people in close proximity of the WCW.

The conclusion of the draft EIA showed that no environmental fatal flaws were identified and that negative impacts can be ~~minimised~~minimized by implementation of the mitigation measures proposed in the EMP (Environmental Management Plan). DWA effluent standards for the catchment can be met with the implementation of the proposed extensions to the Welgedacht WCW. ~~However, t~~The no-go alternative is not preferred from an environmental perspective as there would be higher consequences compared to implementation.

Ms Govender pointed out that at this stage there were no impacts of high significance. The project should be authorised by GDARD (Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) provided that the recommended mitigation is implemented. Implementation of EMP would achieve appropriate environmental management standards and that relevant permits must be obtained by ERWAT, i.e. Water Use License. She added that unnecessary disturbance to habitats should be strictly controlled during construction and ~~by~~ maintaining communication and consultation with the community representatives would be imperative.

5. DISCUSSION

Ms Carina Burger commented that the EIA report was very well done and provided in-depth information. She went on to ask whether physical sampling was done for the Air Quality Impact Assessment? **Ms Jo-Anne Thomas** answered by saying that the ~~EIA~~ Air Quality report was based on modelling ~~using~~ the situation at the existing water care works and details of what is expected to be the case with the expansion.

6. WAY FORWARD

Ms Govender indicated to the meeting that the Draft EIA was out for public review until ~~13~~¹⁴ April 2011. A submission of the Final EIA report would be sent to the ~~DEA~~ GDARD and would await authorisation.

7. CLOSURE

Ms Oosthuizen thanked the attendants for their time and input and closed the meeting at 18:45.

8. ATTENDANCE REGISTER

PROPOSED UPGRADING OF THE EXISTING WELGEDACHT WATER CARE WORKS TO FACILITATE A CAPACITY EXTENSION OF UP TO 100 ML/DAY

ISSUES REGISTER – UPDATED MAY 2011

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
1. What is the capacity of the works and the possibility of overflow?	Michael Hood Grootvaly Blesbokspruit Conservation Trust	BID reply form, received 26 January 2009	The existing Welgedacht Water Care Works has a design capacity of 35 ml/d. At present this WCW is receiving in the region of 59 ml/d.
2. What is the pollution in the Blesbokspruit?	Michael Hood Grootvaly Blesbokspruit Conservation Trust	BID reply form, received 26 January 2009	The state of pollution of the spruit cannot be commented on as a number of industrial entities discharge into the Blesbokspruit. These organisations and/or DWA should be contacted directly for more information on their effluent qualities. The sewage received via the sewer lines feeding the Welgedacht WCW is screened, degrittied, desludged and both biologically and chemically treated to a designated standard before being discharge into the spruit.
3. How is water quality controlled?	Michael Hood Grootvaly Blesbokspruit Conservation Trust	BID reply form, received 26 January 2009	Effluent samples are continuously collected and tested in accordance with DWA guidelines.
4. The proposed expansion must be in line with the requirements of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998). More	Ndivho Mphuma DWAAF	BID reply form, received 23 January 2009	The license application, the EIA process as well as the Preliminary design report are all geared

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
comments will be made when the EIA report becomes available.			towards ensuring that the project adheres to all requirements of the Act.
5. Impala Platinum is close to the Welgedacht water care works. Personal interest in the water care works as they have been in the news all over the country. They impact on the environment and it is pleasing to see that it will be expanded to handle more sewerage.	Carina Burger Impala Platinum: Environmental Officer	BID reply form, received 20 January 2009	The primary purpose of the extension is to ensure that all wastewater received is adequately treated before being released back into the environment and to allow for future development in the area.
6. Will Impala Platinum be affected by the expansion at the WCW?	Carina Burger Impala Platinum: Environmental Officer	BID reply form, received 20 January 2009	All construction activities will be undertaken on ERWAT property adjacent to the existing Welgedacht WCW module 1. Impala Platinum will therefore not be affected by the proposed expansion.
7. Would we be able to tap into the infrastructure and discard of our grey water and dirty water from Welgedacht AH?	Melissa Weber Landowner	BID reply form, received 29 January 2009	The Welgedacht WCW receives and treats all sewerage transferred through the municipal sewer lines. Arrangements with the municipality to tie into their infrastructure should therefore have to be arranged should additional or new waste discharge requirements be necessary to the Welgedacht WCW.
8. It is unclear where the proposed development is supposed to take place.	David Rossouw Landowner	BID reply form, received 4 February	An aerial photograph that indicates the proposed expansion at the

