



Gariep Watch

P.O. Box 2536, Upington, 8801



17 June 2020

EnviroAfrica CC
P.O. Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

ATTENTION: MR. CLINTON GEYSER

TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON ERF 1, 16, 87 AND PLOT 2777; TOPLINE; !KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Gariep Watch is a civic society organisation that endeavours to protect the lower Orange River through effective monitoring and data collection, improved communication by role-players and the enhancement of public participation.

We noted your abovementioned NEMA Public Participation Process (Ref. 0512) for a new township development at Topline, with much concern.

Gariep Watch performs quarterly water quality studies and a risk assessment procedure at various localities in the lower Orange River including the river reach flowing through the !Kheis Local Municipalities jurisdiction. Our water quality results show that a number of point and diffuse sources of sewerage pollution may be affecting the surface and ground water resources in the vicinity of these townships and beyond.

Furthermore, recent site visits to sewerage water infrastructure at these !Kheis townships showed that much of the sewerage water infrastructure is not being maintained or used for its intended purpose. Pump stations to the oxidation dam systems are not working, sewerage infrastructure is being vandalized, oxidation dam linings are damaged or removed and raw sewerage is being disposed into the veld or towards dry water courses. The photographs in Figure 1 show some of the oxidation dam systems encountered at !Kheis Local Municipality during 2019.



Figure 1: Oxidation dam systems at !Kheis Local Municipality (2019)



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The extension of existing townships that already have inadequate, unmaintained or unused sewerage infrastructure will only aggravate their pollution risk towards the downstream environment.

We therefore object to any new township development in the !Kheis Local Municipality and request the following information:

1. A list of all new proposed township developments in the !Kheis Local Municipality where EnviroAfrica CC is the appointed environmental practitioner.
2. Details pertaining to new sewerage infrastructure that are planned for these developments.

Please also register Gariep Watch as an I&AP for these new township developments.

Yours sincerely

Ferdie Botha
Chairman: Gariep Watch
084 800 6610

Fritz Bekker (Pr. Sci. Nat 2000 23/04)
Technical advisor: Gariep Watch
083 265 8145