

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



12 December 2014

## PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter provides a brief status report on:

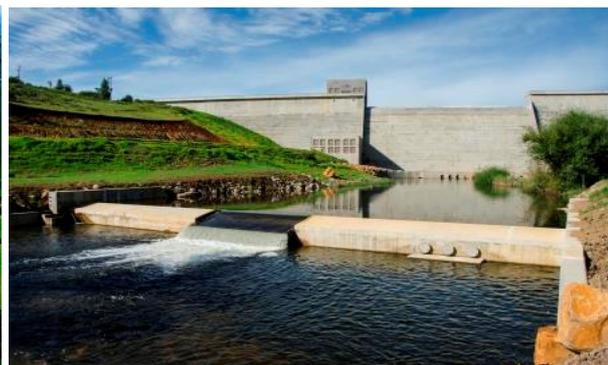
1. Construction of the Spring Grove Dam;
2. Construction of the Water Transfer System;
3. Who you can communicate with; and
4. Site closure for 2014.

## CONSTRUCTION OF THE SPRING GROVE DAM

Construction of the Spring Grove Dam, three gauging weirs, the Fish Barrier and associated access roads has been completed. About 106 million m<sup>3</sup> (76%) of water is stored at the Spring Grove Dam as at 11 December 2014.

The following items are still to be finalised:

- The rehabilitation of various areas impacted by construction, which has been ongoing for two wet seasons, is expected to be signed off by the Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) in March 2015.
- Nemai Consulting was appointed by TCTA to compile the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Spring Grove Dam. The process is complete and the next step is to request the Minister of Water and Sanitation to gazette and approve the RMP. The outcome of the RMP process is that recreational access is currently not viable at the Spring Grove Dam, therefore the dam is closed to the public and no recreational use is permitted.
- The Biodiversity Offset Plan is being finalised. TCTA will submit the plan to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) by March 2015.
- The revised SG Diagrams have been submitted to the office of the Surveyor General (SG). Approval by the SG is pending the compliance with the KwaZulu-Natal Planning and Development Act No. 6 of 1998. The applications to the affected municipalities will be submitted in January 2015.
- Construction of 37 resettlement houses for families, who lived in the dam basin and have been temporarily relocated, has commenced and completion is expected in early 2015. Although 107 confirmed graves have been relocated, there are several queries by the next-of-kin that the project team is attending to.



## CONSTRUCTION OF THE WATER TRANSFER SYSTEM

### Construction Progress

Approximately 45% of the pipeline has been laid (i.e. 10 km), with the gravity main (from Gowrie Village to the outfall at the Mpopana River) being almost complete. The construction of the pump station at the Spring Grove Dam site is on-going and it is anticipated that the hydro-mechanical installations will commence in February 2015.

The Water Transfer System also includes – 14 access chambers, 48 air valves, 25 scour valves, 5 launching/receiving stations, 10 other chambers (including cross connections, break pressure tank, reducer stations, outfall structures at the Mpopana River). Construction of these structures is at various stages.



### Environmental Monitoring and Compliance

The EMC has been operational since January 2014 and the next meeting is on 11 February 2015. The ECO (SiVEST) has been monitoring the construction of the Water Transfer System for environmental compliance. The average score achieved in 2014 is 98%.

In compliance with the Environmental Authorisation, the paleontological study and wetland rehabilitation plan were submitted and approved by DEA. The baseline survey report for the Mpopana River banks (the receiving stream) is being finalised for submission to DEA.



### Land Acquisition

Land acquisition has been completed for the MMTS-2 Water Transfer System pipeline. In March 2014, TCTA received a Directive from the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs to construct a section of Umgeni Water's potable water pipeline for the Greater Mpopana Bulk Water Supply Scheme. Land acquisition of several properties on the section of the potable water pipeline from the break pressure tank at Gowrie Village, in a north-easterly direction for approximately 1 km, to a reservoir is outstanding.

### Sporting Facilities

The relocated and extensively upgraded sports facilities at Zenzani Village have been completed. This work took place due to the impact of the pipeline construction, however, the official hand-over is still pending. The project team is liaising with the community in Zenzani to finalise the matter.



## 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](mailto:katie@nomadconsulting.co.za).

You can read more about the project on <http://www.springgrovedam.co.za>

## SITE CLOSURE FOR 2014

Please note that the official Spring Grove Dam site and offices construction shutdown will be from **12h00 on Thursday 11 December 2014 to 06h00 on Wednesday 7 January 2015**. A small team from WBHO will continue to work on completing minor outstanding work (i.e. ensuring certain works are safe and catching up on works that are behind schedule) until Friday 19 December 2014, 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 patrol 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 (includes the water body, the dam wall, gauging weirs and fish barriers) and the Water Transfer System (all sites for the pump station and pipeline sites). There is no access to the public for recreational activities under any circumstances, and boundaries/perimeters 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.