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
We previously complained about bad odours at the WCW and flies as a result of the WCW. The problem was then resolved.		2009	WCW has been sent to Mr Rossouw via e-mail on 1 April 2009.
9. According to the Ekurhuleni Environmental Management Framework, the site proposed for the development has low to medium sensitivity due to ecological and hydrological constraints occurring on site.	Mr M Sithole Executive Director: Environmental Development	Official comment from the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality on the DSR, received 25 March 2009	Comment noted.
10. According to the Ekurhuleni Draft Biodiversity Open Space Strategy (EBOSS) of 2009, the site proposed for the development does not fall in any of the nodes as proposed in the EBOSS.	Mr M Sithole Executive Director: Environmental Development	Official comment from the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality on the DSR, received 25 March 2009	Comment noted.
11. A geotechnical report must be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report in areas identified as dolomitic according to the Ekurhuleni EMF.	Mr M Sithole Executive Director: Environmental Development	Official comment from the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality on the DSR, received 25 March 2009	A geotechnical survey of the proposed site has been conducted (Refer to Appendix M).
12. Pamodzi Gold was undergoing a process of dewatering their Modderfontein East gold mining operation and as such the EIA should consider the potential impact of the increased effluent on this dewatering process.	Mr Sibusiso Sidu Environmental Officer: Pamodzi Gold	Comment made at public meeting held on 31 March 2009.	Comment noted.
13. Relevant catchment forum members have to be consulted. The stakeholder	Mr Kimbton Chiota Pamodzi Gold	Comment made at the public meeting held on	Comment noted. A follow up e-mail has been sent to Mr Chiota to

