

Minutes of the Grootdraai Dam Forum Meeting held 23 August 2011 at Nooitgedacht, Ermelo.

	Discussion	Action/Follow up
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction of attendance and apologies.</p> <p>Mr. Hararim welcomed everyone present to the forum meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ephraim Matseba (Dept. of Water Affairs) • Sonita Kruger (Golfview) • Kgadi Moremi (New Denmark Colliery) • Irma Hodgskin (Eskom- Camden Power Station) • Emile van Druten (Envass) • Mokhele Machoangane (Govan Mbeki Municipality) • Tebogo Mogakabe (MDEDET) • Surgeon Marebane (MDEDET) 	
3.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Corrections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.3 6.9 Preliminary operations. • P.3 6.10 <i>N Barnard</i> indicated that the mine is still planning to start with constructing the pollution control dams but still waiting for the approval of the water use license from Department of Water Affairs. • P.3 6.14 One borehole is alleviated but there is no decanting. • P.4 6.21 <i>T Pather</i> said Breyton, Amersfoort, Perdekop waste disposal sites are small sites which does not have huge impacts on the water resources. 	DWA to rectified the minutes
4.	Matters Arising.	
5.	<p>Approval of Agenda</p> <p>Agenda was approved with the following additions:</p> <p>6.2.1 DWA waste management 8.3 Online monitoring</p>	
6.	<p>Rand Water</p> <p>6.1 <i>S Mporetji</i> presented water quality data indicating that VKK below Memelo sewage; ammonia, E- colinity, COD, conductivity, phosphate and sulphate have been problematic the past (03) months. Brummerspruit VKR – ammonia, ecoli, nitrates and conductivity; these variables have been problematic the past three (03) months. Brummerspruit VK – water quality impacts comes from agricultural activities even though there was improvement in terms of ammonia, problems continue with ecolinity and nitrates. Blesbokspruit VBB - the following point have been problematic the past three (03) months; ammonia, ecoli, phosphate, sulphate, COD and conductivity. Blesbokspruit VBS – at Staapkraal; ammonia has improved the past three (03). Nitrates and pH has deteriorated the past three (03) months- Sulphates; there was no data the past three (03) months. Blesbokspruit at Vaal River – the past three (03) ammonia assimilation contaminations increased in the water and there were deteriorations in terms of ecoli. In stream point is located at Thutuka power station. It was mentioned that they have five sewage works and all their variables have been complying the past three (03) months accept chloride and PH.</p>	

6.2	<p>DWA Gauteng Water Quality Management</p> <p><i>J Nyama</i> presented the Grootdraai dam catchment for the period of May to July 2011. Vaal River origin @ N17 Bridge there were challenges in terms of microbiological variables in June 2011 and also elevated concentration of ammonia and sulphates. Grootdraai Dam VAS – generally the water quality was good for the past quarter, but concerns with the nitrate, sulphate and microbiological variables which were color coded yellow indicating that there might be problems with sewage works. Generally the most problematic variables are conductivity and Sulphates, for samples taken the stream/river. For wastewater treatment works, almost all the variables are not compliant except pH. Water quality in terms of sulphates, pH, and conductivity at Witpuntspruit is also a major concern. Leeuspruit water quality has also deteriorated a bit. New monitoring point has been added namely old spitzkop and Douglas dam at N11. The water quality also not looking good in terms of Sulphates and conductivity.</p>	<p><i>DWA to present water quality status according to the river flow direction.</i></p> <p><i>DWA to clarify why some of the monitoring points are being compared to the Vaal Origin (VE) standards.</i></p>
6.2.1	<p>DWA Gauteng Waste Management</p> <p><i>T Pather</i> indicated that the presentation is based only on the municipal landfill site. He reported that currently for Ermelo they are looking for new region site to incorporate all the different small site and process is on going. Most of the landfill sites in the Grootdraai Catchment are small, and the impacts from such landfill sites are minimal. Ermelo and Standerton landfill sites are the most problematic site in the catchment.</p> <p><i>R Hariram</i> indicated that he understand that DWA is responsible in terms of issuing directive relating to water use but wanted to know who is now responsible for issuing a directive in terms of the landfill site. <i>T Pather</i> responded by saying DWA is not responsible for issuing landfill site directive, but the responsibility lies with DEA/ Provincial Authority.</p>	
6.3	<p>Tutuka Power Station</p> <p><i>T Malotle</i> reported that they managed to find out where the problem of nitrates was coming from, the process which was put in place for nitrate removal was changed by the contractor. The problem was rectified; they are hoping that the results in next month will indicate some improvements. Further indicates that since September last year their water quality has improved after the introduction of the new system. <i>S Mporetji</i> asked if Tutuka also do monitoring, he replied that they monitor their water quality and they will present the results in the next meeting.</p>	<p><i>T Malotle to give a presentation on the system that they use to remove the nutrients and how their plant operates.</i></p>
6.4	<p>Camden Power Station</p> <p><i>T Mpongo</i> indicated that the presentation will be given under (8.2) pollution incidents.</p>	
6.5	<p>Majuba Power Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
6.6	<p>New Denmark Colliery</p> <p><i>K Moshokwa</i> indicated that an IWUL application has been lodged with DWA for the brine ponds. Currently waiting approval for construction from DWA Dam Safety Office and for IWUL. <i>B Malatsi</i> mentioned that water use license</p>	

