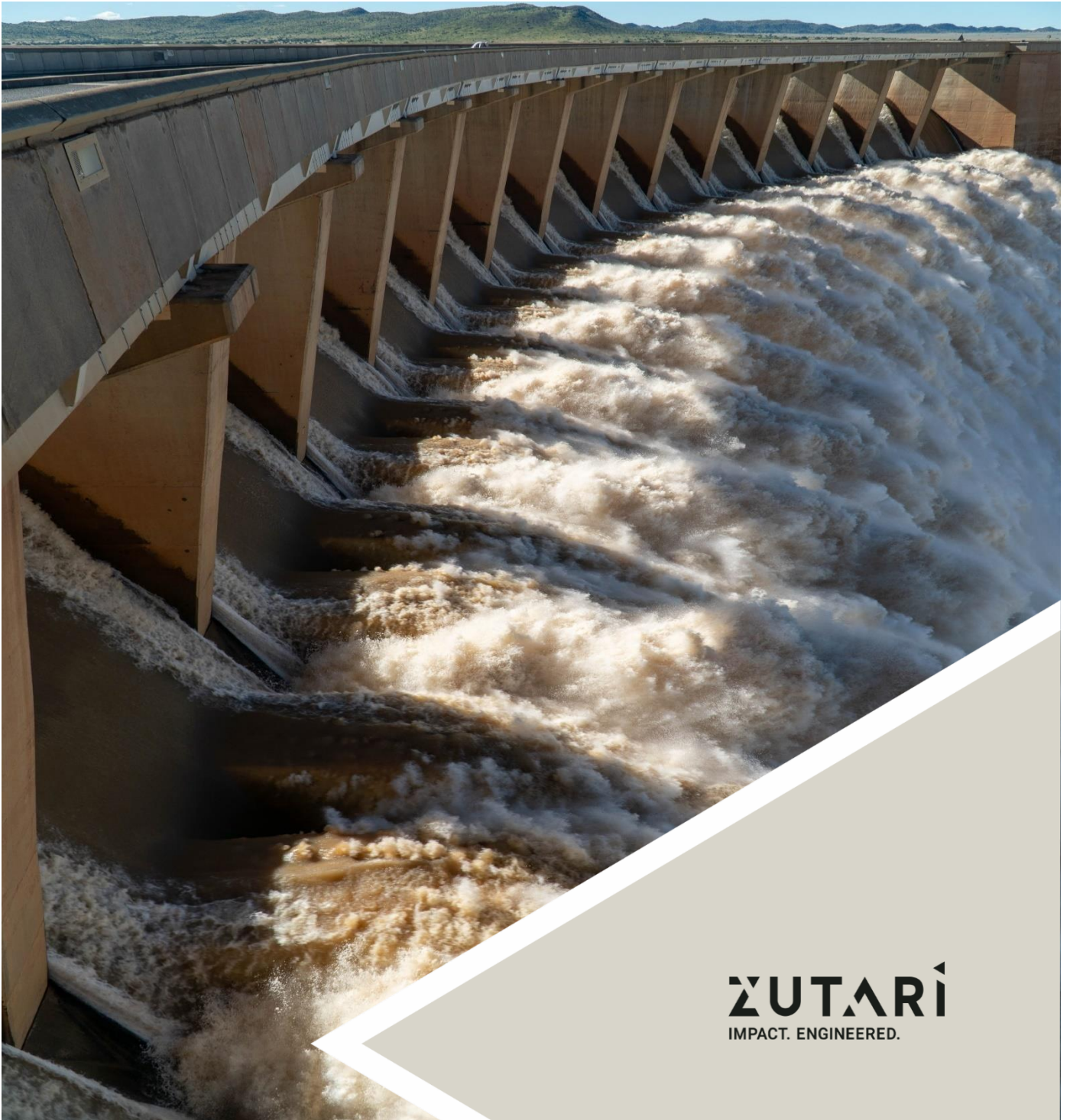


Background Information Document

Greater Mangaung Water Augmentation Project: Xhariep Pipeline, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State

JUNE 2024

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND SANITATION



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PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) provides Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information about the proposed project and its components, the steps in the environmental regulatory process and how to become involved.

Invitation to comment and register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)

You are invited to register as an I&AP for the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) process for the proposed Xhariep Pipeline Project.

Should you wish to hear more about the project or wish to comment or raise issues, please complete the enclosed Registration and Comment Form and return it to:

Genie de Waal
Public Participation Facilitator
Zutari

CONTACT DETAILS:

xhariep@zutari.com
083 564 1530

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is proposing to construct a potable water pipeline from the Gariep Dam wall connecting to the existing bulk water distribution system for the Greater Bloemfontein Water Supply System (GBWSS). The proposed scheme will traverse the Xhariep District Municipality (XDM) and the Kopanong Local Municipality (KLM) in particular, as well as the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (MMM). The entire project will be located in the Free State Province.

The Xhariep Pipeline Project was originally identified in the 2012 Reconciliation Strategy for the GBWSS as an augmentation project to supply the area's future water demands.

Several other interventions were identified in the Strategy, but this project focuses on the Xhariep Pipeline from Gariep Dam tying into the bulk water network of the GBWSS.

