



REFERENCE: 14/1/1/E2/1/2/3/0302/17

ENQUIRIES: Fahd Said

BY EMAIL

Email: pro@robab.co.za

Trustee

Reben Trust

P O Box 895

ROBERTSON

6740

COMPLIANCE NOTICE

Dear Mr H De Bod

COMPLIANCE NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 31L OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998

1. I, Dr Eshaam Palmer, in my capacity as an Environmental Management Inspector Grade 1, hereby issues Mr H De Bod in your capacity as a trustee of the Reben Trust with a Compliance Notice in terms of section 31L of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 ("NEMA").

2. This Compliance Notice relates to non-compliance with the provisions of section 24F of the NEMA. No activity listed in the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014 may commence without environmental authorisation from the competent authority.

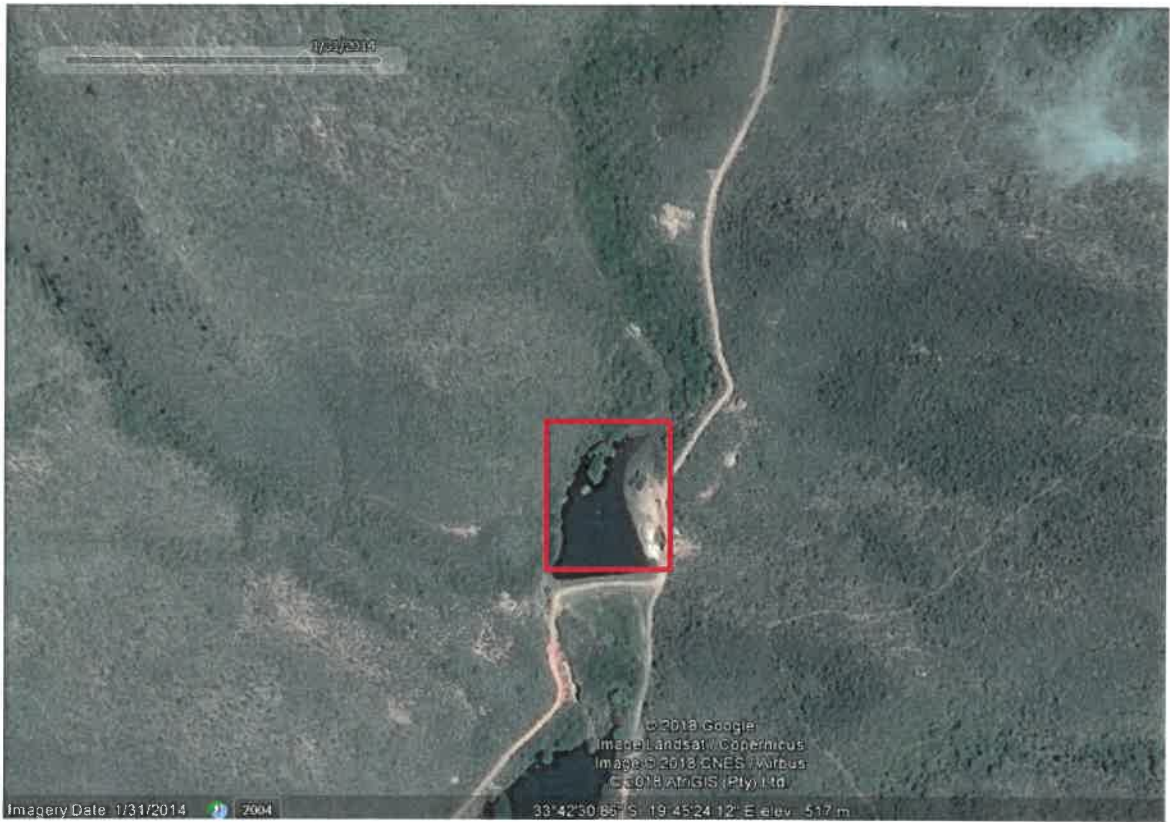
Details of conduct constituting non-compliance

3. During an investigation into allegations of the commencement of a listed activity in contravention of section 24F of the NEMA, a site inspection was conducted at portion 6 of Farm Middelburg No. 10, Robertson, by Environmental Management Inspectors from the Department's Directorate: Environmental Law Enforcement on 27 November 2017 and it was confirmed that you have commenced with alleged illegal clearing of indigenous vegetation, excavation activities within a watercourse and expansion of a dam without the requisite environmental authorisation.

33° 42'31, 40" S 19° 45' 08, 13" E



Aerial map 1: Location of alleged illegal activities demarcated in red (image dated 2010).