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
indicated that he would forward a list of relevant members for inclusion on the project database.		31 March 2009.	enquire about the relevant catchment forum members.
14. In terms of the effluent discharge options, Pamodzi Gold would favour the option where effluent is sold to other users within the catchment as this would not increase the volume of effluent discharged into the Blesbokspruit and therefore would have the least significant impact on the dewatering process at the Modderfontein East mine.	Mr Sibusiso Sidu Environmental Officer: Pamodzi Gold	Comment made at the public meeting held on 31 March 2009.	Comment noted. The option pertaining to the potential to treat the wastewater effluent to a potable standard was assessed in an alternative discharge desktop study (Refer to Appendix N). The water treated to potable standards would have a resale value. It was concluded that the costs associated with this treatment would be prohibitive to the project. The issue of whether untreated water would be accepted is an option that still needs to be investigated. Until Gauteng's water supply is stressed to a point where there is no other option, it will be difficult to gain public support for this proposal.
15. Pamodzi Gold is currently in the process of dewatering Grootvlei 3 Shaft with a current discharge of up to 85 MI/day, which they intend to gradually decrease to 75 MI/day and then to 55 MI/day.	Mr Kimbton Chiota Environmental manager for Pamodzi Gold's East Rand operations	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009	Comment noted. This would be advantageous for the Blesbokspruit system.
16. Due to the high cost of maintenance, Pamodzi Gold was subsidised by	Mr Kimbton Chiota Environmental manager	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting	Comment noted.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
<p>Government at R1 million per month to dewater 3 Shaft, even though the cost was as high as R5 million per month. They intended to apply for an increased subsidy of up to R2.5 million per month. Their motivation for the increased subsidy was to ensure the safety of workers during the dewatering process.</p>	<p>for Pamodzi Gold's East Rand operations</p>	<p>with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009</p>	
<p>17. Active shafts should not be flooded, 3 Shaft was only a dewatering shaft. Studies have been carried out that indicated that if the water levels were to rise, it could affect the dolomite aquifer. In addition, the dewatering process also posed benefits to neighbouring mining operations even though Pamodzi was the only mining operation that actively dewatered in the East Rand. They were therefore applying pressure via the Government on neighbouring operations to also dewater.</p>	<p>Mr Kimbton Chiota Environmental manager for Pamodzi Gold's East Rand operations</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>18. Pamodzi Gold had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Western Utilities Corporation (WUC) for the handling of discharged water. Approximately 23% of the treated water was directed back to the plant and 4 Shaft for re-use. The remaining balance</p>	<p>Mr Kimbton Chiota Environmental manager for Pamodzi Gold's East Rand operations</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
<p>of treated water was discharged into the Blesbokspruit. Sludge was stored at the WUC facility. WUC extracted water from the Blesbokspruit and treated the water up to potable water standard. With the expansion of the Welgedacht WCW up to a capacity of 100 MI/day, it was not clear what the implications would be on the dewatering operations at 3 Shaft. If more water found its way into 3 Shaft, it would mean that more water had to be pumped out, therefore increased time and cost to pump and treat water.</p>			
<p>19. Pamodzi found high conductivity of effluent as well as water with a high sodium content and wanted to know where the water was coming from. Another objective of the study was to demonstrate the potential impacts that could be expected from an increased volume of discharge. He indicated that they could make the study available.</p>	<p>Mr Kimpton Chiota Environmental manager for Pamodzi Gold's East Rand operations</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009</p>	<p>Comment noted. No study was received to be assessed with the EIA phase.</p>
<p>20. A specific study was done that looked at ingress points and how the basin reacted. It made no sense to pump water to surface at major costs. A pipeline from Welgedacht WCW to 3 Shaft made more sense. WUC had to</p>	<p>Jaco Schoeman (JS) - Western Utilities Corporation</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
<p>look at the quality of water produced, they might need to blend the water and then re-sell it for industrial purposes. WUC was prepared to assist both ERWAT and Pamodzi Gold and other industries in the area to investigate ways in which discharge water could be utilised. It would be a lengthy exercise, but had to consider the impact on the basin. WUC infrastructure was designed for a maximum capacity of 100 MI/day, currently operating at an average of 82 MI/day. If there were additional 18 MI/day ingress, it would mean that the WUC infrastructure would have to run at peak capacity the whole time, which was not desirable. It was therefore important to consider the points where water entered the system and what the water could be used for.</p>			
<p>21. Was the WCW designed to meet minimum quality standards?</p>	<p>Jaco Schoeman (JS) - Western Utilities Corporation</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009</p>	<p>The WCW is designed to meet the quality standards set forth by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). However, the final quality standards for the proposed expansion have not yet been confirmed. The quality of the discharge could be improved with</p>