MMM previously applied for Environmental Authorisation (EA) through a Basic Assessment process which has since lapsed. Additionally, this study, in line with the DWS regional perspective, has added new pipeline route options and the position of infrastructure components have changed.

The proposed Xhariep project will involve abstraction at the Gariep dam from existing outlet pipes in the Gariep Dam, a raw water pumping station, and transfer pipelines to a water treatment works (WTW) located at a suitable site near the Gariep dam. The treated water will be pumped to Bloemfontein and Rustfontein WTW with command reservoirs and booster pumpstations along the route. Support services for bulk power and communication will be provided.

PROPOSED ROUTE

The proposed route is known as **Scheme 1B** and will be a potable pipeline from Gariep Dam to Bloemfontein (mostly along the N1) and Botshabelo / Thaba Nchu consisting of the following:

- Tie-in at existing pipeline downstream of Gariep Dam
- The low lift pump station at or near the connection to the Gariep Dam,
- A WTW with a high lift pump station,
- A command reservoir,
- A booster pump station,
- A 2nd command reservoir,
- The entire pipeline route from the Gariep Dam to the connection points in Bloemfontein and near Rustfontein WTW (supplying Botshabelo / Thaba Nchu).

Scheme 1B shown as the purple lines in *Figure 1*, Scheme 1A (previously authorised route) is shown in orange for comparative purposes. The Scheme 1B route follows the N1 highway from Gariep Dam but turns eastwards before reaching Tierpoort Dam. The pipeline continues to a command reservoir east of the R702 where it splits into two gravity lines, one feeding Bloemfontein, tying into the MMM bulk network, while the other feeds Botshabelo / Thaba Nchu, tying into the Vaal Central Water Board (VCWB) bulk network. Scheme 1B is potable water to be treated at a new WTW close to Gariep Dam.

