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THE CONSTRUCTION OF RESERVOIR FOR MOSSEL BAY AREA ON THE FARM VAALE VALLEY 219, MOSSEL BAY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT NO. 1



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 VALLEY 219, MOSSEL BAY**

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT NO. 1 –FEBRUARY 2021

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<u>Copies to</u>	Eric Louw - Mossel Bay Municipality

Section in EMPr		Compliance
5.1	Pre-Construction phase	
5.1.1	All construction staff must be briefed by the ECO in an environmental education programme regarding the environmental status and requirements of the site, prior to any activities commencing on site.	Compliant – see Section 1 below
5.1.2	Before the contractor(s) begins each construction activity the contractor and Site Agent must, prior to the commencement of such activity involving construction, maintenance or rehabilitation, give the ECO a written plan setting out the method statement.	This was discussed during the site meeting.
5.1.3	As topsoil is a valuable resource, it must be stripped from all construction areas before work commences in that specific area and stockpiled at an area approved by the ECO.	Compliant – see Section 2 below
	Any surplus subsoil that needs to be stockpiled for cut and fill operations must be stockpiled in an approved stockpile area as agreed to by the ECO.	Compliant
	No pollutants (e.g. Bedding sand, cement etc.) to be dumped on site	Compliant
	Silt fencing needs to be installed before construction works commence (in the areas with a steep slope, or as instructed by the ECO) to ensure that there is limited movement of silt on site.	Not yet necessary
5.1.4	<u>Specific requirements in terms of the Paleontological Impact Assessment</u> Before construction starts , a professional palaeontologist must be commissioned to record and judiciously sample petrified wood and any other significant fossil material exposed during the construction phase of the project, while bedrock excavations for the reservoir are still unsealed.	Compliant – See section 3 below.
	The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) responsible for the reservoir development must be aware of the possibility of important fossils (e.g. shells, petrified wood, plant remains, trace fossils, mammalian bones and teeth) being present or unearthed on site and must regularly monitor all substantial excavations into superficial sediments as well as fresh (i.e. unweathered) sedimentary bedrock for fossil remains	ECO to continually monitor during site inspections
	Should it be suspected that an object or structure of heritage or paleontological value has been uncovered during earthworks or the clearing of vegetation (including but not limited to bones, burial sites, structures older than 50 years, stone tools, shell middens, pottery etc.), then all work is to immediately cease and the ECO is to be contacted to inform Heritage Western Cape (HWC). Work shall not recommence until HWC have visited the site, inspected the object in question and advised on how to proceed. If the object requires removal by a trained archaeologist, this process will be at the expense of the developer. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure all staff on site is aware of this procedure.	
5.2	General Construction Requirements	
5.2.1	The construction area must be demarcated to prevent any encroachment into agricultural or sensitive vegetation areas.	Compliant – see Section 6 below.
	All topsoil must be stripped from the area required and stockpiled in the site camp or area as approved by ECO, for later use in rehabilitation.	Compliant – see Section 2 below.
	All excess soils that won't be used must be disposed of at a licensed landfill site.	
	Care must be taken when working with concrete, no concrete to be spilled or mix on the ground. This must be done on suitable trays.	Compliant
5.2.3	<u>Access to the Site</u> No unauthorized access to the site permitted – gate to be kept closed at all times.	Compliant – see Section 4 below.
	Construction vehicles to use existing access routes or if not available can only use one route per site to minimize the potential environmental impact. These access routes must be confirmed prior to construction with the appointed ECO.	