Aerial map 2: Location of alleged illegal activities demarcated in red (image dated 2014).



Aerial map 3: Location of alleged illegal activities demarcated in red (image dated 2017).

4. On considering the evidence before me, there are reasonable grounds to believe that you have commenced the following listed activities without environmental authorisation:

EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014:

Activity no. 19:

The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;

but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—

- (a) will occur behind a development setback;*
- (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;*
- (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;*
- (d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or*

where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.

Activity no. 27:

The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—

- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or*
- (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.*

Activity no. 66:

The expansion of a dam where—

- (i) the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, was originally 5 metres or higher and where the height of the wall is increased by 2,5 metres or more; or*
- (ii) where the high-water mark of the dam will be increased with 10 hectares or more.*

EIA Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014:

Activity no. 12

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

i Western Cape

- i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;***
- ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;*
- iii. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on even in urban areas;*

- iv. *On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or*
- v. *On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.*



Photo 1: A view from inside the expanded dam.



Photo 2: Alternative view from the expanded dam.



Photo 3: A zoomed out view from the expanded dam.

5. **You are hereby instructed to:**

- 5.1 Immediately cease the above listed activities;
- 5.2 submit to the Department within **30 (thirty) calendar days** of receipt of this Compliance Notice a report compiled by a suitably qualified and experienced independent environmental assessment practitioner, which must include the following:
 - 5.2.1 assessment and evaluation of the impact on the environment; and
 - 5.2.2 identification of proposed remedial and/or mitigation measures.

- 6. Approval of the report by the Department does not remedy the unlawful commencement of the above activities, which remain unlawful in terms of section 49A(1) (a) and/or (d) of the NEMA.
- 7. If the above report is approved by the Department, you will be obliged to take the necessary remedial / mitigation measures at your own cost.
- 8. If you wish to continue with the listed activity you may apply for environmental authorisation by way of a section 24G application. However, such application does not constitute permission to continue with the listed activity, which remains unlawful unless environmental authorisation is granted.
- 9. Notwithstanding the section 24G application, the Department may commence criminal proceedings should circumstances so require.

Varying this Compliance Notice

- 10. If you would like me to vary this Compliance Notice or extend the period to which it relates, you may make representations to me, in writing, to do so.

Failure to comply with this Compliance Notice (section 31N of the NEMA) and related offences in terms of the NEMA

11. In terms of section 49A(1)(a) of the NEMA it is an offence to commence a listed activity without environmental authorisation. A person convicted of such an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding R10 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and such imprisonment.
12. Furthermore, failure to comply with a Compliance Notice is an offence in terms of section 49A(1)(k). A person convicted of such an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding R5 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding R10 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, and in both instances to both such fine and such imprisonment.
13. Any non-compliance with the Compliance Notice must be reported to the Minister, who may:
 - 13.1 revoke any permit or authorisation to which this Compliance Notice relates; and/or
 - 13.2 take any steps necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of the law, permit or authorisation to which this Compliance Notice relates and recover from you the cost of doing so.

Procedure for lodging an objection to this Compliance Notice (section 31L and 31M of the NEMA)

14. If you wish to lodge an objection to this Compliance Notice, you may do so by making representations, in writing, to the Provincial Minister of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning ("the Minister") within 30 days of receipt of this Compliance Notice.

15. You may also make representations, in writing, to the Minister to suspend the operation of this Compliance Notice pending finalisation of the objection.

16. The objection must be in writing and forwarded to the Appeal Administrator, Mr Jaap de Villiers at the contact details below and must be accompanied by a statement detailing the grounds of the objection and supporting documentation, if any.

By post: Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental
Affairs and Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174

By hand: Attention: Mr Jaap de Villiers (Tel: 021 483 3721)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

By email: Jaap.DeVilliers@westerncape.gov.za

17. Irrespective of any representations you may make to me or to the Minister, you must comply with this Compliance Notice within the time period stated in the Compliance Notice, unless the Minister agrees to suspend the operation of this Compliance Notice.

18. A Pre-Compliance Notice has not been issued prior to this Compliance Notice due to the current water crisis being experienced by the Western Cape Province. We also have reason to believe that giving such notice will cause a delay resulting in significant and irreversible harm to the environment or may cause serious harm to the health or well-being of people.



Dr E Palmer

Director: Environmental Law Enforcement

Grade 1 Environmental Management Inspector

Date: 4/5/2018

Cc:

Mr D Matthews (Directorate: DM) Email: D'Mitri.Matthews@westerncape.gov.za

Mr S Thanduxolo (DWS) Email: StimelaT@dws.gov.za
