

Appendix I7: Comments raised by GDARD upon review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's (EAPs) responses thereto

GDARD Comments		Responses					
<p>COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BAR: PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE WATER PIPELINE NETWORK IN CARLSWALD, JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY</p> <p>Regarding the above-mentioned draft Basic Assessment Report received on 13 March 2024, herewith receive the comments from the Department.</p>		The comments listed herein are acknowledged.					
<p>1. Description of the site/property/route and development</p> <p>The proposed development involves upgrading of the water pipeline network. This will entail installation of a new water pipeline within the municipality's road reserve with an approximate length of 5.1 kilometres from an existing water pipeline on Walton Road to the end of the route i.e outside the Blue Hills Country Estate entrance. The new pipeline will tie into an existing pipeline at the end of the route. The activity affects various properties along Blue Hills, Crowthorne and Kyalami Estate, Crowthorne A.H, Carlswald A.H as well as numerous farm portions of Witpoort.</p>		The project description is acknowledged.					
<p>2. Listed activities applied for:</p> <p>The following listed activities have been applied for-</p>		The listed activities are noted.					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity No and description</th> <th>Description of the development related to the listed activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>GNR 327: Listing Notice 1 of activity 19</p> <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.</p> </td> <td> <p>The upgrade of the pipeline will entail excavations and removal of soil from a wetland that will be more than 10 cubic metres.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>GNR 324: Listing Notice 3 of activity 14</p> <p>The development of— (i) dams or weirs where the dam or weir is expanded by 10 square metres or more; or (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such development occurs— (a within a watercourse in C, Gauteng Province iv Site identified as Critical Biodiversity</p> </td> <td> <p>The pipeline route will cross a wetland and the area is mapped as Ecological Support Area (ESA) in terms of the Gauteng Conservation Plan.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity No and description	Description of the development related to the listed activity	<p>GNR 327: Listing Notice 1 of activity 19</p> <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.</p>	<p>The upgrade of the pipeline will entail excavations and removal of soil from a wetland that will be more than 10 cubic metres.</p>	<p>GNR 324: Listing Notice 3 of activity 14</p> <p>The development of— (i) dams or weirs where the dam or weir is expanded by 10 square metres or more; or (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such development occurs— (a within a watercourse in C, Gauteng Province iv Site identified as Critical Biodiversity</p>	<p>The pipeline route will cross a wetland and the area is mapped as Ecological Support Area (ESA) in terms of the Gauteng Conservation Plan.</p>	
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<p>3. Description of the receiving environment</p> <p>The Departmental Conservation Plan Version 3.3 mapped the wetland parts of the proposed development site as an Ecological Support Area, Threatened Ecosystem (Endangered), a River Buffer and a Wetland. The report noted the presence of the <i>Hypoxis hemerocallidea</i> along some sections of Route Network 2 alignment which is classified as an Orange Listed Species. It is also proposed that the plant be rescued prior to the construction phase and either relocated to an adjacent area or stored at a suitable facility until the species can be replaced at the site once the construction phase is completed.</p>		Comment noted and included in the EMPr (Appendix H) of the Amended Draft Basic Assessment Report (ADBAR).
<p>4. Impacts Assessment, identification and mitigation</p> <p>There are three wetland crossing points that are associated with the various pipeline network routes. The mitigation measures are proposed for each identified environmental impacts and are outlined in the Section E of the DBAR. A Wetland Rehabilitation and Monitoring Plan must be developed for implementation after construction activities have been completed.</p>		<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Refer to the Wetland Rehabilitation and Monitoring Plan in Appendix G5 of the ADBAR.</p>
<p>5. Assessment of alternatives</p> <p>The Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) mentions that the specialist assessed three alternative routes namely Network 1, 2 and 3. Network 2 has been identified as the preferred route although a wetland unit will be impacted by it. It should be noted though that with simple mitigation measures, the impacts on the wetland can be mitigated to acceptable levels.</p>		Comments are noted and verified.

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<p>At road crossing, the method of construction will be pipe-jacking to avoid traffic disruptions and construction for the remainder of the route alignment will be open excavation/trenching method. The development will also avoid construction within private owned property.</p>	
<p>6. Locality map and layout plans or facility illustrations</p> <p>The site development plans for the proposed upgrade of the water pipeline are attached to the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR). A site layout plan overlain by composite sensitivity maps that meets the "GDARD minimum requirements" for Biodiversity Assessment must be attached to the FBAR. These composite sensitivity maps must also reflect the proper legends of all three Network.</p>	<p>Refer to Appendix A that provides the mapping and composite sensitivity mapping for the three Network Routes.</p>
<p>7. Public Participation Process</p> <p>The public participation should be in accordance with the minimum requirements of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014. Attention should be given to how concerns and issues raised are addressed. Any further comments and responses thereto, must be included on the FBAR, as well as incorporating them in the EMPr, where applicable. Legible site notices together with the newspaper adverts as well as proof of correspondence (site notice, newspaper advertisement, email, fax, delivery etc.) with stakeholders must be included in the Final BAR Report.</p>	<p>The Public Participation Process has been undertaken as per the NEMA EIA Regulations.</p> <p>Refer to the Comments and Responses Report for the comments and responses thereto throughout the Public Participation Process in Appendix E4.1 to E4.3.</p> <p>Refer to the proof of site notices placements, newspaper advertisement publications and proof of notifications in Appendix E1, E2 and E3.</p>
<p>8. Environmental Management Programme</p> <p>The EMPr provided on the report as Appendix H is noted and can be able to address all impacts associated with the development i.e wetland. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner must ensure that all significant impacts identified during the impact assessment as well as issues raised by Registered Interested and Affected Parties have been adequately addressed in the EMPr. The EMPr must comply with the content requirements as stipulated in Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014.</p> <p>If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please contact the official of the Department using any of the above indicated contact details.</p>	<p>The EMPs complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations and includes all the significant impacts identified during the impact assessment and issues raised by the I&APs.</p>