



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT

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Date:	March 2008	Pages:	07 including cover page
SUBJECT:	SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA APPROVED: PROPOSED 8.44KM ROAD (K220) CONSTRUCTION FROM K109 TO R21(ALBERTINA SISULU FREEWAY) WHITHIN KUNGWINI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY		

CC: Bokamoso Environmental Consultants

Attn: Lizelle Gregory

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Att: Mr. Francious van Rensburg
M & T Development (PTY) LTD
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Faerie Glen
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PER FACSIMILE

Dear Sir,

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE
PROPOSED 8,44KM ROAD (K220) CONSTRUCTION FROM K109 TO R21
(ALBERTINA SISULU FREEWAY) WITHIN KUNGWINI LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY AND EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**

The Scoping Report and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 01 February 2008 have been accepted by the Department. You may accordingly proceed with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in accordance with the tasks that are outlined in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment.

Notwithstanding the above, your attention is drawn to the following information requirements that must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report:

- a) Wetland assessment on along the 18.2Km route must be conducted following procedures outlined below:
- A delineation procedure must identify the outer edge of the temporary zone of the wetland, which marks the boundary between the wetland and adjacent terrestrial areas and is that part of the wetland that remains flooded or saturated close to the soil surface for only a few weeks in the year, but long enough to develop anaerobic conditions and determine the nature of the plants growing in the soil.
 - Locating the outer edge of the temporary zone must make use of four specific indicators including the terrain unit indicator, the soil form indicator, the soil wetness indicator and the vegetative indicator.
 - The wetland and a protective buffer zone, beginning from the outer edge of the wetland temporary zone, must be designated as sensitive in a sensitivity map. The edge of the wetland must be clearly demarcated in the field with poles, sticks, or any solid structure that will last for the duration of the development, colour-coded as follows:
 - **Red** – Indicating the edge of the wetlands, or parts thereof; and no vehicles or building materials are allowed in this zone) [These should be put along the entire length of the property/site).
 - **Orange**- Indicating the edge of the buffer zone (50m outside the urban edge).However, allowance must be made for sensitive species that require larger areas, e.g. Grass Owl, Giant Bullfrog, etc.
 - **Green** -Indicating where the first structures will be built (e.g. stands/plots, building, paving, wall fencing, etc.)
 - All wetland habit must be surveyed for the following mammal species: *Aonyx capensis*, *Atilax paludinus*, *Chrysospalax villosus*, *Dasymys incomtus*, *Lutra maculicollis*, *Otomys angoniensis* and *Otomys irroratus*. The applicant must obtain minimum requirements for mammal studies by e-mailing EIAADMIN@gauteng.gov.za or downloading the appropriate document from the www.gdace.gpg.gov.za website.
- b) A vegetation survey must be undertaken by a suitably qualified specialist taking into consideration the conditions not limited to the following
- Survey must take place during the summer season.
 - The location and extent of all plant communities on site must be mapped and their ecological sensitivities indicated. All good condition natural vegetation must be designated as ecologically sensitive.
 - A general Red Data plant survey must be undertaken. Lists of potential species can be obtained from Lorraine Mills (Lorraine.Mills@gauteng.gov.za).

- A plant species list must be provided for each plant community with medicinal and invasive/exotic species indicated.
 - The condition of any grassland on site must be assessed and the location and extent of primary grassland mapped. All primary grassland must be designated as ecologically sensitive.
 - Those plant species located by the specialist during surveys, the entire extent of the population must be accurately mapped out, augmenting with data already collected by the Directorate of Nature Conservation (please contact Michèle Pfab).
 - If the site is smaller than 12ha, then at least a 12ha area, centred on the proposed development site, must be assessed for the presence of primary grassland.
 - Results must be incorporated into a sensitivity map.
- c) Furnish the Department with the River Assessment Study which include the following:
- An ecological study, with specific emphasis on ecological processes and connectivity at the landscape level.
 - Assessment of the current ecological state of the river or stream, based on the River Health Programme biomonitoring protocol (FAII, SASS5, IHI and RVI) and classification.
 - Delineation of the 1:100 year and 1:50 year flood lines.
 - Delineation of the riparian zone according to “DWAF, 2003: A Practical Guideline Procedure for the Identification and Delineation of Wetlands and Riparian Zones”.
 - Delineation of a 100m buffer zone from the edge of the riparian zone for rivers/ streams outside the urban edge and a 32m buffer zone from the edge of the riparian zone for rivers/ streams within the urban edge.
 - Impact assessment of the proposed development on the hydrological regime and the change thereof, including the effect of that change on the downstream habitat and integrity of the system.
 - Flood lines, riparian zones and buffer zones must be designated as sensitive in a sensitivity map.
 - The edge of the watercourse must be clearly demarcated in the field with poles, sticks, or any solid structure that will last for the duration of the development, colour-coded as follows:
 - **RED** – Indicating the 1:100 and 1:50 year flood lines [These should be placed along the entire length of the property/ site],
 - **ORANGE** – Indicating the edge of the buffer zone (32m for areas within the urban edge and 100m outside the urban edge), and

