

FOREWORD

The large volumes of sewage sludge generated daily, not only in South Africa but all over the world, creates environmental problems and if not properly treated, impact on human health and the natural environment. The sludge has an inherent low capital value and therefore transporting these large volumes of sludge to landfill disposal sites does not make economical sense. By converting a low-value product into a high-value resource that can be reused is certainly more beneficial for local economies. The beneficial use of sludge is not a new concept in South Africa; the various government departments have always promoted it. The protection of our natural resources, which also include the water and soil, is paramount to sustainable development, while practising sound sludge management practices. This document aims to both promote beneficial use of sludge but also to protect human health and the environment.

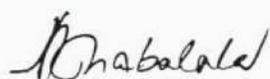
The first edition of the guide *Permissible Utilisation and Disposal of Sewage Sludge* was published in 1997. An invitation was extended to users of the document to comment on the content and its usefulness. The comments received indicated that the objectives of the initial document were not achieved and that further clarification and elaboration of the document were required. This culminated in the development of this addendum to the original *Permissible Utilisation and Disposal of Sewage Sludge (PUDSS)* document.

The document serves to clarify certain issues of the 1997 document, but it also expands on the various routes and options which may be taken for sludge utilisation. Users are informed as to which legislative route should be taken and which government department should be approached as the National Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry all have their roles to play in the management of sludge.

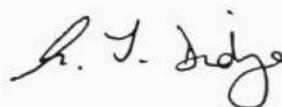
An attempt has been made in the production of this *Addendum* to PUDSS 1997 to produce a user-friendly guide for local authorities to negotiate the complex network of current legislation governing the disposal of sewage sludges. Ambiguities, which appeared in the original document, have, as far as possible within the scope of the exercise, been removed and the way is now clear for the *Guidelines* to become a working document as it was originally intended.

A committee comprising of representatives from national, provincial and local government, the private sector, and thanks to the sponsorship and support from the Water Research Commission, made the drafting of this addendum to the 1997 document possible.

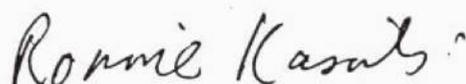
The original guide and the new addendum are both consultative publications, seeking comments from all concerned parties on the current criteria and approaches adopted, thereby ensuring the updating and improvement of the guide. All users are urged to take a critical view regarding the document in terms of usefulness and appropriateness. It is believed that through the commenting process valuable feedback will be received. Comments should be directed to the Director: Water Quality Management, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Private Bag X313, Pretoria, 0001.



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