



GAUTENG PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Reference: Gaut 002/13-14/E0223
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American International School Johannesburg
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Bryanston
2021

Attn: Mr Shane McLaren
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Email: smclaren@aisj-jhb.com

GDARD
Office of the HOD

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PER FACSIMILE/ REGISTERED MAIL

Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF PORTION 105 OF THE FARM DIEPSLOOT 388-JR AND THE REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF A WETLAND SYSTEM ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF PORTION 186 OF THE FARM DIEPSLOOT 388-JR, AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL JOHANNESBURG, CITY OF JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

With reference to the above-mentioned application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The environmental authorisation and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 10 (2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010, you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 12 calendar days of the date of this letter, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the making of appeals that are provided for in the regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 7 of the Regulations which regulates appeal procedures. Should you wish to appeal any aspect of the decision, you must, *inter alia*, lodge a notice of intention to appeal with the MEC, within 20 days of the date of this letter, by means of one of the following methods:

By facsimile: (086) 333 0620;
By post: P.O. Box 8769, Johannesburg 2000; or
By hand: 4th Floor, Diamond Building, 11 Diagonal Street, Newtown, Johannesburg.

Should you decide to appeal, you must serve a copy of your notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection.

Yours faithfully

Ms. T.R. Mbassa-Sigabi
Head: Agriculture and Rural Development

Date 22/07/14

Cc

GDARD Compliance & Enforcement Branch

Attn: Environmental compliance Monitoring
Tel: (011) 240 - 2555
Fax: 086 420 - 2110

GDARD EPIA

Attn: Mr. Marc Leroy
Fax: 086 620 7364

City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality

Attn: Lebo Molefe
Tel: (011) 587- 4201
Fax: 086 627 - 7516

Seaton Thomson and Associates

Attn: Judy Johnston
Tel: (012) 667 2107
Fax: (012) 667 2109

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Environmental Authorisation

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Authorisation register number: Gaut 002/13-14/E0223

Holder of authorisation: American International School
Johannesburg

Location of activity: Portion 105 of the Farm Diepsloot 388-
JR and Portion 186 of the Farm Diepsloot
388-JR, Gauteng

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be Authorised to undertake the activity specified below.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010, the Department hereby authorizes the –

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2021

Tel: 011 809 1821
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to undertake the following activity (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) –

The proposed development of portion 105 of the Farm Diepsloot 388-JR (as per plan A03 of the Basic Assessment Report dated May 2014) and the rehabilitation and restoration of a wetland system (as per plan IS-3034-100-A of 14 Feb 2014) on the eastern side of portion 186 of the Farm Diepsloot 388-JR. The proposed project falls within the jurisdiction of City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, hereafter referred to as “the property”.

The granting of this environmental authorisation is subject to the conditions set out below.

Conditions

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Scope of authorisation

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- 1.1 Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this authorisation, which conditions form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
- 1.2 The holder of the authorisation shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his or her behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, sub-contractor, employee or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
- 1.3 The activity which is authorised may only be carried out at the property indicated above.
- 1.4 Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further authorisation in terms of the regulations.

- 1.5 This activity must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
- 1.6 This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Appeal of authorisation

- 1.7 The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within ten (10) calendar days, of receiving notice of the Department's decision to authorise the activity.
- 1.8 The notification referred to in 1.7 must –
 - 1.8.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 1.8.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the regulations; and advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation and reasons for the decision will be furnished on request.