	application is still with the department.	
6.7	Golfview Mine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent with apology 	
6.8	X-strata (Spitzkop) <p><i>T Mathebula</i> gave a presentation indicating that they are monitoring water quality upstream and downstream of their operations. There are a number of monitoring points but only the critical ones are included in the presentation. Spitzkop is still facing challenges with high concentrations of Sulphates. Their water quality complies with the SANS 241 in most monitoring points but not compliant to the Grootdraai Water Quality Standards especially around the discard dump, plant area and current pits. Further indicated that they have got a system in place to deal with sulphate problem. No pollution incident reported within the previous quarter.</p> <p>IWUL has been issued last year; further congratulated DWA for establishing Letsema Project that deals with backlog IWULA. They want to amend an IWUL in order to incorporate future developments and LOM. The project in place include rehabilitation, clean-dirty water separation (phase 1 completed) and meetings are held on a regular basis with the IAP as well as Regulating Authorities. IWWMP designs are underway as well as long-term water management strategy. As part of biodiversity management they are currently busy with biomonitoring which will be focusing on aquatic studies, the dry and wet season.</p> <p><i>B Malatsi</i> asked when an amendment IWULA is going to be submitted. She replied that it will be submitted in August/ September 2011.</p>	<i>Xstrata to submit Amendment IWULA to DWA</i>
6.9	Delta / Mashala <p><i>D Mare</i> reported that Mashala Resources have received an approved Penumbra Underground mine IWUL and thanks to the Department. Currently waiting for Ferreira IWUL, this is still in the process.</p>	
6.10	Mooiplaats / Coal of Africa <p><i>N Barnard</i> reported that they are desperately in need of IWUL in order to start with construction of the Pollution Control Dam. She was not happy because the Department is taking too long to issue their IWUL and didn't understand why she should attend Forum meetings if their WUL is not being issued by DWA.</p> <p><i>B Malatsi</i> indicated that IWULA is not at DWA Regional Office but still with Letsema project for evaluation. However, IWULA is on an evaluation stage at Letsema.</p>	
6.11	Umlabu Coal mine <p><i>Presented under 6.14</i></p>	
6.12	Imbabala Coal mine <p><i>B Malatsi</i> reported that their mining right has been suspended. DWA will be meeting with DMR next week to discuss a way forward with regard to Imbabala mine.</p>	<i>B Malatsi to give feedback on the outcome of Imbabala Mine meeting.</i>
6.13	Thutsi Colliery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	

6.14	<p>Usutu (i) Underground (closed) (ii) Opencast (Vunene coal mine)</p> <p><i>W du Toit</i> gave a presentation for both Vunene and Umlabu coal mines. He indicated that Usutu was previously mined by Eskom as an underground mining and currently Vunene is operating an opencast mine. Eskom is still liable for the closed underground mining. He indicated the groundwater and surface water monitoring points on the map. In terms of compliance they use SANS 241. Sulphates concentration was high on some of the monitoring points.</p>	
6.15	<p>Govan Mbeki Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology 	
6.16	<p>Gert Sibande District Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No feedback 	
6.17	<p>Msukaligwa Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
6.18	<p>Pixley ka Seme Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
6.19	<p>Lekwa Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
6.20	<p>Transnet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Representative 	
6.21	<p>Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology 	
6.22	<p>Department of Minerals and Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
7.	<p>CMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology 	
8.1	<p>GENERAL</p> <p>License applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eskom -Tutuka Power Station- Awaiting for outstanding information from the applicant. • Mashala Resources Ferreira Coal Mine-IWULA in process. • Govan Mbeki Municipality Bethal WWTW- IWULA in process. • Mashala Resources Penumbra Coal mine- IWUL has been issued • Eskom -Majuba Power Station- IWUL has been issued. 	
8.2	<p>Pollution Incident</p> <p><i>T Mpongo</i> reported that there has been a continuous pollution at Camden power station. The ash dam is full to its capacity; and more ash production the more wastewater need to be disposed in the dam. In order to deal with the continuous pollution Eskom has decided to construct a new Ash dam and public participation has been done. Water quality data indicate high concentration of Sulphate and low pH on some of the monitoring points.</p>	
8.3	<p>Online Monitoring Programme</p> <p><i>R Hararim</i> presented online monitoring system. He mentioned that online monitoring programme is still an internal proposal until its proven working it won't be available to the public.</p>	

9.	Closure <i>R Hararim</i> thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting at 12h30.	

Acronyms

DWA	Department of Water Affairs
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DMR	Department of Mineral Resources
IWUL	Integrated Water Use Licence
IWULA	Integrated Water Use Licence Application
LOM	Life of Mine
IAP	Interested and Affected Parties