



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE UMDLOTI WASTEWATER PIPELINE, LA MERCY



The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) with background information about the proposed project and introduce the Environmental Basic Assessment (BA) process to be followed. It also aims to inform IAPs on how to fully participate in the BA and encourages response to documents distributed for review and active attendance at meetings.

What is Proposed and Where?

Dube TradePort (DTP) proposes to install a 500mm diameter trunk wastewater pipeline (WWP) of approximately 1.3km length, extending from the Support Zone at the DTP to the proposed new uMdloti Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) (Locality Map, Pg 4).

The Dube TradePort has been labeled Durban's 'aerotropolis' as it includes the new King Shaka International Airport (KSIA); a Trade Zone for the import and export of goods; a Support Zone with various office, business & tourist facilities; an Agri-Zone for agricultural farming and a Cyber Port for national and international trade communications.

The purpose of the pipeline will be to service the Support Zone within the DTP, surrounding future developable area (the 'service area') and the Mount Moreland residential area.

The preferred routing is the full gravity-fed Option 1a, which will extend from the temporary WWTW at the DTP, along the south-eastern embankment of the Support Zone turning east along the north

Why is a Basic Assessment Required?

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (No.107 of 1998) [NEMA], as amended, and associated EIA Regulations published in April 2006, an **Environmental Authorisation** must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority, the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), prior to the commencement of certain listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. This proposed project involves, inter alia, the following listed activities, as per Government Notice No. R. 386 of NEMA:

Activity Number 1 (k): "The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the bulk transportation of sewage and water, including storm water, in pipelines with - (i) an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more".

Activity Number 1 (m): "The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32 metres from the bank of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including - (i) canals; (ii) channels; (iii) bridges; (iv) dams; and (v) weirs"

Activity Number 4: "The dredging, excavation, infilling, removal or moving of soil, sand or rock exceeding 5 cubic metres from a river, tidal lagoon, tidal river, lake, in-stream dam, floodplain or wetland."

-eastern bank of Mount Moreland and the adjoining properties, and traversing portions of the 120m wide buffer zone of the adjacent Froggy Pond wetland. The routing will roughly follow the intermediate contour (54m) and will step down in elevation allowing the system to gravitate to the south-east, linking to the proposed new uMdloti WWTW (see Pg4). There may be a need to install a single pump station en route.

Motivation for the Project

The proposed uMdloti WWP will form a long term solution for disposing of wastewater from the DTP. This has been incorporated into the overall Wastewater Management Plan for the area and has been identified by various role players including the eThekweni Municipality, DTP, ACSA and the Mount Moreland community, as a necessary component for development of the Dube TradePort and surrounding service area.

DTP has appointed **Arcus GIBB (Pty) Ltd**, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner, to undertake the BA for the proposed uMdloti WWP.



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Basic Assessment Process

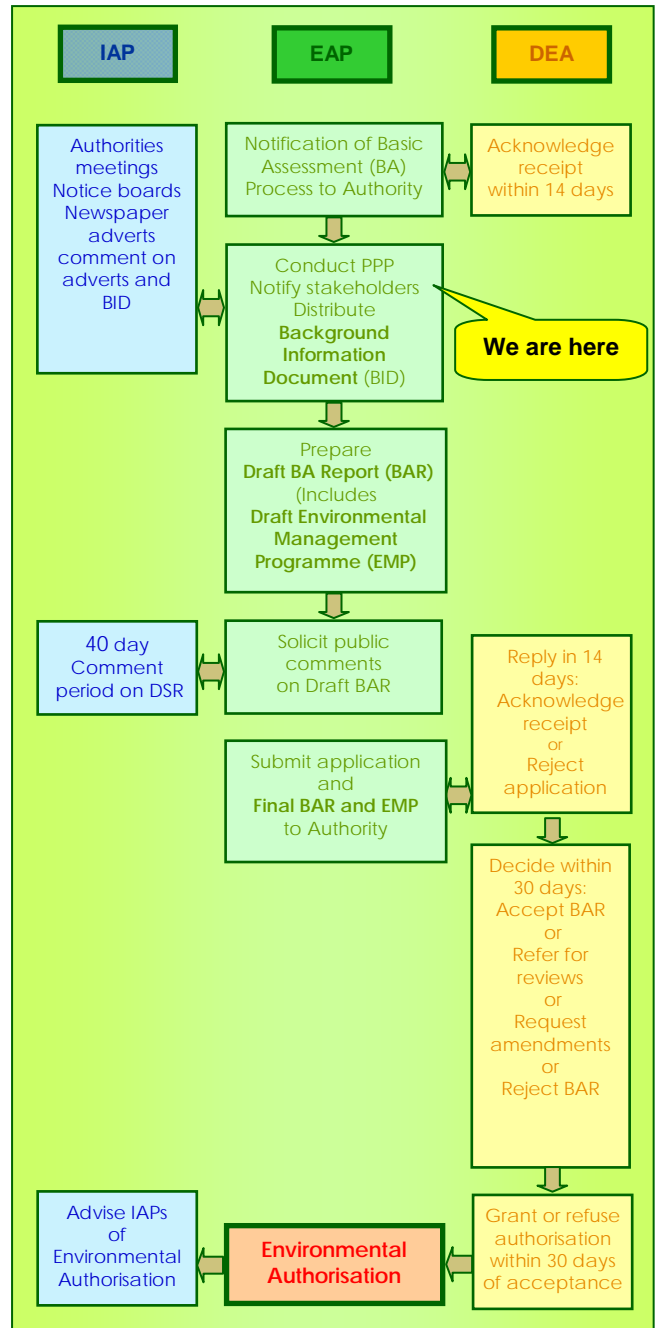
In order to obtain environmental authorisation to undertake the proposed project, a BA is required. The BA is a legislative tool used to ensure that the potential ENVIRONMENTAL impacts that may occur due to the proposed development are avoided or mitigated, if authorisation is granted.

