



Government of Namibia
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Directorate Rural Water Supply

INFORMATION BRIEF

Environmental Assessment Scoping Phase
for the
Neckartal Dam Project, Namibia

Project Number: 30300137/01

Knight Piésold
CONSULTING

Knight Piésold (Pty) Ltd

Reg. No. 2008/0657

*c/o 45 Nelson Mandela & Hugo Hahn Streets,
Klein Windhoek,*

Namibia

Telephone: +264 61 30 7297

Cellphone: +264 81 128 1204

e-mail: gleicher@knightpiesold.com

web : www.knightpiesold.com

Background Information

Knight Piésold Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to undertake the Environmental Scoping Study of the Environmental Assessment for the construction of the Neckartal Dam in the Karas Region. The relevant authority for this study is the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The Director Rural Water Supply of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is the Neckartal Dam project co-ordinator.

The proposed Neckartal Dam site is situated in the Fish River approximately 25 km north of Seeheim and 40 km west of Keetmanshoop. The dam will provide water for the irrigation of approximately 5 000 ha of land to the north and south of the Keetmanshoop to the Seeheim tarred road.

The aim of this information brief is to introduce the environmental project component to stakeholders.

Environmental Scope of Work

The Knight Piésold Environmental Division is conducting an environmental scoping study for the following project components:

Neckartal Dam site

The proposed Neckartal Dam has a catchment area of 45 365 km² with a calculated average annual runoff of 397 Mm³/a. The anticipated wall height is 66 m with a wall crest length of 480 m. The storage volume is expected to be 846 Mm³ and the full supply area may cover 39 km². On completion it will be the largest water storage dam in the country and about 3 times the size of the Hardap dam, being presently the largest dam in Namibia. A view of the proposed dam wall location is shown in Plate 1.



Plate 1: View of proposed Neckartal Dam site

Irrigation pipeline

A pipeline may possibly be constructed approximately 26 km downstream of the dam wall from the river to the irrigation area.

Irrigation area

The dam will provide water for the irrigation of approximately 5 000 ha of land to the south and north of the Keetmanshoop to Seeheim tarred road.



Plate 2: General view of the proposed Irrigation area

Quarry

A quarry will be required to source material for the construction of the dam wall. A dolerite quarry site has been identified approximately 10 km south-east of the dam site. The quarry surface area may comprise approximately 6 ha, where an estimated 600 000 m³ of rock can be obtained for the construction of the dam wall. Plate 3 gives a view of the proposed quarry site.



Plate 3: View of the proposed rock quarry site

The scope of the work to be conducted by the environmental team will include the investigation of a wide range of environmental, as well as socio economic aspects. Key aspects of the scoping study will include:

- Authority liaison
- Consultation with interested and affected parties
- Fatal flaw risk analyses
- A reconnaissance site visit and desktop study covering the following specialist fields:
 - Aquatic ecology
 - Terrestrial ecology

- Archaeology and heritage resources
- Identification and consideration of alternatives
- Identification of possible environmental impacts
- Identification of environmental management and mitigation measures.

The environmental team will work closely with the design team to ensure that environmental issues are considered from the onset of the project and that environmental best practice is incorporated into the design of the Neckartal Dam. Our experienced and qualified team of specialists will provide input at an early stage of the project in order to highlight risks to the project or further studies which may be required.