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
			chlorination, but chlorinated water should not be discharged into the Blesbokspruit.
22. It was important that the stakeholders (ERWAT, SSI, Pamodzi Gold, and WUC) aligned their thinking, e.g. a pipeline with disinfectant in the pipeline, which would improve the quality of discharge into the Blesbokspruit. Another option was to provide a blend of industrial water to the local industries.	Jaco Schoeman (JS) - Western Utilities Corporation	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009	These options would also satisfy DWA, as there would be no discharge into the environment. These options have been investigated from a technical and economic perspective but were found to be prohibitively expensive (refer to Appendix N).
23. If WUC were going to take more water from ERWAT, how would that affect the mine?	Mr Kimbton Chiota Environmental manager for Pamodzi Gold's East Rand operations	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009	WUC's first commitment was to the mine, i.e. to find a sustainable solution for acid mine drainage. WUC wanted to be part of solutions, but had to understand how all the initiatives fit together. If the mine closed down, someone had to be prepared to take over the water, otherwise there would be a serious problem with the drainage of acid mine water.
24. A report will be released around 27 August 2009 that considered the entire impact of effluent on the Vaal barrage, that indicated that approximately 25% of pollution was directly related to discharge from this basin.	Jaco Schoeman (JS) - Western Utilities Corporation	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009	Comment Noted. The EIA team did not receive a copy of this report.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
25. What is the timeline for the ERWAT project?	Mr Kimbton Chiota Environmental manager for Pamodzi Gold's East Rand operations	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009	It is quite urgent, as the WCW was already operating beyond capacity. Construction of the proposed project should take about 1 year once all required authorisations have been obtained.
26. Was an EIA completed for the ERWAT project?	Jaco Schoeman (JS) - Western Utilities Corporation	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009	The scoping phase was completed and the study is currently in the detailed EIA phase.
27. Would conjunctive use affect WUC's plant or EIA?	Francis Gibbons - SSI	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Mining Industry on 13 August 2009	No, WUC has catered for 65 MI/day, although an increase has not been allowed for.
28. Requested clarification regarding the aim of phase 1, was it to take the capacity up to 50MI/d or extend it by 50MI/d?	Attendant	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	The aim was to extend the capacity by 50MI/d so the end result would be 85MI/d for phase one and the total capacity after the upgrade is completed would be 135MI/d.
29. What is the impact of sludge on the Blesbokspruit?	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	No sludge is discharged into the Blesbokspruit.
30. When will the upgrade be completed?	Mr Thya Pather DWA: Solid Waste Specialist	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September	The aim was to have phase one of the expansion completed by mid- 2014.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
31. There was an existing shortfall of 25Ml/d and after such a long period to completion of phase 1, the shortfall would be even greater.	Mr Marc de Fontaine Rand Water	2010 Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Calculations were done to address this situation so that it should not be the case. The works currently manage the situation by keeping some waste in dams to be processed later during off-peak times.
32. What did 'manage' mean in this situation?	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	The process design allowed the works to be compliant with standards supplied by DWA.
33. None of the works were '100% compliant'; Toxicological assessments had to be conducted. International research regarding the chemicals used in similar works indicated that there were still toxic content when discharged – this was never measured and accounted for, e.g. pharmaceutical & personal care products (P&PC). He reminded the meeting of the Rietvlei dam situation and continued that water use licences fail to manage these types of impacts. The Constitution states that citizens have the right to clean water and successful management thereof is	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Department of Water Affairs (DWA) set standards to be complied with and this process under discussion was designed to handle the standards.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
essential.			
34. DWA did not have the expertise to handle that kind of 'stuff'. The sludge normally landed up with farmers and through agricultural activities eventually land on our plates – this was an ever escalating issue.	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	The EIA would focus on the water quality and Mr. Chris Herold would focus on the toxicity issues.
35. Enquired about the availability of the scoping report.	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	It was available on the Savannah website (www.savannah.co.za) and it was also at libraries. The scoping report was completed and submitted in March 2009 and discussed at a previous meeting, the long time lapse in-between was caused by the need to clarify water quality issues.
36. Where would the discharge point be? The Crocodile and Olifants Rivers had the same issues and the same situation would arise should they be affected.	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	The discharge point would be at a point at the Blesbokspruit, as is currently the case.
37. Who would the users be if the discharge were to be sold?	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	According to the Welgedacht WCW Alternative Discharge desktop study (Refer to Appendix N) resale of the discharge would not be a feasible option. If the effluent was to be treated to a potable level, then the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
			Municipality or Rand Water would be options for resale.
38. Why did ERWAT not consider upgrading to the full 100MI/d up front? We tend to play catch-up instead of addressing the issue to be ahead of the curve.	Mr Marc de Fontaine Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Alternatives were considered and this was seen as the best option.
39. An attendant remarked on the questions regarding the reuse of the water and pointed out that the Blesbokspruit, together with the Grootvlei mine, had a history of flooding properties. He warned that the communication directed to the public should be carefully worded. He indicated that the management of the water cycle is bigger than what Welgedacht proposes. It has to consider issues like how to address all issues at Blesbokspruit. In the communication to the public it should explain the six options fully and honestly indicate how the developer/department(s) propose the address the existing issues.		Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Comment noted.
40. The reuse of the water should aim to be fully self-sustainable by utilising the bio-gas. The stealing of electrical cables became far too common and seemed like a lame excuse. Other communities	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Comment noted.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
were self-sufficient and one should aim for that.			
41. Some processes were too expensive to finance, take the quality of effluent for instance – management of e-coli levels is tricky and at present bacteria do get released. Should the upgrade take effect, even more e-coli would be released.	Mr Thya Pather DWA: Solid Waste Specialist	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Comment noted.
42. Financial constraints did not serve as an excuse. DWA had a mandate to treat the water and should therefore take samples as indicated and not cut back on it. The Constitution state that we are entitled to clean water and one should look at different alternatives to stop the spreading of bacteria and do not have a huge impact on the quality of the water.	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Alternatives were considered and that studies were undertaken but that formal results were not available at present.
43. An attendee remarked that this was a crucial project and expressed the need to stay informed regarding the hydrological surveys, etc. He stated that he sensed a lack of confidence in the process.		Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Due diligence was done and that they were contracted by DWA since 2008. After the hydrological report was available, there is every reason to believe that the Department would decide on the discharge issue. The decision was also needed for the EIA. Refer to Appendix L for Hydrological study.
44. The environmental practitioner should	Dr Pieter van Eeden	Comment made at the	Noted. The current EIA process is

