

PROFILE: REC SERVICES PTY LTD

REC Services (Pty) Ltd specializes in **Environmental Impact Assessments and Management**, as well as in **Water Use License Applications**, during the planning and development stages of projects. The EIA processes form part of the application for authorization which is required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA). REC is a streamlined firm with an integrated approach to environmental impact assessments, networking with specialists and experts, where necessary, while always keeping a holistic view on assignments.

Our 25 years plus of experience in Environmental Management is across a broad range of development projects and clients involved in assignments in the urban and rural environments. Our main client base includes private land developers, filling station developers, local authorities, livestock farmers, industrial developers, mining enterprises and other para-statal organizations. We form part of the project team which usually consist of Civil Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Land Surveyors, Town and Regional Planners, Property Developers, and Architects etc.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Our mission and strategy are to be development-driven while creating a better environmental quality in South Africa through the fundamentals of environmental and developmental sustainability.

The objective is to contribute actively to the planning and development process of projects so that the impact on environmental conditions in the construction and operational stages of the project, are reduced to the lowest possible levels, while remaining feasible. This is done through close communication with the client, the town planner and/or the engineer or the rest of the project team on the project. This exercise often culminates in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that stipulates practical means to enhance positive impact and mitigate negative impacts. We are committed to ensure that natural and social environmental issues are addressed in all development projects.



SERVICES OFFERED

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Our services are focused on the application for environmental authorization process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 73 of 1998) / NEMA, through the steps of Basic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Scoping Reports, Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Environmental Management Programmes, Environmental Management Plans and Environmental Monitoring Reports. Our service also includes Section 24G applications where rectification of unlawful projects is requested and required. Through the years, a wide range of project fields have been covered in EIA processes conducted to date, such as:

- Road Planning (Route Determination, Preliminary and detail design stages)
- Orchid and field crops establishment; livestock farming, (pork production and chicken farms), crocodile farms and feedlots.
- Pipeline & reservoir construction and water network provision
- Special Economic Zones - Local and Provincial
- Relocation or establishment of high-power lines in rural areas
- Electrical substation establishments
- Solar Energy Plants (PV & CSP)
- Telecommunication infrastructure e.g. Fiber Optic cables on long haul networks
- Golf estates and other sport and recreation facilities
- Township establishment e.g. Commercial & Residential and Industrial
- Rehabilitation plans for degraded riparian environments
- Resort developments and game farm development
- Filling station licensing: EMP compilation
- Fuel tank installations
- Filling stations with associated land uses
- Public storage facilities
- Housing schemes in rural and residential areas
- Regional shopping complexes
- Environmental monitoring on construction sites e.g. roads & sewage treatment works
- Sewage and water purification plants
- Storage of dangerous goods in tanks or other containers
- Abattoir establishments

Our company also offers the service in evaluation of sites. In pre-development stages of projects prior to environmental applications. This is to assist the clients in determining the best possible locality or position for project components on land, taking environmental elements and impact into consideration.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES IN THE MINING SECTOR

The firm conducts Prospecting Right, Mining Permit as well as Mining Right applications on behalf of the applicant or mining company. We conduct the full application process, compile, and collate all the relevant documentation for such application. This is done according to the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act. (Act No. 28 of 2002) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) as amended.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES IN THE WASTE SECTOR

In light of the relatively recent waste management legislation, as contemplated in the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, (Act No. 59 of 2008), the firm conducts applications for waste permits in terms of handling, storage, disposal, treatment and recycling of waste and the submission of the applications to the relevant authorities. Within a relatively short period since the promulgation of the Act, a considerable number of waste permit applications were lodged to the authorities on behalf of a variety of clients. In this respect, the mining, the public and the private sector have been services in recent periods. This also includes waste related to the agricultural industry and others such as recycling and re-use of waste tyres.

