



NINHAM SHAND
CONSULTING SERVICES

81 Church Street, Cape Town, 8001
P O Box 1347, Cape Town, 8000
Tel: +27 21 481 2400 / Fax: +27 21 424 5588
E-mail: enviro@shands.co.za
Website: www.shands.co.za

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Dear Sir/ Madam

**RAISING OF CLANWILLIAM DAM AND ASSOCIATED REALIGNMENT OF AFFECTED
ROADS IN THE CLANWILLIAM AREA: EIA Process**

Our correspondence of May 2006 informing you of a delay to the environmental process has reference. This letter is to inform you that the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (the DWAF) has received approval from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (D:EA&DP) in September 2006 to continue with the next phase of the assessment process.

The Current Status of the Raising of Clanwilliam Dam

We have been contacted by several members of the public who reported rumours that the decision had been taken to raise the dam and that work would commence shortly. This is not true. The Feasibility Study, which is being undertaken concurrently with the environmental assessment, will be completed in early 2007 and only then will the DWAF have sufficient technical and cost information to consider this decision. It should be noted however that the dam safety construction work, to strengthen of the wall, will be undertaken by or before 2010, irrespective of whether or not the wall is raised. The work to ensure that the dam wall meets the dam safety requirements and the decision whether or not to raise the dam should not be confused.

Programme for finalisation of the Environmental Assessment

The DWAF now has approval to continue with the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the team will be finalising the specialist studies and preparing the draft EIR during the final months of 2006. It is therefore anticipated that the draft EIR will be made available to the public for comment from January 2007 and a public meeting will be hosted in Clanwilliam in late January/ early February 2007. We will provide you with an Executive Summary of the Report and the details of the public meeting as soon as they are available.

As previously noted in project documents and at the public meetings, included in the authorisation processes required by the raising of the dam is an application for permission in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No 28 of 2002) to extend an existing quarry near the Clanwilliam Dam Wall (on the western side of the N7), in order to provide the necessary construction material for the dam raising. An opportunity to comment on the proposed application for the quarry will be provided to the public during the same period in January. After this, the document will be updated as appropriate before being submitted to the Department of Mineral and Energy (DME) for consideration.

Database

We have received some complaints that some of our project correspondence has not been received by certain individuals. We apologise for any inconvenience. We have checked our database against all registrations to eradicate any possible errors and will be emailing copies of all correspondence to those who have provided email addresses, in addition to the hardcopy version in order to respond to this concern. Please check the address on the envelope and update your details with us, where necessary.

Project Information

Please remember that all public documentation on this project is available on the Ninham Shand website at www.ninhamshand.co.za. Please use the "[Hot Topics](#)" button at the top right of the home page to help you find it.

Way Forward

The anticipated programme is shown below:

Oct 2006-Jan 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the Draft EIR and mining EMPR
Jan 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Executive Summary of Draft EIR to public, lodge in libraries and on website • Send notification of the Public Meeting
Jan/Feb 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold Public Meeting and public to submit comments on report
Feb 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise EIR and submit to D: EA&DP • Finalise the mining EMPR and submit to DME
??	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify public of the Record of Decision

Should you have any queries, please contact the undersigned details provided below.

Yours sincerely



DOREEN FEBRUARIE

Public Participation Co-ordinator
Nosipho Consultancy



KAREN SHIPPEY

EIA Co-ordinator
(Certified Environmental Assessment Practitioner)

CONTACT DETAILS:

Public Participation:

Nosipho Consultancy
P O Box 174 KUILSRIVER 7579
(t) (021) 903-5911 (f) (021) 903-8376
nosiphocc@telkomsa.net

Technical Team

P. O. Box 1347
CAPE TOWN 8000
(t) (021) 481 2400 (f) (021) 424 5588
Erik.vanderberg@shands.co.za