

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS: TRANSNET NGQURA MANGANESE EXPORT TERMINAL, COEGA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, PORT OF NGQURA, NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit

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PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with additional information, the opportunity to register as Interested and Affected Parties, and to obtain their comments on the proposed amendments to the Environmental Authorisation (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/319), Provisional Atmospheric Emissions Licence [AEL] (NMBM AEL 13/32) and Water Use Licence (Licence Number: 15M30B/ACGI/3736) issued for the Transnet Ngqura Manganese Export Terminal and associated infrastructure.

If you would like to participate in the process, please register yourself and/or your organization as an Interested and Affected Party. In participating in the EIA process, your consent is provided for your information to be added to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) Database as required by the EIA Regulations, 2014. May you submit issues or comments that you feel need to be addressed by completing the response form, in a letter or by email to:

CEN IEM Unit

Dr Mike Cohen / Mrs Lucille Behrens

Fax: 086 504 2549

Email: steenbok@aerosat.co.za / lucille@environmentcen.co.za

**REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY AND
ALL COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE
DATE OF THIS NOTICE.**

DATE OF NOTICE – 6 APRIL 2023

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS – 10 MAY 2023



1. THE PROPOSED PROJECT

1.1. Introduction and Background

The Ngqura Manganese Export Terminal (NMET) and associated infrastructure consists of a manganese ore handling and export facility that will enable the realisation of an annual throughput capacity of delivering 16 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) and scalable to reach 22 mtpa. The following key components are included in the NMET:

- Railway infrastructure from the mainline take-off into the Manganese Stockyard, complete with a Tippler Marshalling Yard.
- A closed / covered Manganese Stockyard for temporarily stockpiling manganese before it is exported.
- Requisite machinery, equipment and instrumentation for end-to-end operations to support the handling of the bulk material when it is off-loaded from the train wagons, handled and loaded onto vessels for export markets.
- A closed / piped overland conveyor belt system.
- Ancillary top structures at the stockyard and quayside and the required bulk infrastructure and services.

Transnet SOC Ltd. (Transnet) received the following authorisations with regards to the Ngqura Manganese Export Terminal and associated infrastructure:

1. Environmental Authorisations issued by the then Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA):
 - Environmental Authorisation on July 10, 2014 (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/319). This is the original Environmental Authorisation issued.
 - Environmental Authorisation Amendment #1 on March 27, 2015 (14/12/16/3/3/2/319/AM1)
The amendments to the EA related to:
Proposed infrastructure and the respective geographical co-ordinates, Description of key components of the project, Condition 17 relating to the Environmental Management Committee (EMC), Condition 18 relating to any changes to the EMPr, Condition 19.4 relating to employment of an ECO for the entire lifecycle, Condition 20 relating to reporting responsibilities of the ECO.
 - Environmental Authorisation Amendment #2 on March 24, 2020 (14/12/16/3/3/2/319/AM2).
The amendments related to the extension of the validity period and change of contact details of the Environmental Authorisation holder. The validity of authorisation expires on March 27, 2025.
2. Provisional Atmospheric Emissions Licence issued by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality:
 - Provisional Atmospheric Emissions Licence (AEL) on August 1, 2014 (NMBM AEL 13/32). This is the original Provisional AEL issued.
 - Provisional AEL Renewal issued on June 1, 2020 (NMBM AEL 13/32(1)). The validity of renewed licence expires on March 27, 2025.
3. Water Use Licence issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation:
 - Water Use Licence (WUL) on November 19, 2015 (Licence Number: 15M30B/ACGI/3736). This is the original WUL issued.
 - Water Use Licence Amendment on March 9, 2021 (15M30B/ACGI/3736). The amendment related to extension of commencement of water uses.

1.2. Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments relate to:

- Increase in manganese ore throughput capacity from 16 to 22 million tons per annum.
- Change from an open manganese stockyard to an enclosed stockyard.
- Change to a covered conventional belt conveyer and piped conveyors.

No amendments are proposed for the footprint of the conveyor from the terminal area (stockyard) to the Port of Ngqura.

1.3. Need and Desirability

Transnet has recommended what it deemed as a world-class Manganese Terminal that will meet environmental best practice, which satisfy obligations associated with ISO 14 001 Standards and ensure compliance with the applicable legislation amongst other requirements. Given the commitment of the South African Government on the protection of the environment and the fact that Transnet plays a significant role in the global market, it is imperative that the Manganese Terminal to be developed at the Port of Ngqura be designed to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) considering Transnet's initiative of contributing positively towards them. A risk-based approach in the design of the Manganese Terminal will be suited to optimising climate adaptation strategies related to the design and maintenance of the infrastructure.

