

Purpose of this Document

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?

The eThekweni Water & Sanitation Department proposes to install a 400mm diameter steel water main pipeline within the road reserve from a tie-in point at the intersection of Gevers and Assagay Roads, along Hlupeka Place and portions of Kassier Road, Assagay Crescent and Alverstone Road to the existing 400mm diameter water main connection point in Fraser Road (see figure on back cover)

Motivation for the Project

The new trunk water main pipeline will provide support to the existing 200mm diameter water main pipeline that currently feeds the Summehills area and boost water supply to the area where there is a demand for additional water.

eThekweni Water & Sanitation has appointed **Arcus GIBB (Pty) Ltd**, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the Basic Assessment for the proposed Trunk Water Main Project.

Why is a Basic Assessment Required?

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (No.107 of 1998) [NEMA] and associated EIA Regulations published in April 2006, an environmental authorisation must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority, the Department of Agriculture & Environmental Affairs (DAEA), prior to the commencement of certain listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. The proposed trunk water main pipeline involves, inter alia, the following listed activities, as per Government Notice No. R. 386 of NEMA:

- Activity Number 1:** "The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for –
- (k) 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"
 - (m) 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;

In order to obtain environmental authorisation to undertake the proposed project, an Environmental Basic Assessment (BA) is required. Refer to Page 2 for further technical information on BA Process.

NOTE: In South African legislation the **environment** includes, social, economic and bio-physical aspects. An EIA, or in this case 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.



Basic Assessment Process

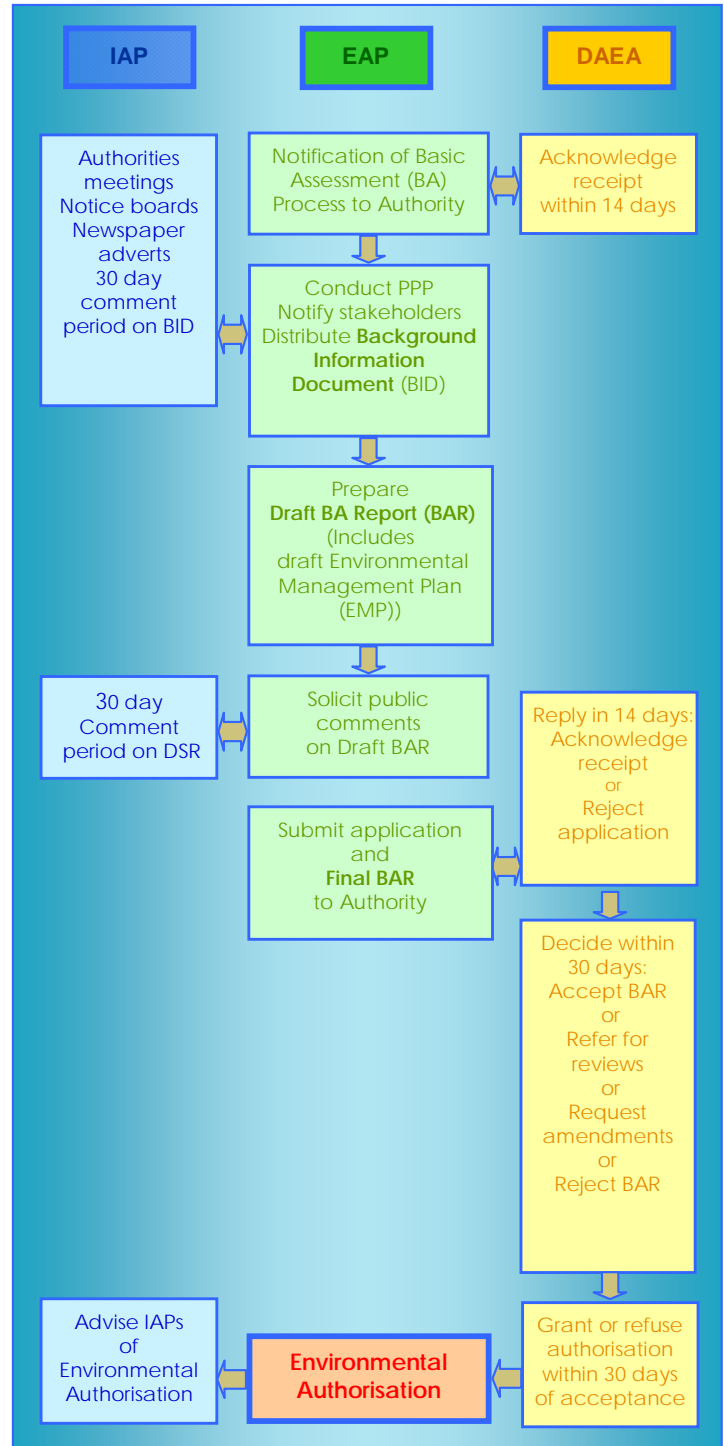
The BA is a legislative tool used to ensure that the potential ENVIRONMENTAL impacts that may occur due to the proposed development are avoided or mitigated, if authorisation is granted.

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 Trunk Water Main Pipeline Project is a GNR 386 activity. This requires a BA report be submitted with the Application for Environmental Authorisation.

The BA aims to:

- Investigate and gather information on the proposed site, in order to establish an understanding of the area
- Identify IAPs and relevant authorities by conducting a 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 (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 Plan (EMP) that will prescribe environmental specifications to be adhered to during the construction and operational phases of the project

BA Process Flow Diagram



Potential positive & negative impacts Identified

- Increased water supply to the Summerhills area
 - Damage caused by laying pipe through drainage line / wetland
- Construction related impacts include:
 - Disruption of traffic
 - Disruption of services
 - Noise & dust pollution
 - Inconvenience to residents

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 BA is being conducted. The PPP assists in identifying potential issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the impact assessment. More accurate and descriptive analysis will help to focus and enhance decision-making.

The BA will be open and transparent to the public through this process with all registered I&APs continuously updated on **events** throughout the BA process.

All contributions from IAPs must be fully documented, evaluated and responded to in the BA.

Activities of the PPP

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

- Media Notices placed in *The Mercury* (13/03/09) and *Highway Mail* (18/03/09) Newspapers
- Distribution of the Background Information Document (BID) and comments form
- Site notice boards
- Stakeholder meetings
- Public meeting (if necessary)
- Submission of comments on the media notices, BID and Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR)

Note: All information is available on request

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

Tel: (031) 267 8560

Fax: (031) 266 3310

Post: ARCUS GIBB

P O Box 1365

Westville, 3630

Proposed Preferred Pipeline Route



ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

561 Meters

Map not to scale