

**SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION (“SSV”) REPORT: THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN APPROXIMATELY 72KM LONG BULK WATER SUPPLY PIPELINE WITHIN THE ROAD RESERVE OF THE R27 REGIONAL ROAD FROM THE SOAFSKOLK TURNOFF TO A WATER RESERVOIR IN BRANDVLEI**



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## **INTRODUCTION:**

This SSV Report was undertaken in terms of the *Protocols for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes* (hereinafter referred to as “the Protocols”) as per Government Notice No. 320 (published in Government Gazette No. 43110 on 20 March 2020)<sup>1</sup>. These Protocols, with effect from 09 May 2020 must be complied with for every new application submitted on the effective date and thereafter. According to the Protocols, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (“EAP”) must verify the current use of the proposed site for development as well as the environmental sensitivity of the proposed site in terms of the Screening Tool to determine the need for specialist inputs in relation to the Themes (and proposed specialist assessments) included in the Protocols.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

The SSV Report was compiled using desktop studies [that include using the DEA Screening Tool and GoogleEarth) as well as a site visit that was conducted on March 2024 to investigate, identify, and evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed development on the receiving environment. The SSV Report was compiled by the EAP (Mr. Bernard de Witt).

## **AIM OF THE SSV REPORT:**

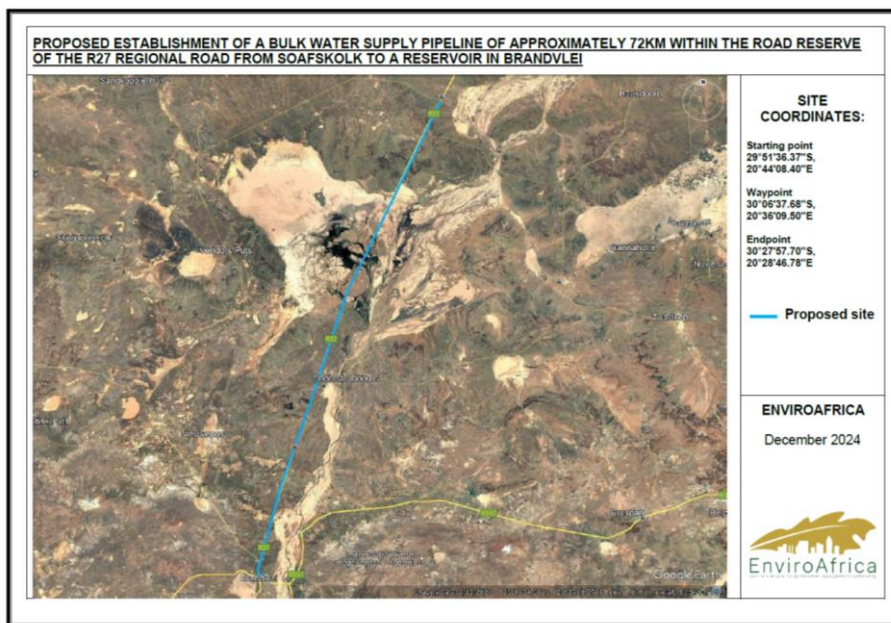
The aim of the SSV Report is to;

- Verify land use and Theme sensitivities as identified by the DEA Screening Tool;
- Confirm whether or not the need exists for the specialist assessment(s) indicated in the Screening Tool Report; and
- Should the need for a specialist assessment be disputed, provide motivation as to why the proposed specialist assessment is unwarranted for the establishment of the proposed bulk water supply pipeline of approximately 72km within the road reserve of the R27 Regional Road from near the Soafskolk turnoff to a reservoir in Brandvlei.