	The access roads will be upgraded and repaired but not widened. The roads will either be surfaced with gravel or a two spoor concrete track will be made. Access to the area is to be monitored during construction	
5.2.4	Site agent The contractor must appoint a responsible agent to ensure that they comply with this EMPr and all its conditions.	Klasie Lategan
5.2.6	Demarcation of No-Go areas No Go demarcation must be in place and maintained throughout the construction period. The No-Go areas must be kept clear of any construction material/vehicles as well as stock piling of vegetation matter and topsoil All construction activities must be restricted to the demarcated areas to ensure that no further disturbance into the surrounding vegetation. Access into the No-Go areas by personnel is strictly forbidden (i.e. Work breaks such as lunch are not permitted outside the defined work area - no entry into the neighbouring properties or open space areas). A spot fine will be imposed against the contractor in the event of contravention of the no-go policy up to a maximum of R5 000 per incident).	See Section 5 below.
5.2.7	Construction site camp The contractors' site camp, offices and storage facilities shall not be located within or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive area. Portable ablution facilities (chemical toilets) are to be provided at the camp site for use of the staff. A fenced off area must be created within the camp site for refuse and waste management. No open fires are to be permitted due to the risk of fire.	Compliant – see Section 6 below.
5.2.8	Storage of construction material The following must be adhered to (if not within the construction site camp): All stockpile sites to be approved by the ECO prior to the commencement of stockpiling. All stockpile sites to be properly demarcated with silt-fences and/or danger tape, where necessary. Silt protection measures around stockpile sites must be implemented, if required.	Construction material to be stored in the construction site camp and topsoil & subsoil stockpiles at the approved areas. See Sections 2 & 6
5.2.9	Fire protection No open fires or naked flames for heating or cooking shall be allowed on site. The contractor must ensure that all personnel are aware of the fire risk and the need to extinguish cigarettes before disposal. Cigarettes shall not be disposed of in the veld and must be disposed of properly in receptacles. No burning of waste on ANY PART of the site is permitted.	Contractor to take note of this.
5.2.10	Health and Safety The H&S Officer is to copy the ECO in on his/her reports for record purposes.	
5.2.11	Waste management Recycling must be encouraged on-site and recycling bins must be provided and clearly marked. Disposal of all waste materials must be done at suitable facilities. No dumping of any waste material on or off-site is permitted. The contractor shall ensure that the site is maintained in a neat and tidy condition and kept free of litter (including the adjacent open space area). At all places of work, the contractor shall provide litter bins, containers and refuse collection facilities for later disposal. Litter to be removed from the site on a daily basis (through daily litter picking before the site is closed for the day). Rubbish bins must be provided on-site and regularly cleaned / emptied.	No litter noted on site during this reporting period. The contractor should continually do litter picking and empty the bins regularly to prevent litter from blowing away.

	Solid waste (construction rubble etc.) is to be temporarily stored on-site in a designated area approved by the ECO prior to collection and disposal. Solid waste must be removed on a weekly basis to a licensed municipal waste site.	
5.2.12	Ablution Facilities Contractors must provide chemical ablution facilities for all construction personnel working on the site. The number of chemical toilets required must adhere to the H&S requirements applicable at the time of the contract.	Comply – see Section 6 below.
5.2.13	Concrete and Cement Works The contractors will use ready-mix concrete for the reservoir but when any other concrete work take place on site then it must be mixed on trays and not directly on the soil . No concrete or cement contaminated water is allowed to be disposed of anywhere along the construction route or in the adjacent sensitive vegetation area (to the north). No ready-mix trucks are permitted to rinse their tanks on site or along the access roads to and from the site. Any spillage is to be immediately cleaned by the responsible contractor / supplier / owner.	Comply – see Section 6 below Contractor must take note of this.
6.	Rehabilitation Phase	
	Rehabilitation of damaged areas will include, but is not limited to the following: - J All building rubble and waste must be completely removed and disposed of at an approved landfill site. - J Compacted topsoil must be raked loose. - J Agricultural areas to be reinstated as required by the landowner. - J Existing farm tracks / roads used during construction to be left to the satisfaction of the landowner. - J Contaminated soil must be disposed of at an approved landfill site. - J Stockpiled topsoil to be placed back (on top) and NOT compacted. - J Indigenous grass seed must be sown within the disturbed and affected areas (as indicated by the ECO); - J Implementation of additional erosion control methods as required. - J Planting of screening vegetation around the reservoirs can be considered and ECO will advise on suitable species. - J Maintenance of storm water system until handed over to the local authority.	Not yet necessary, this will be done once the main construction phase is completed.

