

Status of the Mooi-Mgeni Transfer Scheme – Phase 2 (MMTS-2)



19 December 2013

PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter provides a brief status report on:

1. Construction of the Spring Grove Dam
2. Construction of the Water Transfer System
3. Site closure for 2013

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SPRING GROVE DAM

Construction Progress and Reservoir Level

Construction of the Spring Grove Dam, three gauging weirs and the fish barrier are now almost complete. The contractor, i.e. Group Five Pandev Joint Venture (G5PJV), is completing minor outstanding work and has commenced with demobilisation. G5PJV will permanently be off site by end of December 2013.

The level of the Spring Grove Dam reservoir is increasing and on 9 December 2013 it was 1417.5 masl. This is 16% of the storage volume at the Full Supply Level (i.e. 1433.5 masl).



Follow the weekly updates on <http://www.springgrovedam.co.za/Impoundment%20Stats.html>



The official launch of the Spring Grove Dam

On 19 November 2013, President Jacob Zuma officially launched the Spring Grove Dam as part of the roll out of Government's Infrastructure Build Programme. In his closing remarks in the speech he delivered to the community in Mooi River, he stated, *"Even as we continue to raise the numbers of those accessing potable water, we need to remember that every drop counts. We must therefore save water. Not a drop must be wasted, not a drop must be polluted, and all infrastructure must be cared for. Water is Life. Let's conserve it, respect it and enjoy it!"*



Social Matters

Hundred and twelve (112) graves were exhumed and relocated. In October 2013, the process was concluded.

TCTA purchased a property on the Greytown Road in Mooi River for the construction of houses for the farm labourers and tenants who lived in the dam basin. The property was originally zoned as agricultural and a rezoning to residential is required. The necessary application was submitted to the Mpofana Municipality and a decision is awaited. The families have been temporarily relocated to the existing buildings that were refurbished on the Old Greytown Road. TCTA has assisted these families with relocation and have compensated them for the burden of this activity. TCTA will also compensate them for all standing crops and fruit trees at the time of relocation which was December 2012. Once they have been moved into the new houses, they will receive a solatium payment (for setting up their new homes). Two households opted to move to Howick and three into a chiefdom area. TCTA has assisted these families with their relocation and the purchase of their houses.

The Resource Management Plan (RMP)

For the following reasons, Nema Consulting was appointed by TCTA to compile the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the new Spring Grove Dam.

1. To safeguard national resources (i.e. water and infrastructure);
2. To protect the rights of the surrounding affected community;
3. To investigate, evaluate and harness the potential for recreational use and economic development in a sustainable and equitable manner; and
4. To propose the institutional structure for the future management of the dam and state land.

Compilation of the RMP is a formal process which is now underway. The main objectives and goals are highlight above, however various encumbrances such as access, minimal shoreline area, surrounding private land, fluctuating reservoir levels, etc. will be taken into consideration.

You can read more about the RMP process on <http://www.springgrovedam.co.za/rmp.html>

CONSTRUCTION OF THE WATER TRANSFER SYSTEM

Update on the Environmental Authorisation

A positive Environmental Authorisation (EA) was issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in August 2013. The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) submitted an application to amend certain conditions of the EA, which was approved by DEA on 29 November 2013. Should you as an Interested and Affected Party, wish to appeal any aspect of the amendment decision, you must submit a notice of intent to appeal with the Minister. You can download the amended EA and details on the appeals procedures:

<http://www.springgrovedam.co.za/Environmental%20Authorisation.html>

Establishment of the Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC)

One of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation is that an EMC to monitor construction activities. The purpose of the EMC is to provide a structure/forum where representative sectors of society (e.g. government, NGOs, private sector, community and civil society organisations) can exchange information and insights with the project authorities and monitor the compliance of the project against specific environmental and social objectives.

Should you wish to be part of the EMC, or would like to nominate someone to represent your interests, please urgently submit your/their details to TCTA through Ms Kogi Govender, TCTA's environmental manager, on: 0835649285 or kgovender@tcta.co.za.

Furthermore, the EMC has to nominate an independent chairperson. TCTA invites you to submit names and CVs for the above position. In January 2014 a special EMC meeting will be held where the nominated individuals will be interviewed by the committee and voted to be the chairperson.

The Spring Grove Dam has an excellent EMC who met monthly during construction of the dam. These meetings were chaired by Mr David Cook. To learn more about this EMC and how it functions, visit the following site: <http://www.springgrovedam.co.za/emc.html>.

Appointment of Environmental Control Officer (ECO)

The appointment of the ECO is one of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation. The role of the ECO is to act as an independent professional to undertake periodic monitoring and third-party auditing of compliance against the Environmental Management Plan, the Environmental Authorisation and other legislative requirements. The function of the ECO is also to support the EMC. SiVEST has been appointed as the ECO to monitor the construction of the Water Transfer System.

Land Acquisition

Land acquisition has commenced in earnest. A phased approach has been adopted and those landowners on the gravity section of pipeline (i.e. from Gowrie Village to the Mpozana River) have been contacted first and issued with notices under Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA). The next phase would be issue notices those landowners on the rising section of the pipeline (i.e. from the Spring Grove Dam to the break pressure tank at Gowrie Village). It is anticipated that by the end of January 2014, all landowners would have been issued with notices.

The above notices will be immediately by expropriation notices with compensation offers, where applicable.

Start of Construction

WBHO Construction has been awarded the construction of the Water Transfer System contract. Construction will commence at the end of January 2014. The contract duration is about two years. Construction of the pipeline will begin at the Mpofana River Outfall and work towards the Spring Grove Dam. The construction of the pump station will be concurrent

The existing temporary office facilities at the Spring Grove Dam site will be utilised by WBHO. This site will also be used for the establishment of other facilities and storage of materials required for construction.

WHO YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH

An Issues Register is available on site to record any issues, complaints or compliments. Each issue and/or complaint is allocated a reference number for the purposes of tracking the status. The responsible person is the Social Monitor, **Katie Fenenga**.

Katie can be contacted on: **0833874604** or katie@nomadconsulting.co.za.



SITE CLOSURE

Please note that the official Spring Grove Dam site and offices construction shutdown will be from **12h00 on Thursday 12 December 2013 to 06h00 on Wednesday 8 January 2014**. A small team from G5PJV will continue to work on completing minor outstanding work on the dam until Friday 20 December 2013, at which point all construction activities will cease for the year.

Nsele Security will be on site for the duration of the shutdown period. There will be dayshift and nightshift guards, with additional guards to roam the perimeter. The Nsele Security contact details are as follows:

Contact person: Fritz, on 083 651 9198 / 076 497 6109

Nsele Office: Office number: 033 263 1900 / 033 263 2005

Please be reminded that there is absolutely no public access to the Spring Grove Dam - that includes both the water body, the dam wall, gauging weirs and fish barriers. There is no access to the public for recreational activities under any circumstances, and boundaries/perimeter have been clearly marked with fencing and signage. Any trespassers will be treated as such and TCTA will not be held liable in the case of accident or injury.



At this holiday season our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. The project team wishes to thank you for your unwavering support. May you rejoice in the spirit of the Christmas season and may the New Year bring you peace and prosperity.