Two levels of impact assessment are prescribed by the NEMA EIA Regulations namely, Basic Assessment and full Impact Assessment. The type of assessment required is determined by the category or activity into which the proposed development fits. As noted on Page 1, the uMdloti Wastewater Pipeline Project is a GNR 386 activity. This requires a BA report to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) with the Application for Environmental Authorisation.

The BA aims to:

- Investigate and gather information on the proposed development site, in order to establish an understanding of the area
- Identify IAPs and relevant authorities by conducting a Public Participation Process (PPP) (Refer to Page 3)
- Establish how the proposed development activities will potentially impact on the environment
- Identify potential environmental impacts through investigation and the public participation process (PPP)
- Describe proposed and potential alternatives
- Describe the environment in which the proposed activity will take place
- Assess all issues and proposed alternatives identified during the BA Process in terms of their significance
- Where necessary, recommend mitigation measures to reduce the significance of potential impacts
- Compile an Environmental Management Programme (EMP) that will prescribe environmental specifications to be adhered to during the construction and operational phases of the project.

BA Process Flow Diagram



NOTE: In South African legislation the **environment** includes, social, economic and bio-physical aspects. A BA should assess these aspects equitably.

NOTE: An **interested & affected party (IAP)** is any person or organisation that has a direct, business, financial, personal or other interest in, or may be directly or indirectly affected by, the proposed project.



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Public Participation Process (PPP)

The PPP aims to inform a wide range of IAPs about the proposed project and the environmental process to be followed.

It is a tool to allow the public to exchange information and to express their views and concerns on the proposed development for which the EIA is being conducted. The PPP assists in identifying potential issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the impact assessment by highlighting relevant information to be included in the assessment. PPP enables more accurate and descriptive analysis helps to focus and enhance decision-making.

The EIA will be open and transparent to the public through this process with all registered IAPs continuously updated on events throughout the process. All contributions from IAPs must be fully documented, evaluated and responded to in the EIA.

Activities of the PPP

The public will be invited to register as IAPs and take part in the PPP through:

- Media Notices placed in newspapers:
 - North Coast Courier (24/03/10)
 - The Mercury (25/03/10)
- Distribution of this BID
- Site notice boards
- Stakeholder meetings
- Public meeting (if necessary)
- Submission of comments on the media notices, BID and Draft Basic Assessment Report

Note: All information is available on request

Consideration of Alternatives

In line with the requirements of NEMA, the BA must consider alternative means of achieving the objectives of the proposed project. Discussions between the project team and other stakeholders, including various eThekweni Municipality Departments, has resulted in the identification of four alternative route alignments for the proposed uMdloti WWP as listed here and shown in the figure overleaf.