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
conduct an unbiased study and not a client-directed study.	Ecomonitor	Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	being undertaken by Savannah Environmental as an independent EIA practitioner. Independent specialists have been contracted to assess the potential impacts on the environment.
45. Clear answers are needed regarding the discharge before we can comment on this. Did not believe that stakeholders could influence the decisions on the discharge issue. Requested an indication from the consultants whether export or release into the catchment had already been considered.	Mr Marc de Fontaine Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Various discharge options were considered from a technical and economic perspective (refer to Appendix N). Only the option of discharging to the Blesbokspruit at the current discharge point was determined to be a feasible alternative. The EIA therefore only considered this option.
46. The discharge issue is critical and there are time constraints. What is the size of the scope that they were looking at for the discharge into the Blesbokspruit/Vaal Barrage.	Mr Marc de Fontaine Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Various discharge options were considered from a technical and economic perspective (refer to Appendix N).
47. Did this study look into the effect of another 100MI/d discharge? They were busy registering the wetland and pointed out that the discharge would impact greatly on the wetland and its registration with RAMSAR.	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	The full 100MI/d has been considered within this assessment. Impacts on hydrology and ecology have been assessed.
48. ERWAT should know what the process would be like if they are ready to go out	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting	ERWAT is aware that the conditions of the contract may change as a

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
on tender.		with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	result of the conditions of the authorisation (once issued). This would be included in the tender documents.
49. Voiced his concern about the apparent lack of 'unbiasedness' of the practitioners working on this project. He pointed out that South Africa is flawed due to situations like this where practitioners presume the outcome of a process before it has run its course.	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Comment noted. The current EIA process is being undertaken by Savannah Environmental as an independent EIA practitioner. Independent specialists have been contracted to assess the potential impacts on the environment.
50. Smaller sewer processing works have been adopted worldwide. Have such alternatives been considered? Developers should build their own small waste water treatment division and should take responsibility; this would spread the sewers around over the area. DWA's capacity to monitor the situation was questionable and this process should be managed well. Stakeholders had to speak up to get mediated answers.	Dr Pieter van Eeden Ecomonitor	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Such alternatives are not considered feasible at this stage due to manpower constraints in terms of operation, maintenance and monitoring of such systems.
51. An attendant asked whether the facility would accommodate the peak line to facility efficiently.		Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	The outfall sewers were adequate to manage the growth in the area.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
52. Reuse was determined by industries that signed contracts to that effect. Should the reuse component be agreed upon in this project it would be out of line. One should draw a line as to what the works would do and be liable for.	Mr Marc de Fontaine Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	Noted.
53. What is the water of the Blesbokspruit used for?	Ms Marita Oosthuizen MasterQ Research	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 15 September 2010	1) informal water users; (2) water was used for recreational purposes e.g. fishing; (3) direct use (potable water for informal settlements); (4) farming, e.g. livestock watering; (5) ecology; (6) industrial use. Pointed out that the water eventually ends up in Oranjemund and people downstream use the water for various uses – from Parys onward people became dependant on the water quality by previous users.
54. As there is apparently no evidence of any significance archaeological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit has not objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts,	Ms Maphata Ramphela, SAHRA	Comment made via letter, dated 31 March 2011.	Noted.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
<p>palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA or an archaeologist must be alerted immediately.</p>			
<p>55. Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, the developer must ensure that a professional Palaeontological Desk Top study is undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources. If this is deemed unnecessary, a letter of recommendation for exemption from a professional Palaeontologist is needed. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.</p>	<p>Ms Maphata Ramphele, SAHRA</p>	<p>Comment made via letter, dated 31 March 2011.</p>	<p>The bedrock in the study area which is mainly made up of dolomite is approximately 10 meters deep. The deepest point of excavation proposed for the extension of the Welgedacht Water Care Works is 6 meters. Bedrock is therefore not expected to be impacted on for this project, and Palaeontological studies have therefore been excluded from the scope of work for this EIA.</p>
<p>56. Expressed concern about the site specific impacts, especially the effects of the discharge on the water system downstream of the discharge point, as well as the impacts on the Ramsar site in terms of water volumes. He asked</p>	<p>Dave Smith, SAPPI</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011</p>	<p>The impacts on the river system had been assessed within the EIA Report, the ecology report and the hydrology report.</p>

