

29 June 2020.

RE : Proposed Township Development on Erf 113, Gariiep, !Kheis Local Municipality.

Dear Sir,

Boegoeberg Water Users Association is a semi-state institution with responsibilities which include : Maintenance of State Infrastructure, Distribution of Water and Revenue Collection.

Raw water distribution is mainly for human consumption, industrial use and irrigation.

The Boegoeberg Canal System was built in the 1930's and lined with cement in the 1960's. The useable lifespan of a cement structure is in the region of 50 years. It can be seen that the canal structure has surpassed its original designed lifespan.

After studying your proposed layout of the new development in Gariiep, the following remarks needs to be noted :

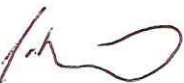
- The Gariiep Canal Structure is beyond its useable lifespan and although regular maintenance work is done, poses an extreme risk to nearby structures should an unplanned canal breakage occur. The flowrate in the Gariiep Canal is around 3m³/s (3000 litres/second), which indicates a huge amount of water outflow in the case of an unplanned canal breakage.
- As the canal structure is constructed in cement panels of 3 meters long, water seepage through these structural joints is not uncommon, although regularly maintained. It can be seen that this water seepage would cause severe structural damage to any structure in its nearby vicinity.
- Swimming in the canal, although properly fenced is a common practice close to human settlements although it's not allowed. The drowning/loss of life of mostly minor children occurs on a regular basis and is a big concern to this organization. Housing structures close to the canal structure would increase this practise and the risk of minor children drowning would increase in accordance.
- A direct result of Human settlements is the occurrence of litter and pollution, the canal raw water is distributed for human and industrial use, which will increase the risk of contaminated water.

Recommendation :

- Taking above-mentioned remarks/risks into account, it can be seen that the new township development must be done to ensure that all risks are minimized. This can partly be accomplished by not allowing any structure in the close vicinity of the canal as is currently the case. We purpose that the area's in the vicinity of the canal structure not form part of the development.

If you need any additional information or assistance regarding this matter, please contact us.

Kind Regards,
Jean Lombard



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