THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Department of Public Works proposes to construct a new sewer effluent treatment plant at Maphumulo, within a property described as Portion 2 of Amaphumulo Mission No. 8311 in the jurisdiction of the Maphumulo Local Municipality. The facility is intended to service the existing Government complex namely; Maphumulo Correctional Centre (Prison), SAPS and the Magistrate Courts.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document provides Interested and Affected Parties (I &AP’s) with basic information of the proposed treatment plant as well as information regarding the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken. It further indicates the important role of public participation during the assessment phase, as input from I&AP’s contributes to ensuring that all potential issues are considered within the study.

The Scoping Phase includes a preliminary assessment of the potential impacts. The identified environmental impacts are then investigated and assessed in detail during the environmental impact assessment phase. However, the Scoping Phase will still require public participation process, as well as recommendations on the undertakings for the Impact Assessment Phase.

THE APPLICANT

The Department of Public Works is the project proponent. Pravin Amar Development Planners (PADP) is appointed by NDPW to undertake the Scoping as well as the full EIA for the proposed sewerage treatment plant.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The EIA process must meet the obligatory requirements of the EIA regulations (2010) under the scope of the environmental framework legislation, the National Environmental Management Act (Act No.107 of 1998).

In terms of the National Environmental Management Waste Act No. 59 of 2008, published by Government Gazette No. 32189 dated 30 April 2009, the proposed development is listed under Schedule, Category B which reads as follows:

Treatment of waste

(5) “The treatment of hazardous waste using any form of treatment regardless of size or capacity of such a facility to treat such waste”.

(7)“The treatment of effluent, wastewater, or sewage with an annual throughput capacity of 15000 cubic meters or more”.

Construction of facilities and associated structures and infrastructure

(11) “The construction of facilities for activities listed in category B of this Schedule (Not in isolation to associated activity)”.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The project entails construction of the sewerage treatment plant to cater for the Maphumulo Correctional Centre (Prison), SAPS and the Magistrate Courts.

Approximately 3100m$^3$ per month of waste is expected to be treated. The sewage with the quantity of 65.0m$^3$/day with expansion to 98.9m$^3$/day from the SAPS, Correctional Services and Department of Justice sites will go through screening and grit removal. Thereafter sewage will go into an anaerobic reactor passing through a Bio Filter and then into a Humus Tank. Recirculation of sludge between the phases forms part of the process. In the final phase, effluent is disinfected and for final polishing of the effluent, Reed Beds (artificial wetlands) are utilized. Effluent is then discharged into water course according to DWA standards. Sludge will be removed periodically by tanks and taken to regional facility.
PROJECT LOCATION – MAPHUMULO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The proposed treatment plant will be located within the Maphumulo Correctional Centre site located at Portion 2 Amaphumulo Mission No. 8311.

The plant will cover an area of approximately 500m² in extent, located within the property described above. The area is located approximately 60km from Stanger and 40km from Greytown. The site is situated 2km south of the main road (R74). The access to the site is gained off the district road “D893” which branches into two different roads, one entering the Magistrate Court and the other providing access to the prison (Refer to locality Map attached).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The EIA is undertaken in line with the National Environmental Management Act, (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the EIA Regulations (2010). Currently the project is at the Scoping Phase (including the Public Participation). The Draft Environmental Scoping Report will be made available for public comments prior to submission to the competent authority.

On acceptance of the Scoping Report and a Plan of Study for the EIA by the Competent Authority all I&AP’s will be notified of the decision. Following which the Environmental Impact Assessment will commence.

NEED AND DESIRABILITY

The National Department of Public Works (NDPW) is responsible for the maintenance and management of all government facilities. Accordingly, the Maphumulo Prison has been identified as one of the state facilities requiring urgent upgrade and provision of additional facilities to improve its functionality. However, it has been established that one of the challenges within this locality is the lack of supply of bulk infrastructural services.

The extension of the prison puts pressure on the existing and inefficient waste management system. The construction of the waste management facility was recommended by the engineer after having undertaken a rigorous assessment of the supply and demand of services for the affected properties.

Currently the facility utilises septic tanks and soakways whereby the design capacity has been exceeded by the demand and current usage. It has been established that most of the bulk infrastructure installations require upgrade to a more efficient technology.

It was therefore recommend that the proposed plant should cater for all state properties within the vicinity namely the Maphumulo Prison, SAPS and the Magistrate’s Court. This will ensure economies of scale where one facility services three separate government departments that require the facility.

It is anticipated that the proposed development will generate temporary employment for the local community during the construction as well as long term job opportunities during the life cycle of the plant.

In summary, the need is motivated by the demand (i.e. the inability of the municipality to provide sewage at this point when it is required) and desirability is motivated by the efficiency, environmental and health concerns and the principle of agglomeration and economies of scale.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT

The involvement of Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP’s) is essential in the public participation process. I&AP’s may participate by registering with the EAP as per the details contained herein.

Public Participation is intended to:

- Provide background to the project,
- Provide details regarding the caliber of the site in question, and
- Provide I&AP’s an opportunity to seek clarity and raise any issues and concerns.

Any further information in relation to the public participation process may be made to Pravin Amar Development Planners (PADP).

Please find attached a registration and comment form to be completed and sent to Pravin Amar Development Planners if you want to be registered as an I&AP.

AVAILABILITY OF THE EIA DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW

A draft scoping report is available for comment. It can be obtained from:

1) Department of Justice/Courts
2) Maphumulo Municipality
3) Department of Agriculture
4) www.pravinamar.com

Contact Person: Pravin Amar Singh/Gugu Sithole

Tel: (031) 201 7510
Fax: (086) 726 5964
Email: md@pravinamar.com/admin@pravinamar.com

Dependent on the interest shown in the project, a public meeting or focus group meetings will be convened.
All registered I&AP will be notified accordingly regarding the public meeting.

THANK YOU
I & AP Feedback Form

ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE BIOFILTER EFFLUENT PLANT

Please complete and return by: 24th June 2013.

TO: Mr. Pravin Amar Singh
COMPANY: Pravin Amar Development Planners
POSTAL: PO Box 52 040, Berea, 4007
PHONE: (031) 201 7510
FAX: (031) 201 8939
EMAIL: md@pravinamar.com

FROM (Your Name):

ORGANISATION / COMPANY & ADDRESS:

PHONE: FAX:
EMAIL:

Your particular area of interest in the project:

Organisation Represent:
Capacity (e.g. Chairperson, member, etc.):

1. Do you have any concerns about the proposed development (i.e. construction and/or operational phase of the proposed project) that you think should be addressed in the Report?

__________________________ YES ___________________________ ____________ NO

If "yes", please list your main areas of concern in point form.

i) _________________________________________________________

ii) _________________________________________________________

iii) _________________________________________________________

iv) _________________________________________________________

2. What concerns do you have about the construction phase in particular?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
3. What concerns do you have about the operational phase of the process?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

4. Is there any other information you feel should be included/considered in the assessment of the proposal?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

5. Do you have any other comments?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

6. Do you want to be kept informed of the process/ provided with documentation produced?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

7. Please provide details of other possible I&AP’s that need to be informed of the proposal.

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Please add more pages if necessary.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND RETURN BY 24th June 2013
Points

Corner 1 - 29°09'34.96" 31°04'01.76"
Corner 2 - 29°09'32.58" 31°04'02.01"
Corner 3 - 29°09'32.39" 31°04'01.31"
Corner 4 - 29°09'33.85" 31°04'00.15"
Corner 5 - 29°09'34.44" 31°03'59.80"

Study Area

Plant Location

Location of Sewage Package Treatment Plant

SCALE: NTS March 2013