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Management of the activity

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- 1.9. This environmental authorisation is for the preferred alternatives.
 - 1.10. The EMPr submitted as part of the application for the Environmental Authorization is approved. All recommendations of mitigation measures included in the EMPr must be adhered to.
 - 1.11. Any deviations from the proposed development must be approved by the Department before commencement.
 - 1.12. Indigenous vegetation must be retained as much as possible and in accordance the plan IS-3034-100-A of 14 Feb 2014. Rehabilitation must include the removal of alien species and planting of plant species that are indigenous to the local area.
 - 1.13. The Applicant must ensure safety of the construction site during excavations, no unauthorised people entering the site and that staff working on site wear the correct safety attire at all times
 - 1.14. The Applicant must also ensure that all waste including rubble and other debris are removed and adequately disposed of at a licensed municipal site
 - 1.15. The development must comply with the conditions of the environmental authorisation.
 - 1.16. An independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be appointed to monitor compliance with the environmental authorisation during the construction phase.
 - 1.17. A water use license must be obtained prior to commencement of the activities in the wetland area
 - 1.18. Pedestrian crossing must be provided at the intersection of Scorpion trail with Mnandi road on the Northern side. The grass here should be regularly cut to provide walking space for pedestrians
 - 1.19. Any fencing of the wetland area must be permeable to allow for animal movement
 - 1.20. A quarterly Wetland Status Monitoring and Progress report must be submitted to the Environment and Infrastructure Services Department in the City of Johannesburg for a period of 24 months following completion of construction phase
 - 1.21. The sewerage package plant must be designed and installed in accordance with acceptable engineering and waste water treatment standards
 - 1.22. The sewerage package plant must be properly monitored at all times for any sign of spillages and the various chemical constituents, EColi levels and conductivity of the treated effluent created by it must be tested on a monthly basis to make sure that it is within the Department of Water Affairs limits for waste water irrigation
 - 1.23. The sewerage package plant must be fenced off

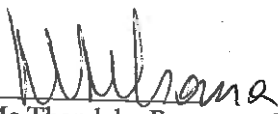
Commissioning of the activity

- 1.24. Thirty (30) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence.

General

- 1.25. A copy of this authorisation must be kept at the property where the activity will be undertaken. The authorisation must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
- 1.26. Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/ or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.
- 1.27. The holder of the authorisation must notify the Department, in writing and within twenty four (24) hours, if conditions of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.
- 1.28. Non-compliance with a condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the regulations.

Date of environmental authorisation: 22/07/14


Ms Thandeka Rosemary Mbasasigabi
Head: Agriculture and Rural Development

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Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Background

The applicant, American International School Johannesburg applied for authorization to carry on the following activities –

Activity 9 (GN 544)

The construction of facilities or infrastructure exceeding 1000m in length for the bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water-

- (i) *with an internal diameter of 0.36m or more; or*
- (ii) *with a throughput of 120 litres per second or more,*

...

Activity 11 (GN 544)

The construction of:

- (i) ...
- (iv) *dams;*
- (v) ...
- (vi) *bulk storm water outlet structures;*
- (vii) ...,

where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.

Activity 18 (GN 544)

The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock or more than 5 cubic metres from:

- (i) *a watercourse;*
- (ii) ...

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Activity 23 (GN 544)

The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to –

...

- (ii) *residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares; -*

...

Activity 13 (GN 546)

The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation-

- (d) *In Gauteng:*

...

- v. *Sites identified as irreplaceable or important in the Gauteng Conservation Plan*

The applicant appointed Seaton Thomson & Associates to undertake a basic assessment process.

Notification, Public Participation Process, Basic Assessment Report compiled and submitted to Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for review. No exemption was granted during the process.

2. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The information contained in the Basic Assessment Report for the development of portion 105 of the Farm Diepsloot 388-JR with 2 sports fields, additional staff housing, an attenuation pond, an access road through the property and a self-contained sewerage package plant as well as the rehabilitation and restoration of a wetland system on the eastern side of portion 186 of the Farm Diepsloot 388-JR. The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the Basic Assessment Report.
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base including the Biodiversity Conservation Plan.
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).
- d) The findings of the site inspection undertaken by Marc Leroy and Malesotse Makgalemele on the 10 June 2014

3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The area on portion 105 is mostly transformed with alien species plants and the site is deemed to be of little conservation value and is not important or irreplaceable in terms of the Gauteng C-Plan, so the construction of 2 sports fields, additional staff housing, an attenuation pond, an access road through the property and a self-contained sewerage package plant is not seen as detrimental and will be out of the 32m buffer zone from the river and wetland on that site.
- b) The rehabilitation and restoration of the Wetland system on the Eastern side of Portion 186 of the Farm Diepsloot 388-JR will be beneficial and result in attenuating storm water, removal of alien vegetation and the replanting of indigenous vegetation as well as being of educational benefit for the school

4. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The development will have a positive socio-economic impact on the local people in the area in terms of creating employment in the semi-skilled and formally skilled sector
- b) The rehabilitation and restoration of a wetland system on portion 186 which will be used for educational purposes by the school will enhance local biodiversity and improve storm water management.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the proposed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted.

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