

# Dredging News # 7

Dear POMA Clients and Stakeholders,

- 1) We had a good meeting with the Head of Department, DEA&DP and his senior Directors on 19 December 2019.
  - 1.1) The agenda dealt with two basic issues:
    - 1.1.1) The issue regarding the inclusion of the dredging requirements in the Berg Estuarine Management Plan.
      - On this issue the Department confirmed agreement with our point of view and that recognition will be given. They gave us a draft document for our scrutiny, comment and suggestions.
      - The above is a major breakthrough and will assist at different levels of dealing with both Provincial and National departments.
    - 1.1.2) Compliance with the conditions of the POMA Authorisation. A general request for a compliance report is required to be submitted by end January 2020. Two very specific issues were highlighted as outstanding. The two issues are:
      - 1.1.2.1) The submission of an Operational Environmental Management Plan. We agreed to suspend dredging operations until the plan has been submitted and approved. We have appointed Dr Jan Marx to complete the OEMP for approval before end January 2020.
      - 1.1.2.2) The submission of an external audit of dredging operations. We have appointed Messrs Ross Holland and Associates to conduct the audit and to have it submitted by mid-February 2020.
  - 1.2) Due to the intense scrutiny of compliance, POMA decided to purchase two flowmeters for real-time measurement of discharge flows as well as continuous sample water flows. We have commissioned an engineering firm to do the necessary alteration of pipework for the installation. This work is done whilst we wait for the OEMP to be approved.
- 2) The DEA:O&C pre-compliance notice received on 10 November 2019 is being dealt with.
  - 2.1) We submitted our representations to the Department on 13 December 2019, and they have agreed to stall proceedings until receipt of the results of 15 sediment samples submitted to the CSIR for analysis, which will only be ready by mid-February 2020.
  - 2.2) The issue dealt with in (1.1.1) above will have a significant impact on decisions at this level. The Act is very clear: All the operational management plans incorporated in coastal management have to be recognised by DEA:O&C when the issue of permits is contemplated.

- 3) So, what is happening with the dredging?
  - 3.1) Dredging operations was stopped in December to allow leave for the operators and will recommence as soon as the OEMP is approved.
  - 3.2) In the meantime the machine will be serviced and the modifications necessary for the installation of the instrumentation completed.
- 4) So, what's the plan?
  - 4.1) The major drive is to pass the compliance audits and to get our Amended Authority of 2018 confirmed operational.
  - 4.2) The National Authorisation (the need for a dumping permit) is contested.

We shall keep you posted.

**POMA MANAGEMENT**