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
how it would be managed.			
57. Why did DWA agree with the option of the current discharge point?	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	There had been no firm ruling as yet from DWA. All options were presented to DWA for their consideration. From an economic and technical perspective, only one option (i.e. the current discharge point) was considered feasible). The decision from DWA was still awaited.
58. Remarked that DWA previously indicated that they would give an idea to the stakeholders about what would be decided, but no feedback was received. The Forum members were not given a significant explanation and it was not good enough to state that the document was available – the findings must be explained in laymen’s terms. One must get to the basics with the Forum so that everybody understands what was to be expected in terms of additional volumes within the system. It seemed that only a selected few were involved and one got the feeling that the Stakeholders were not truly valued. <i>The next meeting of the Blesbokspruit Forum is on 5th May 2011; he urged the presenters to get permission</i>	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Marita Oosthuizen, from MasterQ Research explained that there was a public meeting held on 31 st March 2011. Although about 62 people were invited, only those present turned up for the meeting.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
<p><i>to explain the proposed development to the members during that meeting. He indicated that if a presentation could not be given at this meeting, one should be given at the next meeting to be held in August. He stated that this should however not hold up the EIA process. The <u>Chairperson</u> is Ephraim Matseba of DWA, cell 082 809 5727. DWA was involved since the beginning.</i></p>			
<p>59. Had the conservation Department been contacted regarding the Ramsar site?</p>	<p>Dave Smith, SAPPI</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011</p>	<p>Confirmed that they were invited to comment on this process through GDARD.</p>
<p>60. Had reuse of the wastewater been considered? Who would be the users of the discharge?</p>	<p>Freddie Viljoen, Interested and Affected Party</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011</p>	<p>Discussions were underway with various parties who had expressed interest in this regard.</p>
<p>61. What was planned for the management of the sludge?</p>	<p>Annemarie Maurizi, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality</p>	<p>Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011</p>	<p>Sludge from the plant was currently irrigated. It was proposed to install digesters as part of the plant expansion. The operating shifts of the current sludge dewatering plant would be increased to handle the additional sludge loads. It was proposed that sludge from the expansion would be fed through the</p>

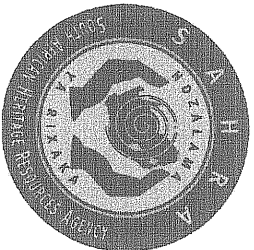
COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
			digesters, dewatered and then dried in the sludge drying beds. Various options of handling this sludge were still being considered.
62. Would the current sludge management be able to handle all the sludge – current and new?	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	The expanded works would be designed to cope with the full capacity of the plant, i.e. a total of 85 MI/d following completion of phase 1 and a total of 135 MI/d following the completion of phase 2.
63. It was important to make it clear that the intention was not to bring in an additional 50MI/d, but that the works was proposed to be expanded to accommodate current inflows (in the short term) and planned expansions in the catchment (in the long term). The expansion will improve the situation from a treatment perspective.	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.
64. Was the expansion only looking at accommodating 68 MI/d and not looking at moving water from other works?	Annemarie Maurizi, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	There is nothing in the Master Plan regarding diversion of flow from other works. The proposed expansion was required to deal with what was happening in the catchment and cater for increased flows in the future.
65. What was the resultant percentage	Dave Smith,	Comment made at the	Chris Herold undertook a

