



P.O. Box 9514 | P.O. Box 11634
Richards Bay, 3900 | Erasmuskloof, 0048
Tel: 035 788 0398 | Tel: 012 743 6202
Fax: 086 614 7327 | Fax: 086 614 7327

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Ethical Exchange

Attention: Ms. Mari Wolmarans

Dear Madam

PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION NW12301 - WETLAND CONFIRMATION

Exigent Engineering Consultants CC (Exigent) has been requested by Ethical Exchange to determine the presence of wetlands on the proposed prospecting area, as well as within the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) 500 m Regulatory Area.

The proposed prospecting area is approximately 278 hectares in extent and lies between Sonop, Makolokwe and Segwaelane, approximately 12 kilometers west of Brits central, in the North West Province.

Aerial imagery and literature / database screening

A level 1 (desktop) scan was done using Google Earth satellite image timeline function to detect changes in visible vegetation gradients. Images are available from 2004-2017.

A literature/database survey was conducted to assist with the review. Relevant resources included:

- National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment;
- North West Environmental Outlook Report 2013;
- North West Biodiversity Sector Plan (READ, 2015); and
- North West Environmental Implementation Plan (2015-2020);

Wetland Screening Results

Watercourses with associated wetlands were identified from satellite imagery within the prospecting area within the DWS 500 m Regulatory Area. The National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment database (NBA, 2011) supports these findings by classifying the said areas as Aquatic Ecological Support Areas (ESA). ESA's are designed to ensure the ecological functioning and sustainability of Critical Biodiversity Areas.

A wetland delineation and functionality assessment will be required to determine the extent of these sensitive features in and surrounding the study area.

Legislative requirements

Various legislation pertains to the impacts on watercourses. Care should be taken to ensure that authorisation has been obtained from all relevant authorities. These systems are protected from destruction or pollution by the following:

- Section 24 of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
- Agenda 21 – Action plan for sustainable development of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) 1998.
- The Ramsar Convention, 1971 including the Wetland Conservation Programme (DEAT) and the National Wetland Rehabilitation Initiative (DEAT, 2000).

- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998) inclusive of all amendments, as well as the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA)(Act 10 of 2004).
- National Water Act (NWA)(Act 36 of 1998).
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA) (Act 43 of 1983).
- Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) (Act 28 of 2002).
- National Forest Act (NFA) (Act 84 of 1998).
- Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998).
- Government Notice 509 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998).
- Regulation 327, 325 and 324 of the NEMA (2017).

Conclusion

Watercourses with associated wetlands were identified within the prospecting right application area and the DWS 500 m Regulatory Area. A wetland delineation and functionality assessment will be required to determine the exact extent of these areas.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Jacolette Adam

Pr. Sci. Nat.

EXIGENT Engineering Consultants CC