Implementing environmental best practice approach for the Manganese Terminal is crucial for the following reasons:

- a) Reduce the environmental liability for stockpiled materials and the risk of abandonment.
- b) Prevent and minimise the risk of harm to the environment and human health; and
- c) Support the most preferable use of waste and secondary materials in accordance with the waste management hierarchy.

The primary benefits of the Ngqura Manganese Export Terminal (NMET) are to:

- (i) Provide a conducive environment and a world-class platform for the Manganese Mining Sector to export their material efficiently and cost-effectively to the global market;
- (ii) Improve the predictability and increased reliability of the Manganese Mining Sector Value chains to export markets, thereby impacting positively on investor confidence.

The secondary benefits of the NMET Project are to:

- (i) Increase sustainable job-opportunities during both the construction and operation stages of the Project;
- (ii) Increase revenue-base for Transnet while lowering operating costs for the Mining Sector.
- (iii) Increase Tax Revenue base for the country; and
- (iv) Increase the Gross Geographic Product (GGP) and Gross Fixed Capital Formation for the Eastern Cape

1.4. Locality

The proposed Ngqura Manganese Export Terminal Facility will be located on Erf 359 Coega, in Zone 9 of the Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ), in Ward 53, in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape. The conveyor route is located on erven 327, 272, 306, 251, 356 Coega, in Zones 9 and 8 of the Coega SEZ. Refer to **Figure 1**.

