

Lesotho Highlands Water Project

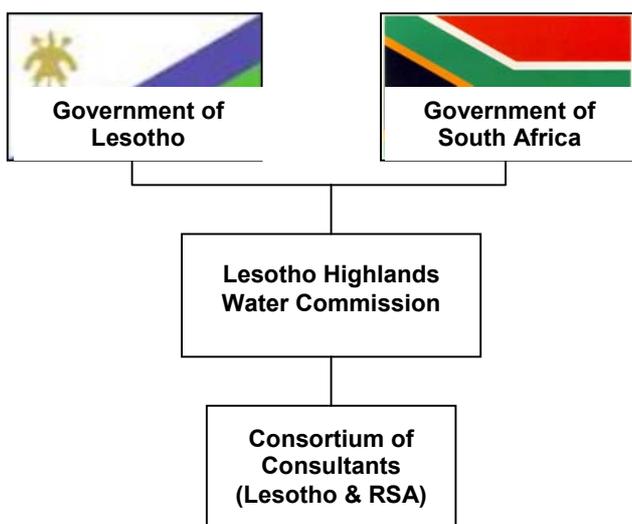
Further Phases

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 2, 2004

Preparations for Phase 2 Feasibility Study

Lesotho is in the process of forming a group that will be involved in the feasibility studies for implementation of Phase 2.



The feasibility study will be conducted bi-nationally with 50/50 input and cost sharing between Lesotho and South Africa.

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Speech by the Minister of Natural Resources

Representatives of Consults from Lesotho,
Basotho Professionals,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning!

It is with the greatest pleasure that I welcome you to the Lesotho Highlands Phase II discussions. From the government of Lesotho standpoint, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is of strategic importance in ensuring poverty alleviation in Lesotho. As a result the fact that our government and the government of the Republic of South Africa have finally agreed to go ahead with the full feasibility studies epitomises the two governments' resolve to better the lives of their respective peoples.

The Republic of South Africa requires an assured water supply system for the growth of its industries as well as to have water available to its residential and farm use. Without such an assured water supply system, the industrial growth of the Republic of South Africa would certainly be stifled. The Republic of South Africa has considered other options of augmenting the Vaal River system, for instance, a full feasibility study has already been tabled using the Thukela.

The Thukela scheme would entail some dams, tunnels and pumping systems.

In my opinion, Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project would optimise the current Phase I infrastructure. Consequently it must be the cheapest option for the Republic of South Africa. The consultants and professionals who will represent the Lesotho Group on the feasibility studies must be very careful and ensure that the options proposed will maintain Lesotho's competitive advantage over any alternative looked at by the government of South Africa.

To this end the Lesotho Group must bear in mind the overwhelming responsibility lying on their shoulders, of representing not only themselves and their mother companies, but also the whole nation. Any incidences of inflated costs, mismanagement, bribery and corruption, poor workmanship and low standards will not be tolerated by our delegation to the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission. You have noted that the time schedules are very tight as a result all those involved in the study must work hard to meet the deadlines and milestones set by the Lesotho Delegation.

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Presentation by LHWC GOL Chief Delegate

Presentation Title

- Feasibility Studies to Augment Phase 1.

Status Summary

- Feasibility studies to augment Gauteng using Tukela are far advanced.
- Lesotho and RSA governments agreed on February 23rd, 2004 to proceed with feasibility studies of the further phases of Lesotho Highlands.
- Studies are to commence in August and are to include:
 - Civil engineering works.
 - Dams, tunnels and hydropower.
 - Pump stations.
 - Socio-economic impacts analysis.
 - Environmental impacts including instream flow releases.
 - Economic analysis.
 - Legal frameworks I.e. treaties, protocols
 - Reconnaissance, hydrological etc.

Progress

- These studies are to be undertaken by a consortium of Lesotho and RSA consultants.
- Both countries equally share study costs.
- The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission on behalf of the two governments supervises the study.
- The Lesotho Delegation of the Commission will select the Lesotho Group into the consortium.

Issues to be considered when coming up with Lesotho group of consultants are:

- Consultants to outline their field of expertise.
- Consultants to outline experience record and size and value of work done over last 10 years in field of expertise.
- Consultants to submit curriculum vitae of professional Basotho staff they intend using in the event the consultant is chosen.
- Submissions from professional staff not employed by consultants.
 - Such Basotho professionals must outline their field of expertise.
 - They must submit curriculum vitae detailing their work experiences and positions held over the past 10 years.
 - They must submit letters of recommendation from their employers.
 - Expertise and experience of professionals to be adequate and relevant.

Schedule

- The Lesotho group should be in place by end of July.

Speech by the Minister of Natural Resources

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The study must review the hydropower potential of Lesotho such that Lesotho can be one of the major exporters of energy working with the Southern African Power Pool. The critical issue with power stations is that they must be constructed cost effectively, and managed effectively such that the government can then realise the full benefits from them.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
My Dear Countrymen and Women,

It is obvious that it is not every one of you in here that will be part of the study team. The team to represent Lesotho must be made up of the best professionals. Lesotho has noted that whilst our professionals may have limitations on dam, tunnel and hydropower design, it is our intention that they must meaningfully contribute in all the designs such that they can occupy appropriate positions during the detailed design and construction later.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my ministry, my own behalf and that of the Government of Lesotho, I thank you for the tremendous interest you have all shown and for making time to attend this presentation. But foremost, I wish you the best of luck such that the Lesotho Delegation to the Commission can help set up a team to represent Lesotho which will make us all proud.

Preparations

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Preliminary meetings of those interested in forming and participating in the Lesotho Group have been held at

- Lesotho Sun Convention Centre – 8th April 2004
- Maseru Sun Convention Centre – 16th April 2004
- Victoria Hotel Conference Centre – 13th May 2004

The Project Managers were selected to make initial arrangements, including the assessment of CVs.

The names of the Managers are:

- I. Mr. I. Morienyane
- II. Mr. N. Mashulugu
- III. Mr. M. Lepele

