

Notification of Public Participation

Proposed upgrade of Bulk Sewers, Replacing of Small-Bore Sanitation System at Woodlands, Koukamma Local Municipality, Eastern Cape

The existing small-bore gravity sewer reticulation and digester system servicing Woodland's settlement is in urgent need of upgrade. The system overflows in peak conditions; limited capacity to clean the digesters has often led to unsanitary conditions.

The Koukamma Local Municipality (KKLM) has commissioned SMEC South Africa to design and implement the required upgrade; the following is proposed:

- Discontinue current digester tank system; replace internal reticulation pipes
- Re-route and upgrade bulk sewer collector; The new system will operate as a gravity sewer
- WWTW capacity upgrade from 250 kl/d to 1000kl/d; development footprint of 2.2 ha; head of works, treatment process, sludge management

In terms of the National Water Act 36 of 1998, the upgrade requires an integrated Water Use License (WUL) for Section 21 water uses:

- c - Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse
- i - Altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse
- f- Discharge of waste or water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe, canal, sewer or other conduit (Woodlands WWTW currently has a valid General Authorization (Ref 27/2/2/K480/7/8) for S21f)
- g - Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), the proposed upgrade requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the following:

2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, as amended, 2017:

GNR. 327 - Activity 19 - infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic meters...

GNR. 327 - Activity 27 - clearance of 1 hectares or more, less than 20 hectares...

GNR. 324 -Activity 14 - development of (ii) infrastructure or structures (10m² or more) within watercourse/ 32 m of watercourse...

GNR. 324 -Activity 23 - expansion of (ii) infrastructure or structures (10m² or more) within watercourse/ 32 m of watercourse...

To be confirmed - In terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) (NEMWA) the WWTW will not require a waste management license; Category C: Norms and Standards for the treatment of organic waste may apply.

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 41 of the NEMA EIA regulations that KKLM will be applying for an EA from the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism and for a WUL from the Department of Water and Sanitation. A Basic Assessment process will be carried out as part of the EA application process.

A public participation process will be conducted in terms of the NEMA Regulation 41 of GN R. 326, 2014, as amended. All interested and affected parties (IAPs) are encouraged to participate in the process.

Register and / or submit initial comments as an IAP within 30 days of this notice to contact details provided.

Registration period: 27 March to 2 May 2025

A draft basic assessment report will be made available to all registered IAPs for a 30-day review and comment period.

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Comments for the WULA are requested to be submitted within 60-days from start of this public participation notice: **27 March – 2 June 2025. Written comments pertaining to the WULA Public**

Participation: Sonia Jordaan, Confluent Environmental, sonia@confluent.co.za or 062 743 2416.