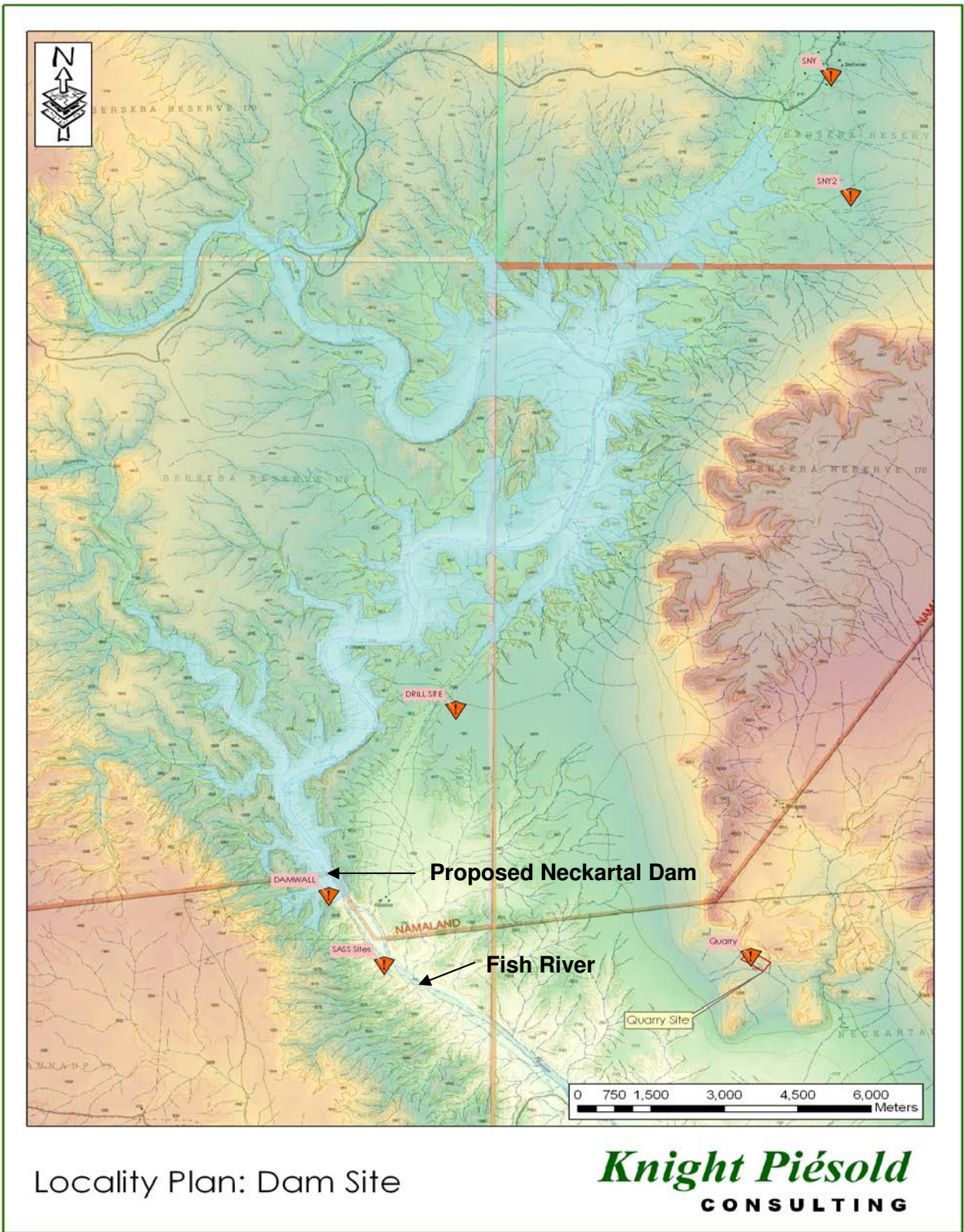
Your role in the project

The public participation process for the proposed Neckartal Dam and associated infrastructure will be undertaken by Knight Piésold Consulting.

The purpose of this information brief is to invite you to register your interest in the project and to provide your input with regard to perceived environmental impacts or issues. Any information regarding specific requirements, guideline documents, legislation or regulations specific to your organisation, group or department (if applicable) that may need to be considered during the environmental investigations is regarded as very valuable.

If you wish to be registered as an Interested or Affected Party, or if you have any comments, queries or suggestions regarding additional regulations, requirements or processes kindly submit these Knight Piésold Consulting.

Topographical Map of the Neckartal Dam Area



Locality Plan: Dam Site

Contact Details of the Project Team

Günter Leicher

Assistant Project Engineer

Cell: +264 81 128 1204

Tel: +264 61 30 7297

Fax: +264 61 307 298

gleicher@knightpiesold.com

Gawie Steyn

Project Engineer

Cell: +27 82 565 8375

gsteyn@knightpiesold.com

Amelia Briel

Senior Environmental Scientist

Cell: +27 84 701 3946

abriel@knightpiesold.com

Neal Neervoort

Junior Environmental Scientist

Cell: +27 76 091 9247

nneervoort@knightpiesold.com