

Inge Erasmus

From: Vhengani Ligudu <VLigudu@bgcma.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 April 2018 8:11 AM
To: Inge Erasmus
Subject: RE: Cape Nature comments

Inge

Please see email below.

Regards

Vhengani Ligudu

From: Inge Erasmus [mailto:inge@enviroafrica.co.za]
Sent: 17 April 2018 10:26 AM
To: Vhengani Ligudu <VLigudu@bgcma.co.za>
Subject: Cape Nature comments

Dear Vhengani

Cape nature's comments refer:

Cape Nature: *"The development will have the greatest impact on the ecological reserve. The ecological reserve is critical to the freshwater ecology and floral and faunal assemblages on site and downstream of the site. Given the current drought situation in the Western Cape, it is important to ensure that the **ecological reserve** receives sufficient flow. While the application mentions winter-only abstraction, this is difficult to monitor; therefore, an **engineered solution** must be implemented to prevent complete shut-off of the valve. Since the tributary flows into the Sondered River, which is further constrained by the Theewaterskloof Dam, CapeNature suggests that the applicant provide **more information** on the anticipated water flow into the ecological reserve during both the dry summer months and the wet winter months according to standards from the Department of Water and Sanitation."*

There are thus basically three issues that I need to get your comments on.

1. **Engineers solution:** Sarel Bester Ingenieurs provided BGCMA with a letter (attached as 16109T) where they confirm that the weir and dam designs will only be finalised as per recommendations/ stipulations set out by the WUL/ EA to ensure that the ecological reserve is adhered to. The license if approved will stipulate conditions to mitigate the environmental impacts. After issuance of the license, the applicant is required to submit the final designs for approval before construction begins.
2. **More information on anticipated water flow:** BGCMA already recommended a private hydrological study be done (summary attached). This summary shows the last 70 years' average flow values in Eksteenkloof and when looking at the mean annual runoff, there is very little to no water flowing there in summer, so to determine the anticipated flow during summer months will be useless. The WULA is also just for the taking of winter surplus water. No further hydrology studies are required? So far information and studies received are enough.
3. **Ecological reserve:** It was agreed upon that an Ecological Reserve of 50% will be left in the river which is more than the normal recommended 12 – 25%/45%???.
"In terms of the ecological water requirements, the available Reserve suggest that the requirement at this quaternary catchment is about 25% of the MAR. The trick is that the Reserve that is available is for the main stem of Riviersonderend River, into which this specific tributary flows.

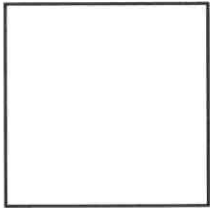
I am of the opinion that the 50% of flow that is suggested would be enough, but the exact percentage for this tributary will be received once the Reserve is received from Water Ecosystems. The only other Reserve for the Kwassadie tributary in the same quaternary catchment requires only 17 % of the MAR for the Ecological Water Requirements.

I will therefore be able to make a final response in terms of the Reserve, when the approved Reserve is received, but I do think that the 50% suggested will be enough”

Your input is valued.

Kind regards
Inge

Inge Erasmus



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