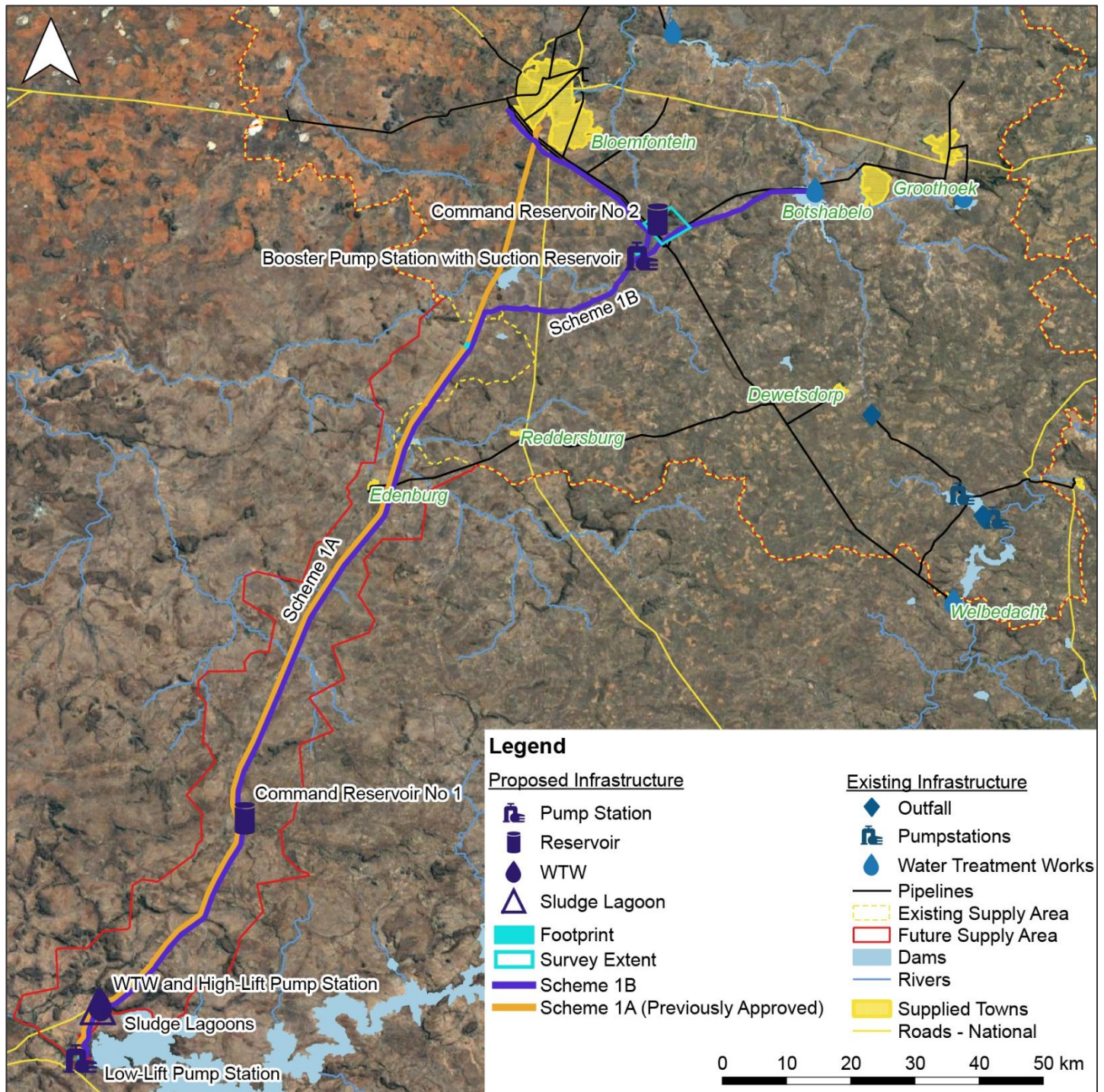


Figure 1: Scheme 1B for the Xhariep Pipeline Project

LEGAL PROCESS

The following EA and licence applications must be approved per the relevant national legislation:

- An application for EA in terms of the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) via a Basic Assessment process, per the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended.
 - Listing Notice 1, Activity 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19 and 27 (Activities which require authorisation *via* a Basic Assessment)
 - Listing Notice 3, Activity 4, 10 and 12 (Activities that or geographically bound and which require authorisation *via* a Basic Assessment)
- A Heritage Assessment according to Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA, Act 25 of 1999).
- A Water Use License Application (WULA) process in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) for the following water uses:
 - Section 21 (a): Abstraction of water from a water resource
 - Section 21 (b); Storage of water
 - Section 21 (c): Impeding and diverting the flow of a watercourse.
 - Section 21 (i): Altering the beds, banks, course and characteristics of a watercourse.
 - Section 21 (g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.

Through the Basic assessment process and PPP, potential environmental issues will be identified and assessed.

The results of this assessment will be presented in the Draft Basic Assessment Report.

All registered I&APs will be afforded an opportunity to comment on this report before the report is submitted to the component authority the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) as well as the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for review and decision-making.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

A single integrated PPP will be undertaken for both the Basic Assessment and WULA processes and will be facilitated by Zutari in compliance with all legislative requirements. The associated PPP is aimed at:

- Developing an understanding of the project area;
- Developing an understanding of the proposed and anticipated development and how its related activities may potentially impact the surrounding environment;
- Identifying relevant stakeholders, regulatory authorities and I&APs to engage in the process;

- Facilitating the dissemination of information to the relevant authorities and I&APs and providing them with an opportunity to raise issues or concerns related to the project;
- Identifying potential issues and environmental impacts, through specialist studies;
- Assessing the significance of the potential environmental impacts identified;
- Describing and investigating alternatives that have been and or could be considered; and
- Providing feasible mitigation measures to address any significant impacts identified from the activities to be authorised.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE

Public involvement is an integral part of the BAR and WULA processes and aims to include I&APs in the process by informing them of the proposed project and providing an opportunity to submit comments. Anyone can participate in the process by:

- Registering as an I&AP by completing and returning the attached Registration and Comments form by email to xhariep@zutari.com, or simply by emailing your contact details, or by using the online response form at the below link and QR code:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/592a24050e154524b919d662e9a37b3e?portalUrl=https://geoverse.zutari.com/portal>



- If you wish to register telephonically, or would like further information, please contact Marianna Taljaard during office hours on +27-44-805 5410.
- Reviewing the draft BAR.

The Draft BAR will be available for review for a period of 30 days from 3 June 2024 to 4 July 2024. This report can be accessed on the project web page at the Zutari webpage link <https://geoverse.zutari.com/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=2f48681c19a24836bcfc03da3c653c3a> or at the DWS webpage link <https://www.dws.gov.za/projects.aspx> or in hard copy format at the following public libraries:

- Gariepdam Library - 11 Patrys Street
- Edenburg Library - 16 Church Street
- Trompsburg Library - 78 Voortrekker Street
- Lourierpark Library - Cnr Doringklaat & Nanabessie Streets



The comment period for the WULA will run from 3 June 2024 to 5 August 2024, a period of 60 days.

- Comments must be submitted in writing.
- To hear more, you are invited to attend a public information sharing meeting on 11 June 2024 at the below times and locations:
 - 08:00 – 10:30: Gariep Dam, de Stijl Gariep Hotel, 2 Aasvoel Street
 - 12:30 – 15:00: Trompsburg, Trompsburg Primary School (Kuier & Kleits Sentrum), 392 Wessels Street
 - 18:00 – 20:30: Bloemfontein, Protea Hotel by Marriott Bloemfontein Willow Lake, 101 Henry Street, Willows

Registration and Comment Form:

Greater Mangaung Water Augmentation Project: Xhariep Pipeline, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State

TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION			
YOUR INTEREST IN THE PROJECT	(Please indicate whether for the BAR, the WULA, or both)		
POSTAL & PHYSICAL ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
LANDLINE TEL NO		CELL NO	
EMAIL ADDRESS			

COMMENTS (please use separate sheets if you wish)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Zutari places a high premium on the privacy & personal information of our stakeholders. The processing of personal information is subject to the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), Act No. 4 of 2013.

As a responsible party, Zutari is entrusted with the personal information of many stakeholders such as yourself, potential clients, staff and service providers and we are therefore obligated to process this information in line with the law.