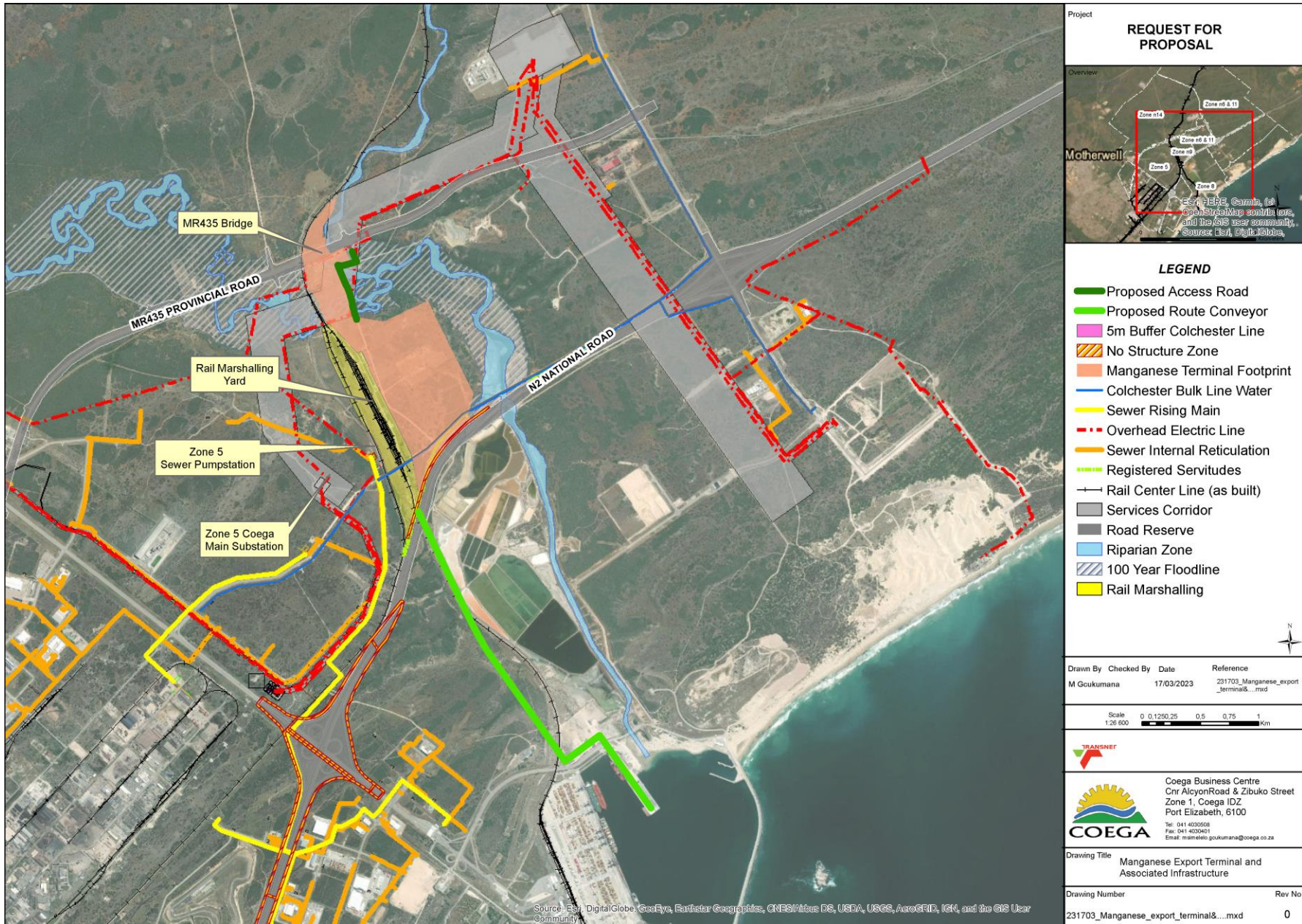


Figure 1: Locality Map

2. AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS

2.1. Environmental Authorisation

A Part 2 Amendment Application to the existing and valid Environmental Authorisation (14/12/16/3/3/2/319/AM2) will be undertaken in terms of Section 31 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, and will be submitted to the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environment (DFFE).

There are no new or additional EIA-listed activities triggered by the increase in manganese ore throughput. The listed activities previously authorised would still be relevant.

A Part 2 Amendment Application is required for amendments where a change of scope or change in nature of impacts occur. The amendment is required for the change from an open stockyard to an enclosed stockyard as well as the increase of manganese ore from 16 to 22 million tons per annum.

2.2. Provisional Atmospheric Air Licence

The amendment application to the existing Provisional AEL will be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No. 39 of 2004) and will be submitted to Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM).

The amendment is required for the change from an open stockyard to an enclosed stockyard as well as the increase of manganese ore from 16 to 22 million tons per annum in terms of the air quality listed activity in Category 5, Sub-category 5.1: Storage and Handling of Ore.

2.3. National Water Act and Water Use Activities

The amendment application to the Water Use Licence will be undertaken in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), and will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

The relevant water uses include Section 21 (c) and (i) for activities within the regulated areas of watercourses and wetlands, and Section 21 (g) for disposing waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.

3. DESCRIPTION OF TASKS IN THE PART 2 AMENDMENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- ✿ Public participation starts with announcing the proposed amendment application and registering of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Newspaper advertisements and site notices are placed, and notifications are also sent to identified stakeholders. – We are here in the process.
- ✿ An application for a Part 2 Amendment to the Environmental Authorisation will be submitted to the competent authority, namely the DFFE, for this project.
- ✿ An Assessment Report is compiled that considers input from stakeholders, I&APs, and specialists.
- ✿ Once the Assessment Report is compiled, it is then submitted for a 30 day review period to registered I&APs and stakeholders. This enables you to comment on the Draft Assessment Report and accompanying Draft Environmental Management Programme. Comments are submitted in a written format.
- ✿ Your comments are incorporated and the reports are then finalised.
- ✿ These final reports are submitted to the competent authority for consideration.

- The competent authority reviews the documents (over 112 days) and decides whether the amendment is granted or refused, their decision is known as an Environmental Authorisation (EA).
- A copy of the EA is made available to you to consider, along with the reasons for the decision made. If you disagree with the decision, you are provided with information on how to lodge an appeal. Any appeals are to be lodged within 20 days of having being notified of the environmental decision.