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
increase in flow in the river with the additional 100MI/d.	SAPPI	Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	hydrological assessment of the proposed additional water in the system. These results were presented to DWA. DWA requires the Reserve Determination to make a final decision regarding the acceptability of the additional discharge. Other consultants undertook a study on determining the reserve. The DWA awaits that report before a decision could be made.
66. Pointed out that the flow issue was one of the major concerns of the residents and that they must be informed about the decision. He noted that the reserve determination would not be done by DWA. The reserve determination has not been finalised by DWA at present. The latest report is an additional 3 months is required.	Dave Smith, SAPPI	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.
67. It was important to understand the risks of the extra water in the Blesbokspruit before moving forward with the process. Remarked that one would not want ERWAT to spend millions / go forward with something that would end up in flooding of houses.	Annemarie Maurizi, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
68. Asked whether a study on the Blesbokspruit was done as Ekurhuleni had to understand the receiving area to decide on mitigating measures.	Cecelia Matjitji Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	The impacts on the river system have been assessed within the EIA Report within the ecology report and the hydrology report. Numerous other studies had also been undertaken in the area to determine the impact on the system as a result of various other projects. These included an assessment of the condition of the wetland.
69. Asked whether DWA was invited to the meetings? One must close the circle - the specialists knew the situation and types of questions asked by residents.	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Marita Oosthuizen, from MasterQ Research indicated that DWA was invited to the meetings.
70. Remarked that it was important to point out the impacts of the no-go option to the residents as people might not understand this option, when having to decide between no-go and additional flow.	Dave Smith, SAPPI	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.
71. Observed that it was important to simplify explanations and to really address the key issues. What guarantees could be given that it is not going to be over-capacitated once it is built? One would get a better buy-in	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
from the residents when the fully understand and have their minds put at rest about the issue.			
72. Warned the meeting that unhappy residents would quickly run to the media, one would not like to have ERWAT being discussed unfavourably on one of the TV shows. It is better to address the key issues upfront.	Dave Smith, SAPPI	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.
73. Asked what DWA or GDARD said about the issue of extra water flow management. The issues as to how to move water through the system quicker need to be discussed. ERWAT could initiate a study to look at the flow in the system and the management thereof as a possible means of mitigating the impacts of the additional flow.	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.
74. Pointed out that the problem areas included the Grootvlei bridge and Ermelo Road. Spornet bridge downstream is also of big concern. Suggested that the study on the flow in the river undertaken by Irene Lea of Grootvlei be used as a basis to identify areas to implement flood control measures downstream of the works. This would mitigate the additional flows.	Dave Smith, SAPPI	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
75. The current situation (occasional flooding) had to be addressed.	Freddie Viljoen Interested and Affected Party	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.
76. When would construction work begin?	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Construction could only commence once an environmental authorisation has been received. Projected construction time is 28 months. Once the final EIA Report is submitted, GDARD have 105 days to make a decision. DWA have 60 days to comment on the proposed project. No feedback has been received as yet.
77. Suggested that Sibusiso (082 491 5439) of DWA be contacted to get his comments.	Annemarie Maurizi Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	Noted.
78. Requested that the draft minutes from the previous meeting as well as this meeting be sent to them for approval before finalisation.	Marc de Fontaine, Rand Water	Comment made at the Focus Group Meeting with the Blesbokspruit Forum on 20 April 2011	The minutes of the meeting were sent to Mr Marc de Fontaine.



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REVIEW COMMENT ON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

BY ARCHAEOLOGY/ PALAEOLOGY UNIT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

FOR ATTENTION: PHRA: Gauteng

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:
SAHRA File No: 9/2/228/001
Date Received: 17 March 2011
Date of Comment: 31 March 2011
Sent to Peer Review:
Date to Peer Review:
SAHRA Contact Person: Mr Andrew Salomoni
DME Ref No:

South Africa has a unique and non-renewable archaeological and palaeontological heritage. Archaeological and palaeontological sites are protected in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) and may not be disturbed without a permit. Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) and Palaeontological Impact Assessments (PIAs) identify and assess the significance of the sites, assess the potential impact of developments upon such sites, and make recommendations concerning mitigation and management of these sites. On the basis of satisfactory specialist reports SAHRA or the relevant heritage resources agency can assess whether or not it has objection to a development and indicate the conditions upon which such development might proceed and assess whether or not to issue permission to destroy such sites.