- Option 1a/b Full Gravity System
- Option 2a/b Rising Main
- Option 3 Rising Main
- Option 4 Gravity System

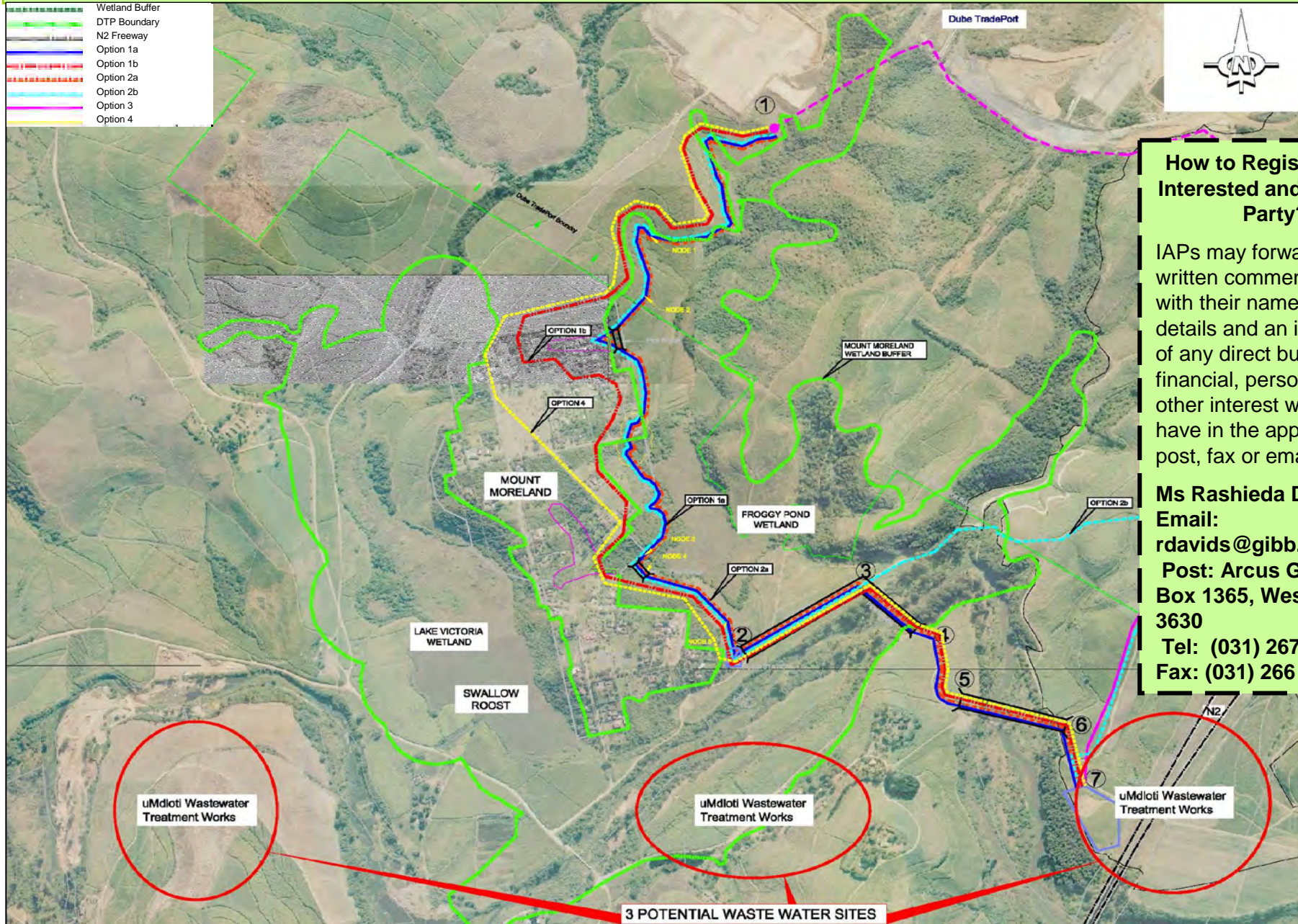
The 'No-go' alternative (which assumes that the uMdloti WWP will not be constructed) will also be assessed as part of the BA

Potential impacts

Potential impacts that may occur due to the proposed uMdloti Wastewater Pipeline project include:

- Soil and groundwater contamination
- Impacts on Lake Victoria Wetland
- Impact on agricultural land (sugar-cane)
- Impacts on flora
- Impacts on fauna
- Construction related impacts:
 - Noise
 - Dust
 - Visual & aesthetic
- Provision of wastewater services
- Job creation, capacity building & skills transfer

Preliminary uMdloti Wastewater Pipeline Alignment



How to Register as an Interested and Affected Party?

IAPs may forward their written comments along with their name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application by post, fax or email to:

Ms Rashieda Davids
Email: rdavids@gibb.co.za
Post: Arcus GIBB, P O Box 1365, Westville, 3630
Tel: (031) 267 8560,
Fax: (031) 266 3310