Introduction

This report monitors compliance against the Environmental Management Plan (Ref: MOS20/472/25 – dated 15 December 2020) and it constitutes the first Environmental Monitoring Report which covers all work undertaken as part of the construction of the new regional reservoir for Mossel Bay area.

1. Environmental Induction

Environmental induction was given to all staff members on-site before commencement of construction activity on **14 January 2021**. The contractor should notify the ECO at least one week in advance when new staff members will be joining the team to arrange for environmental induction.

2. Soil Management

Topsoil has been stripped and stockpiled away from the active construction area. Some subsoil is stockpiled away from the construction area and will be used for infilling and shaping during rehabilitation phase. The rest of the subsoil is being used by the landowner to fill and shape his agricultural fields.

- A letter of consent is required from the landowner to permit the spoiling of subsoil on his property.

The contractor should note that the topsoil should be kept separate from any other material to prevent contamination.

3. Paleontological Impact Assessment

The palaeontologist (Dr John Almond) visited the site on the **19th of January 2021** and report the following:

"This is to confirm that we did not observe any fossil material within the reservoir and pipeline footprint, that there are no palaeontological heritage objections to further construction, and no further specialist palaeontological mitigation is considered to be necessary, pending the discovery of any change fossil finds."

No further palaeontologist site inspections are necessary. The ECO will continue to monitor the site for any potential fossil material.

4. Access to site

The existing road leading to site was upgraded to provide better access for construction vehicles. Please be reminded that driving off the designated access roads is not permitted. Access to site is being controlled by the contractor to prevent any unauthorised access to the site – there is a guard at the farm gate.



5. No-Go Demarcation

No-Go demarcation is in place. It was noted that the current orange netting at the top excavation area is not sturdy enough to prevent the cattle from pushing it over. It was suggested that a stronger, more stable fence be installed to prevent the cattle from entering the excavation/construction area. The ECO monitors maintenance and adherence to the demarcation during site inspections.



2021.02.10 – The No-Go demarcation at the top of the excavation area on the Southern edge of the reservoir.



2021.02.10 – The orange netting is only installed on the southern edge, where the deepest excavated area is.

6. Construction Site

The site camp is fenced off correctly and set up in an area that is not within or adjacent a sensitive natural area.



2021.01.14 – Site camp



2021.01.14 – Site camp

Adequate litter bins are provided at the site camp and littering issues should be covered in regular “toolbox” talks with all staff members. Portable toilet facilities are available on site for male and female construction workers.

A bunded concrete mixing area, which is lined with a non-permeable layer, was created for small patchwork. The contractor should ensure that the contaminated runoff water is always contained and disposed of at an authorised disposal facility. Major works will be done with Ready-mix concrete – please note that the Ready-mix trucks are not allowed to rinse out anywhere on site.

No construction activity (OR RUBBLE/WASTE) may occur in the natural vegetation area – this was not approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs.



2021.02.10 – A litter bin is located in the site camp



2021.02.10 – On-site ablution facilities



2021.02.10 – Concrete mixing area

2021.02.10 – Fire extinguisher on site

7. Dust Management

The contractor is reminded that dust mitigation measure must be implemented, as and when required. This will include spraying of water on gravel roads or exposed areas that generate dust or covering haul roads / exposed areas with wood chip to reduce the generation of dust – where necessary. This includes the management of dust originating from any of the stockpiles.

Conclusion

The ECO is satisfied that the contractor is aware of the environmental requirements. The contractor should ensure that the construction site (excavation area) is demarcated appropriately to prevent the farm animals from entering the site. Regular litter picking is recommended. The Palaeontologist confirmed that there were no fossil materials found during his site inspection and that no further palaeontologist site inspections are required.

ECO site visit dates:

14 January 2021	ECO site inspection & environmental induction
19 January 2021	Palaeontologist site inspection
10 February 2021	ECO site inspection