

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION: PRE-APPLICATION MEETING MINUTES

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A DAM ON DARTFORD FARM, UNDERBERG, KWAZULU-NATAL

Attendees: Sarah Stalberg (SS) – Green Choice Consulting (Registered EAP)
Thobani Khathi (TK) – Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA)
Kevin Fraser (KF) - Applicant

Meeting Date & Time: 18 September 2024, 10h00

Venue: MS Teams

The aim of this meeting was to discuss the Environmental Authorisation process for the proposed development of a dam on Dartford Farm, located along the Coleford Road in the Underberg area of KwaZulu-Natal.

This document summarizes the discussions had in the meeting.

1. Welcome

SS welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and introduced each attendee with their respective roles and responsibilities for the application for Environmental Authorisation (EA).

2. Project Background & Proposed Activity

SS presented an overview of the farm's history and current operations, the proposed project location and the proposed project details. The presentation is summarized as follows.

- Dartford Farm was purchased in the late 1980s, with the proposed project property purchased in the late 1980s. The farm is involved in dairy farming and sells milk to Tip Top Milk and the Underberg Dairy.
- The farm contains 115 hectares (ha) of pasture (irrigated land) and 114 ha of maize crops (dryland).
- In order to grow his business, the Applicant proposes to develop a dam which will allow for the irrigation of an additional 101 ha of pasture, which will in turn allow the Applicant to double his dairy cow stock to produce more milk.
- The proposed dam will have a maximum storage capacity of 1 500 000m³ and will cover an area of approximately 37 ha.
- The dam will also supply the Applicant's neighbours with irrigation water.
- A Water Use Licence has already been obtained from the Department of Water & Sanitation.

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- The proposed project location is located on Portion 0 of Lot FP 179 No. 8581, and is situated along the P322 (Coleford Road) outside Underberg, KwaZulu-Natal. The property is zoned as "agricultural" and is located in the Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality in the Harry Gwala District.
- Following discussion with TK, the following listed activities were identified for the proposal:

Activity No.	Description	Applicability
GNR327 (LN1, 12)	The development of – (i) Dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; Where such development occurs – (c) If no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.	The proposed dam will be located within the Ekamanzi Stream i.e. an in-stream dam, and will comprise a total area of 37 hectares. Therefore, infrastructure such as the dam wall and pump house will be constructed within the watercourse.
GNR327 (LN 1, 19)	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, grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.	The proposed construction of the dam will require the removal of all land cover in the proposed area of inundation. Additionally, material will need to be deposited in the Ekamanzi Stream to construct the dam wall.
GNR325 (LN 2, 15)	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- (i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The entire area of inundation will be cleared of all land cover, including grassland and wetland vegetation. The maximum area of inundation (when the dam is at its fullest) will be approximately 37 hectares in extent.
GNR325, (LN 2, 16)	The development of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or when the high-water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more.	The highest part of the proposed dam wall will be 10.5m in height, and the high-water mark of the proposed dam will cover an area of 37 hectares.
GNR324 (LN 3, 14) Included following discussion with TK	The development of- (i) Dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more: Where such development occurs- (a) Within a watercourse d. KwaZulu-Natal x. Outside urban areas:	The Coleford Nature Reserve is located approximately 7 kilometres from the proposed dam. The proposed dam and associated infrastructure will cover an area of 37 hectares.

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Activity No.	Description	Applicability
	(aa) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any terrestrial protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve.	

- A full Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting process will be followed for the application for EA.
- The plan for public participation was discussed.
- The potential positive and negative impacts associated with the proposed development were identified – to be refined during the Environmental Impact Reporting phase. Of importance is permanent wetland loss, which was discussed as well as the plan for offset and rehabilitation.
- As a Water Use Licensing process has already been undertaken, multiple specialist studies have already been completed. For the purposes of the application for EA, the following specialist studies were proposed as per the DFFE Screening Report:
 - Heritage/Paleontological/Archaeological Study
 - Agricultural/Soil Study
 - Visual/Landscape Assessment
 - Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
 - Terrestrial & Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment (to include Plant & Animal Species Study).

3. General Discussion / Queries

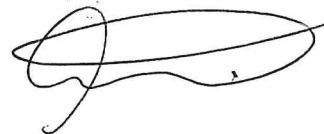
1. TK indicated that a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment will not be required for the application for EA process, however the EAP must include a section on Socio-Economic aspects in the report.
2. TK indicated that due to the fact that the Coleford Reserve is located in the proposed project area, listing notice 3 activities must be considered. SS has completed the review and included LN3(14) to the triggered listed activities applicable to the proposed project.
3. TK emphasized that Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife will be a key stakeholder for the application – agreed by all.
4. SF queried whether the Draft Scoping Report could be circulated to interested & affected parties and stakeholders for the 30-day review period prior to the submission of the application form. TK indicated that this may be done, however the 30-day review period would need to be repeated after submission of the application form.

With no other queries raised and attendees satisfied that all aspects of the proposed project had been discussed and clarified, the meeting was closed at 10h30.

Signed in agreement with minutes –



Scriber (S. Stalberg)
18/09/2024



Approved (Thobani Khathi - EDTEA)
18/09/2024