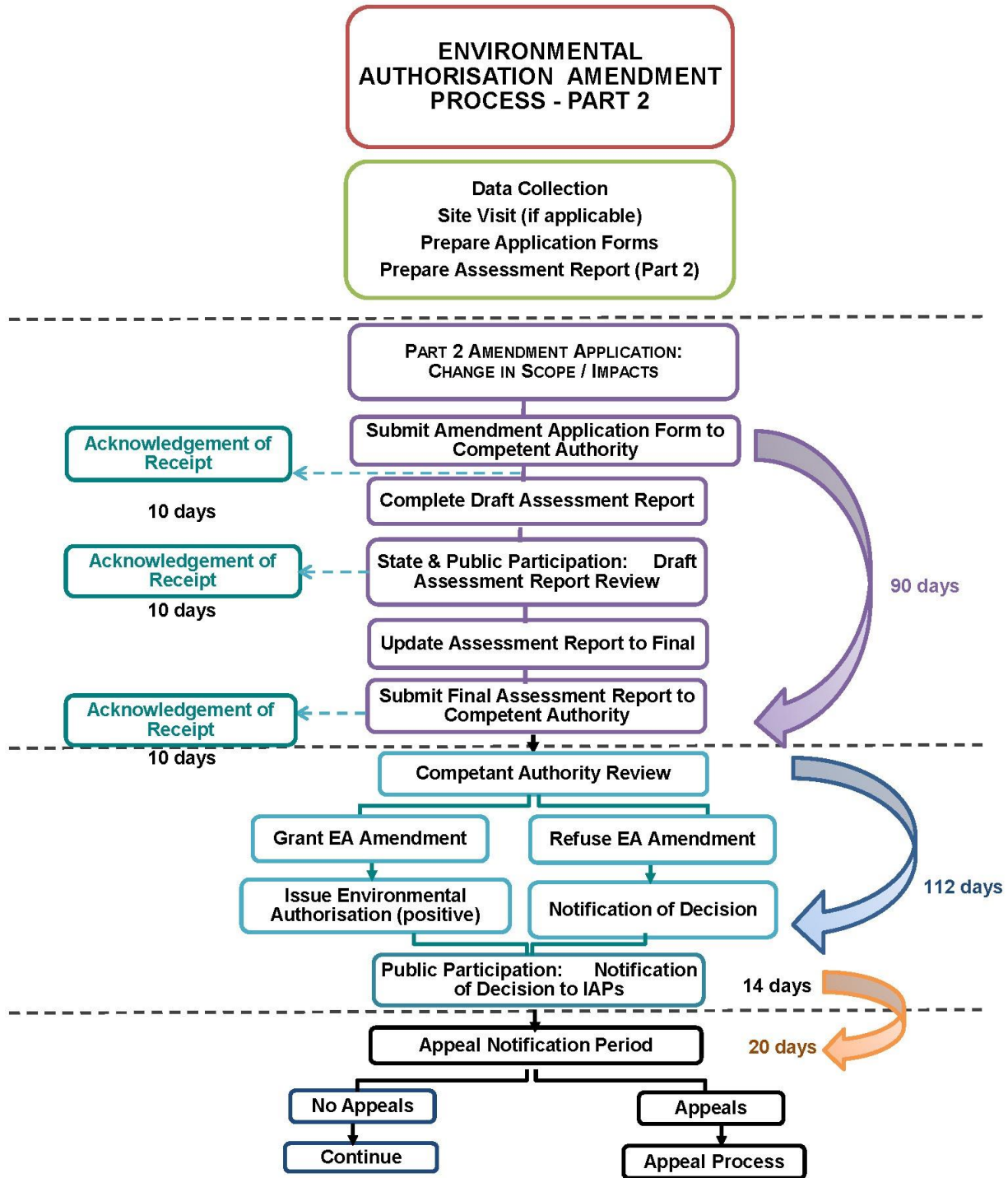


Figure 2: Part 2 Amendment Application Process, EIA Regulations 2014 as amended

4. HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE & POPIA

Register as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) in order to comment on the proposed application and raise issues or concerns that you feel need to be considered during the process.

Complete the attached registration form and submit it to the contact details listed. Upon submission of the registration form to the CEN IEM Unit, you will be registered as an I&AP, and be included on an I&APs database, which will ensure that you receive future project notifications.

Regulation 42 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, requires a register of interested and affected parties to be opened and maintained throughout an EIA process. This register must contain the names, contact details, and addresses of (a) all persons who, as a consequence of the public participation process conducted, have submitted written comments or attended meetings; (b) all persons who have requested in writing for their names to be placed on the register.

In participating in the EIA process, your consent is provided for your personal information (names, contact details, and addresses) to be added to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) Database as required by the EIA Regulations, 2014.

Please note the I&AP database is required to be included in any draft or final EIA reports; however CEN IEM Unit will endeavour to not make your personal information (contact details or addresses) available in reports that are provided in the public domain.

If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company / organisation being publicly available, such objection is to be highlighted as part of the comments submitted.

The CEN IEM Unit will maintain the I&AP database until the end of the EIA Process and will not wilfully or intentionally distribute this information to a 3rd party.

In certain circumstances, e.g., appeals of Environmental Authorisations, CEN IEM Unit may be required to provide the I&AP database to the applicant on closure of the EIA process.

Please note that if you do not want to be included in the I&AP database, please advise us so that your details can be removed. Otherwise, it is deemed that you consent for your details to be included, in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act (No. 4 of 2013) (POPIA).

If you intend to register as an I&AP or forward written comments regarding the proposed application, please submit your completed registration form to CEN IEM Unit by **10 MAY 2023**



CEN IEM UNIT

Fax 086 504 2549

Email steenbok@aerosat.co.za / lucille@environmentcen.co.za

REGISTRATION / COMMENT SHEET

AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS:

TRANSNET NGQURA MANGANESE EXPORT TERMINAL, COEGA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, PORT OF NGQURA, NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Date of Notice: 6 APRIL 2023

I wish to register as an Interested and/or Affected Party and request that the following issues receive attention during the assessment process.

In participating in the EIA process, my consent is provided for my personal information (names, contact details, and addresses) to be added to the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) Database as required by the EIA Regulations, 2014.

If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name or the name of the represented company / organisation being publicly available, such objection is to be highlighted as part of the comments submitted.

Closing Date for Comments: 10 MAY 2023

Name of Respondent: _____

Organisation / Company: _____

Address: _____

Fax Number: _____

Tel Number: _____

Email: _____

Please use additional sheets as necessary

Signature: _____

Date: _____