Application for waste permits or licenses requires close communication with the client/applicant to ensure that a sufficient level of detail is obtained and recorded in the waste license application process. REC remains fully committed to serve this industry in all its aspects and challenges.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

REC conducts the application for authorization process from the inception of the planning of the project up to the receipt of the Environmental Authorization (EA) this requires a close communication with the client or applicant and the project team, which usually consist of the town planner the civil engineer, the land surveyor and the architect. The basic components of the application process consist of:



1. Acknowledgement of appointment and communicate with the client on practical and technical matters along with the establishment of lines of communication.
2. Visit to the proposed development site and terrain assessment
3. Communication with the relevant environmental department on provincial level and or local authority level, to determine possible issues and hurdles in the process
4. Compilation of the EIA documentation (Basic Assessment reports, Scoping reports, or EIA report) which include Public participation, Specialist studies, Impact assessment and significant ratings
5. Compilation of the Environmental Management Plans (EMP)
6. Receipt of the Environmental Authorization (Approval or non-approval) of the project
7. Environmental Monitoring during construction

8. Early in the planning process we determine, based on the environmental regulations whether Basic Environmental Assessment or a full EIA is required. We strive to promote good teamwork amongst the project team members and the specialist involved.
9. In many cases REC provides opinions and assists in objectives and conflicts between different parties in Environmental matters. We also assist in resolving and addressing noncompliance noticed or directives served upon enterprises or persons on environmental impact matters.

WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATIONS (WULA)

Amid an ever-growing awareness of the importance of water use and water management in South Africa, our services include Water Use Licensing applications which is required in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998. (Act no. 36 of 1998). The activities listed in Section 21 are:

- (a) - Taking water from a water resource
- (b) - Storing Water
- (c) - Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a water course
- (d) - Engaging in a stream flow activity
- (e) - Engaging in a controlled activity
- (f) - Discharging of a waste of water containing waste into a water resource through a pipe canal sewer or other conduit
- (g) - Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource
- (h) - Disposing of any waste from of which has been heated in any industrial or power generation process
- (i) - Altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse
- (j) - Removing discharging or disposing of water found underground for the continuation of any activity or for the safety of persons
- (k) - Using water for recreational purposes.

Our client base for Water Use License Applications varies from irrigation and livestock farmers, civil engineering companies, developers, construction firms, municipalities, mines, and road agencies.

Depending on the project characteristics, there are several other components that form part of the Water Use License Application, such as wetland assessments and aquatic ecological studies.

Water Use License Applications are lodged through an on-line system of the Department of Water and Sanitation. In this respect, close communication with the Regional officials and Head office of DWS is essential. This implies communication through all the Phases (Phase 1, 2 and 3) of the WULA process.

Integrated Wastewater Management Programmes form part of the WULA in cases where wastewater of effluent handling and disposal is part of the project. There are specialized aspects such as aquatic ecological studies and surface water studies, geohydrological studies and wetland studies that are done by specialists and which are attached to the application.

Once Water Use Licenses for projects are approved, Water Use License Audits are conducted by our office as it forms part of the Water Use License Conditions.

The Water Use License process is integrated with many aspects and the application time frame is 300 days from commencement of the application until DWS reach a decision.

ASSOCIATED SPECIALISTS

The practice of environmental consulting requires close integration with various specialists in the field of biological or ecological science. In this regard the firm KEMS Pty Ltd assess biodiversity including Vegetation, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, mammals, and wetlands.