- **GREEN** – Should indicate where the first structure(s) will be built (e.g. stands/plots, building, paving, 'wall fencing', etc.).

d) A Bird survey in terms of the procedure outlined below:

i. The report must include the following information:

- A map showing the location of the proposed development site and the area that was covered by the survey;
- The date and hours spent on the site as part of the methodology section of the report;
- An assessment of the availability of suitable bird habitat (breeding, foraging, roosting etc) on site and within a minimum of 500m of the site. A larger area may be appropriate for wide-ranging species and the specialist must use his/her discretion to determine this.
- A sensitivity map demarcating areas of suitable bird habitat (differentiating between breeding, foraging, roosting etc.) for each Red List species, together with appropriate buffers and corridors. All sensitive habitats (e.g. wetlands) must be clearly demarcated using appropriate techniques, even where the probability of Red List species utilising them is considered small.
- GPS coordinates [decimal degrees (WGS)] for all confirmed sightings of Red List species.
- The size and location of buffers must be motivated in terms of the latest research and publications. All references must be listed at the end of the report.
- Where mitigation measures are appropriate, these must be detailed together with the relevant problem statement.
- A comprehensive, site-specific ecological management plan for all proposed open spaces, buffers and corridors that are relevant to the species and/or habitats under investigation.

ii. Specialist assessments must encompass the site and all relevant adjacent properties (minimum of 500m radius). Where suitable foraging and roosting habitat occurs on site, the nearest suitable breeding habitat must be identified for those species that breed in Gauteng.

iii. Surveys for terrestrial birds must be conducted in summer, but only once the vegetation layer has recovered sufficiently from winter fires to allow for assessment of available habitat.

iv. Surveys for aquatic birds must be conducted in summer. For species associated with rivers, the assessment must coincide with average flow conditions (i.e. not dry and no in

flood) and preferably within the breeding season. For species associated with wetlands, the assessment must follow good summer rains (i.e. once standing water is present and vegetation has recovered sufficiently from winter fires to allow for the assessment of available habitat.

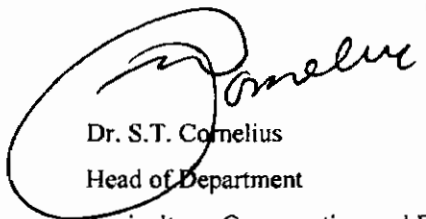
- e) The impact assessment process must consist of the following:
- A description of the methodology used to identify possible impacts.
 - A thorough process of identification of impacts.
 - A description of the criteria used to rate the impacts for significance.
 - An assessment of each impact according to nature, extent, duration, intensity and probability.
 - Rating of the impacts according to significance.
 - Interpretation of the results of the above.
 - Cumulative impacts of the proposed road construction project.
- f) A detailed Stormwater management plan must form part of the study, and it must consider the following:
- The containment of stormwater during the construction phase, a period when there is a potential to cause the most amount of damage to natural drainage systems.
 - The management of stormwater. It must be noted that no stormwater must be allowed to enter any of the natural drainage systems directly. This stormwater must be diverted through forms of stormwater retention facilities of containing and releasing flood water in a way that simulate natural flow into the natural drainage systems to assuage associated erosion and siltation problems that may arise.
- g) Service (water, electricity, sewerage, and storm water and traffic management) provision during construction phase must also be addressed.
- h) The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) complying with regulation 34 of Environmental Impact Regulations, 2006 must also be submitted with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- i) Comprehensive Public participation process must be conducted in terms of regulation 56 of Environmental Impact Regulations, 2006. Comments from South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) on historical sites where the proposed road is being proposed must be submitted as part of the EIAR.

- j) Also as part of public participation process, relevant affected parties must be identified and comment on the following:
- Crossing of railway line and road,
 - Crossing of servitudes,
 - High Power cables, and
 - Rand water pipeline
- k) Comments from Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) especially on the Impact of the proposed road construction activities on the river and riparian vegetation must be attached to the EIAR.
- l) Detailed Geo-technical report conducted by the qualified specialist must be forwarded to this Department as an EIAR attachment.

In addition, GDACE is of idea that impacts on agricultural potential areas of the proposed road should be determined and be submitted as part of the EIAR.

If you have any queries concerning this issue please feel free to contact the relevant official at the number given above.

Yours faithfully



Dr. S.T. Cornelius

Head of Department

Agriculture, Conservation and Environment

Date: 10/04/2008

CC: Bokamoso Environmental Consultants

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