This will assist in providing a good understanding of the situation prevailing on the proposed site.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed site is an approximately 72km long corridor within the road reserve of the R27 Regional Road, from near the Soafskolk turnoff to a reservoir in Brandvlei. The proposed site is fully accessible from R27 Regional Road. Please see Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1:** GoogleEarth image of the proposed site and surrounding area

**Table 1.** Themes and associated sensitivity

No	Theme	Sensitivity as per the Screening Tool	Confirm/ dispute sensitivity rating of Screening Tool	Verification of site sensitivity
1	Agriculture	Medium	Dispute	The proposed pipeline route is located within the road reserve of the R27 Regional Road and is therefore earmarked for road widening activities in the future.  The EAP is therefore of the view that the very little agricultural benefit can be obtained from the narrow corridor forming the proposed pipeline route and that the correct sensitivity rating for the Agriculture Theme is negligible.
2	Animal Species	High	Confirm	A specialist has been appointed to conduct a bird and mammal study report on the proposed pipeline route.
3	Aquatic Biodiversity	Very High	Confirm	A specialist has been appointed to conduct a freshwater ecological study along the proposed pipeline route and compile a report.
4	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	Very High	Confirm	The proposed pipeline is longer than 300m and therefore it is required in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) that a specialist be appointed to conduct an archaeological and Cultural heritage study along the proposed pipeline route. The heritage impact specialist has been appointed.
5	Civil Aviation	High	Dispute	The EAP is of the opinion that the Screening Tool has given an incorrect sensitivity rating for the Civil Aviation Theme, as the proposed site is located on a farm surrounded by other farms and no structures nor infrastructure of civil aviation significance exist in the nearby area.
6	Defence	Low	Confirm	The EAP is of the opinion that the Screening Tool has given an accurate sensitivity rating for the Defence Theme, as the proposed site is located within the road reserve of the R27 Regional Road and no structures nor

				infrastructure of civil aviation significance exist in the nearby area.
7	Palaeontology	High	Confirm	The proposed pipeline is longer than 300m and so it is required in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) that a specialist be appointed to conduct an archaeological and Cultural heritage study along the proposed pipeline route. The heritage impact specialist has been appointed.
8	Plant Species	Medium	Confirm	A specialist has been appointed to compile a specialist investigation on the proposed site regarding the terrestrial biodiversity Theme and compile a report. The report will include the Plant Species.
9	Terrestrial Biodiversity	Very High	Confirm	A specialist has been appointed to conduct a terrestrial biodiversity study on the proposed site and compile a report.

**Table 2.** Specialist assessments specified in the Screening Tool Report

No	Proposed Specialist Assessment	Verification of Site Sensitivity and Motivation on the need for specialist Investigation
1	Agriculture	The route of the proposed pipeline is located within the road reserve of the R27 Regional Road and road widening activities in the future will take place thereon.  It is therefore deemed that appointing an agricultural specialist to compile an agricultural specialist study for the proposed development on the proposed site is unwarranted and so the specialist will not be appointed.
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	A specialist has been appointed to conduct a heritage impact study that includes on the proposed site.
3	Palaeontological Impact Assessment	A specialist has been appointed to conduct a heritage impact study that includes on the proposed site.
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment	A specialist has been appointed to conduct the terrestrial biodiversity study on the proposed site.
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	A specialist has been appointed to conduct the aquatic biodiversity study on the proposed site.
6	Socio-economic Assessment	A specialist has been appointed to conduct a study and compile a report for the establishment of the proposed pipeline.
7	Plant Species Assessment	A specialist has been appointed to conduct a terrestrial biodiversity study on the proposed site and the study includes the Plant Species Theme.
8	Animal Species Assessment	A specialist has been appointed to conduct a terrestrial biodiversity study on the proposed site and the study includes the Animal Species Theme..

All the Specialist Assessments and Compliance Statements compiled by specialists and the written opinions of other suitably qualified professionals will be appended to the Basic Assessment Report and submitted to the competent authority for review.

Please do not hesitate to contact EnviroAfrica for any further information or clarity regarding the above.

Yours faithfully,

Bernard de Witt



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