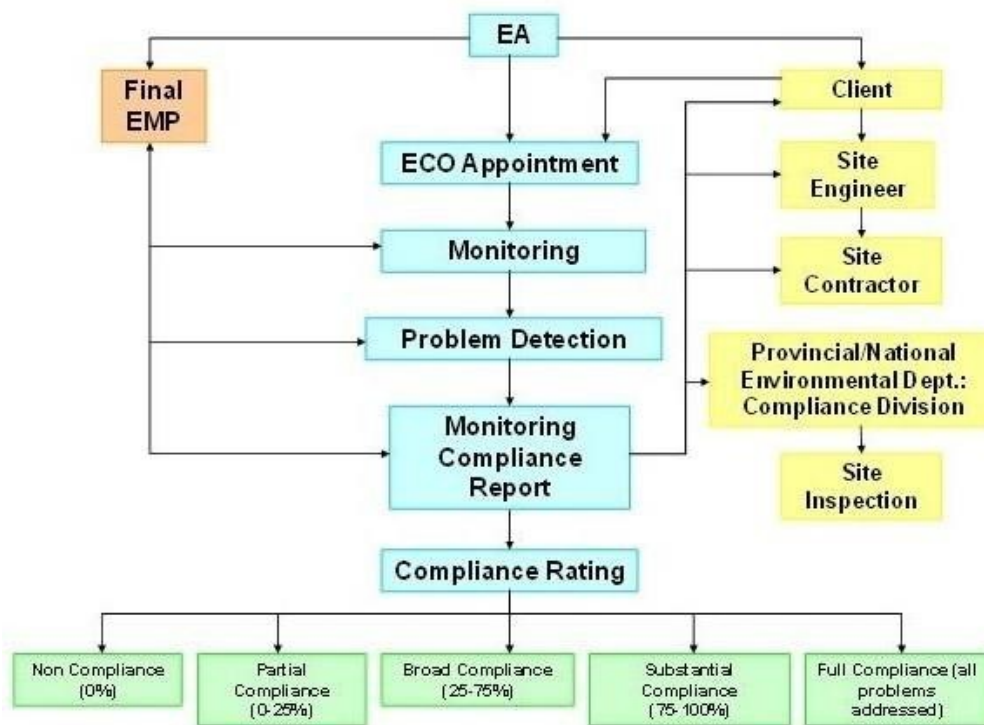
Secondly, virtually all environmental impact assessments require Heritage Impact Assessments. This is conducted by a Heritage specialist appointed and a sub-consultant to the team. Various specialists are available for this function.

We also interact and integrate with Geotechnical engineers, Geo-hydrologists, Noise specialists, Air quality specialists, Visual impact assessment specialists and river study specialists.



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

In recent years conditions in the Environmental Authorization include that an independent control officer be appointed once construction has commenced. REC has developed a practical method and format for monitoring environmental conditions during the construction stage. We have gained lots of experience in the complexities of construction activities while the environment constantly needs protection against adverse impacts during the full period of construction, the diagram below serves as a framework of how this is conducted.



TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS

The Director, **Pieter van der Merwe** for REC Services (Pty) Ltd pursued his studies at university level and received a B.Sc. in Botany and Geology, a B.Sc.(Hons) degree in Botany (UP) and a B.Sc. (Hons) Degree in Environmental Management (UP for CHE). Pieter has 29 years of experience in the Environmental Management field and coordinates EIA assignments.

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner, **Rowan van Tonder** obtained a B.Sc. Degree in Environmental Science and a B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Science. Mr. van Tonder recently completed a master's degree in Botany at the University of Limpopo. Rowan has 11 years of experience in the Environmental Management field and has been consulting for REC since 2008. SACNASP registered.

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner, **Arno van den Berg** undertook his studies in Johannesburg and obtained an M.Sc. in Environmental Management at the University of Johannesburg. Before this, he obtained his B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Botany and a B.Sc. in Environmental Science. Arno has 10 years of experience in the Environmental Management field and has been consulting for REC since 2009. He is registered with SACNASP in the field of Environmental Sciences as a Professional Natural Scientist.

The Water Use License Consultant, **Michelle Liebenberg** undertook her studies at the North West University of Potchefstroom and obtained a B.Sc. Environmental Science (NWU) B.Sc. (Hon) in Environmental Science
Has recently joined the team and her current focus is Water Use License Applications. She has two-year experience and has joined the firm in May 2020.

OTHER SUPPORTING PERSONNEL

Angelique Viljoen:

Accountant

Janine de Waal:

Office administrator



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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TO OBTAIN SATISFACTORY RESULTS.**