AIAs and PIAs often form part of the heritage component of an Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental Management Plan. They may also form part of a Heritage Impact Assessment called for in terms of section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act No. 25, 1999. They may have other origins. In any event they should comply with basic minimum standards of reporting as indicated in SAHRA Regulations and Guidelines.

This form provides review comment from the Archaeologist of the relevant heritage resources authority for use by Heritage Managers, for example, when informing authorities that have applied to SAHRA for comment and for inclusion in documentation sent to environmental authorities. It may be used in conjunction with Form B, which provides relevant peer review comment.

- A. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY: **SAHRA GAUTENG**
- B. AUTHOR(S) OF REPORT: **Dr J. van Schalkwyk**
- C. ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT GROUP: **Heritage Consultant**
- D. CONTACT DETAILS: **62 Coetzee Avenue, Monument Park, 0181 Tel: 012 3477270, E-mail: jpschalkwyk@mweb.co.za**
- E. DATE OF REPORT: **February 2011**
- F. TITLE OF REPORT: **Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Expansion of the existing Welgedacht Water Care Works, Ekurhuleni Local Municipality, Gauteng Province**
- G. Please circle as relevant: Archaeological component of EIA / EMP / HIA / CMP Other (Specify)
- H. REPORT COMMISSIONED BY (CONSULTANT OR DEVELOPER): **Savannah Environmental, Ms A Govender**
- I. CONTACT DETAILS: **PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2151, Tel: 011 2346621, E-mail: alicia@savannahsa.com**
- J. COMMENTS:

Please see comments on next page

REVIEW COMMENT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

J van Schalkwyk
February 2011, Received 13 March 2011

Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Expansion of the existing Welgedacht Water Care Works, Ekurhuleni Local Municipality, Gauteng Province

The proposed development entails expanding of the Welgedacht Water Care Works, operated by the East Rand Water Care Company. The area earmarked for expansion is close to the town of Springs and is approximately 19ha in extent.

The assessment revealed no sites, features or objects of cultural significance.

As there is apparently no evidence of any significant archaeological material in this area, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological component of the heritage resources) on condition that, if any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA or an archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, the developer must ensure that a professional Palaeontological Desk Top study is undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources. If this is deemed unnecessary, a letter of recommendation for exemption from a professional Palaeontologist is needed. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.

Please note that decisions on Built Environment must be referred to the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (Ms Maphata Ramphela: Maphata.Ramphela@gauteng.gov.za).

SIGNATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGIST PROCESSING REPORT: 

EMAIL: *asalomon@sahra.org.za*

SIGNATURE OF SAHRA HEAD ARCHAEOLOGIST: 

EMAIL: *mndobo.chami@sahra.org.za*

NAME OF HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY: *SAHRA*

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMENT (ABOVE OR APPENDED) CONSTITUTES THE COMMENT OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND THAT ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES DESTRUCTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL SITE IS STILL SUBJECT TO A PERMIT/PERMISSION FOR DESTRUCTION OF SUCH SITE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPER BY THE RELEVANT HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL PERMIT COMMITTEE. THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE PHASE 2 OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL/PALAEONTOLOGICAL MITIGATION AS NECESSARY. THIS REPORT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY AS APPROVAL, IN PRINCIPLE, IN TERMS OF SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT. THE PROVINCIAL MANAGER OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY MUST ADVISE AS TO APPROVAL IN TERMS OF HERITAGE ISSUES ENCOMPASSED BY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION, SUCH AS ISSUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (STRUCTURES (E.G. FARM HOUSES), OVER 60 YEARS), INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OR OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AS THIS IS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST. PLEASE NOTE THAT SAHRA IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE I HERITAGE RESOURCES (AND EXPORT) AND THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRADE II AND GRADE III HERITAGE RESOURCES, EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS AN AGENCY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AUTHORITY.