



**Background Information Document:**

**AS-R-2012-09-26**

**Document version 1.0 – Final**

**Background Information Document:  
Proposed Steel Recycling Facility on Plots 129, 130  
& 131, Bela Bela (R101) Road, Babelegi  
Hammanskraal, Gauteng Province.**

**Prepared for: Unica Iron & Steel (Pty) Limited**

**September 2012**

**Document version 1.0 – Final**



*Proudly Supporting*  
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

AGES (Pty) Ltd, was appointed by Unica Iron & Steel (Pty) Limited to facilitate an application for rectification in terms of the section 24(G) and 24(F) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act no. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) is considering granting Environmental Authorisation to Unica Iron & Steel (Pty) Ltd in terms of section 24G of NEMA for the unlawful commencement of an activity listed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of Government Notice R545 of 18 June 2010, promulgated in terms of section 24(2) and section 24(D) of the NEMA.

## 2 PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide you, as an interested and / or affected party (I&AP) with:

- An overview of the proposed development,
- An overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process,
- Details on how you can become involved in the EIA process, receive information, and
- Voice issues or concerns regarding the proposed project, for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Environmental Management Programme Report.

## 3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Babelegi Steel Recycling project will be located on Plots 129, 130, and 131, Bela Bela (R101) Road, Babelegi Hammanskraal, Gauteng Province. (Figures 1 and 2). The proposed project will involve the construction of a steel recycling facility for the recycling of metal scrap through the induction electric process. The project area is within a proclaimed industrial area which comprises 60 000m<sup>2</sup> of which the affected area is approximately 4000m<sup>2</sup>. The industrial area is located adjacent to the Ramotse residential development.

The general coordinates for the proposed project are:

Latitude : -25.360240 °

Longitude : 28.280996 °

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#### 4 PROCESS DESCRIPTION

Unica Iron and Steel Pty Ltd intend to use only heavy melting scrap, shredded scrap and blue steel which does not contain the tramp elements (contaminants high in Zinc, Copper, and Boron), or with a high Sulfur and Phosphorus content. The approach to recycling the steel will be through the induction electric process, whereby heat is applied by heating and electrically conducting metal. The process sequence will be as follows:

- **Weighing**: the scrap will be weighed on a weigh bridge, after which the scrap inspector will inspect the scrap to assess if the scrap complies with the given specifications.
- **Melting**: if the scrap is approved by the inspector, it will be taken to the induction furnace for melting.
- **Casting**: the molten steel will then be transferred to the preheated ladle and then to the Continuous Casting Machine for solidification and cutting.

#### 5 DESCRIPTION OF THE BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

According to the Travel World Atlas, Babelegi has a humid (> 0.65 p/pet) climate. The climate being classified as humid subtropical (dry winter, hot summer), with a subtropical dry forest bio-zone. The land area is totally cultivated, with not much natural vegetation being left. The landscape is mostly covered with closed to open grassland. The soil in the area is high in lixisols (lx), soil with clay-enriched lower horizon, low Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), and high saturation of bases.

January is warmest with an average temperature of 29.9°C at noon and July is coldest with an average temperature of 2.4°C at night. Babelegi has no distinct temperature seasons as the temperature is relatively constant throughout the year. Temperatures drop sharply at night and winter has prolonged freezing periods, with the coldest month most often being July. August is on average the month with the most sunshine. Rainfall and other precipitation peaks around December. The time around July is the driest. Usually a clear night sky is heavily polluted by light from unnatural sources, this makes looking at stars difficult at night.

#### 6 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

1. **Environmental Authorisation**: An Environmental Impact Assessment in terms of

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the National Environmental Management Act (Act no. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) read with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (GNR 543 of 18 June 2010) must be undertaken for the proposed construction of the Steel Recycling Facility and associated infrastructure. The following activity listed in GNR 545 of 18 June 2010 is applicable to the proposed project and requires an environmental authorisation: GNR 545: item 5. The environmental authorisation application subject to rectification and authorisation has been submitted to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD Ref: S24G/03/11-12/0220).

2. **Waste Management Licence** in terms of section 20 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) (NEMWA) read with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (GNR 543 of 2 August 2010) for the undertaking of waste management activities listed in GNR 718 of 3 July 2009. The waste management licence application will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The following studies are anticipated to be conducted as part of the process.

- a) **Ecological assessment:** the proposed steel recycling project may result in an impact on ecology present on site.
- b) **Noise impact Assessment:** evaluation of the potential noise impact associated with the proposed project.
- c) **Social Impact Assessment:** the proposed steel recycling facility will have a social Impact (eg. Job creation). The perceptions of the surrounding communities and industries will be evaluated.
- d) **Heritage Impact assessment:** the site will be investigated for sites or artefacts of cultural/historic significance.
- e) **Air Quality Impact Assessment:** the impact of the proposed activities on the air quality of the area will be evaluated. Designs to ensure that the facility complies with emissions standards will be evaluated.

## 8 YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Information sharing forms the basis of the public involvement process. Comments and inputs from individuals or organizations who may be affected by the proposed

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development are incorporated into the impact assessment, in order to ensure that effective communication can influence the decision making process.

According to the EIA Regulations, the roles of the I&AP include:

- Assisting in the identification and prioritisation of issues that need to be investigated;
- Making suggestions on alternatives and means of prevention, minimising and managing negative impacts and enhancing project benefits;
- Assisting or commenting on the development of mutually acceptable criteria for the evaluation of decision options;
- Contributing information on public needs, values and expectations;
- Contributing local and traditional knowledge; and
- Verifying that their issues have been considered.

## 9 HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

In order to ensure that you are identified as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP) or if you require further information on the application and or activity, please submit your name, contact information, interest and relevant issues on the matter by completing the attached registration form by **06 November 2012** and sending it to:

Hloniphile Kunene (AGES Environmental Unit)

AGES Reference: Babelegi Steel S24G

Telephone Number: 012 751 2160

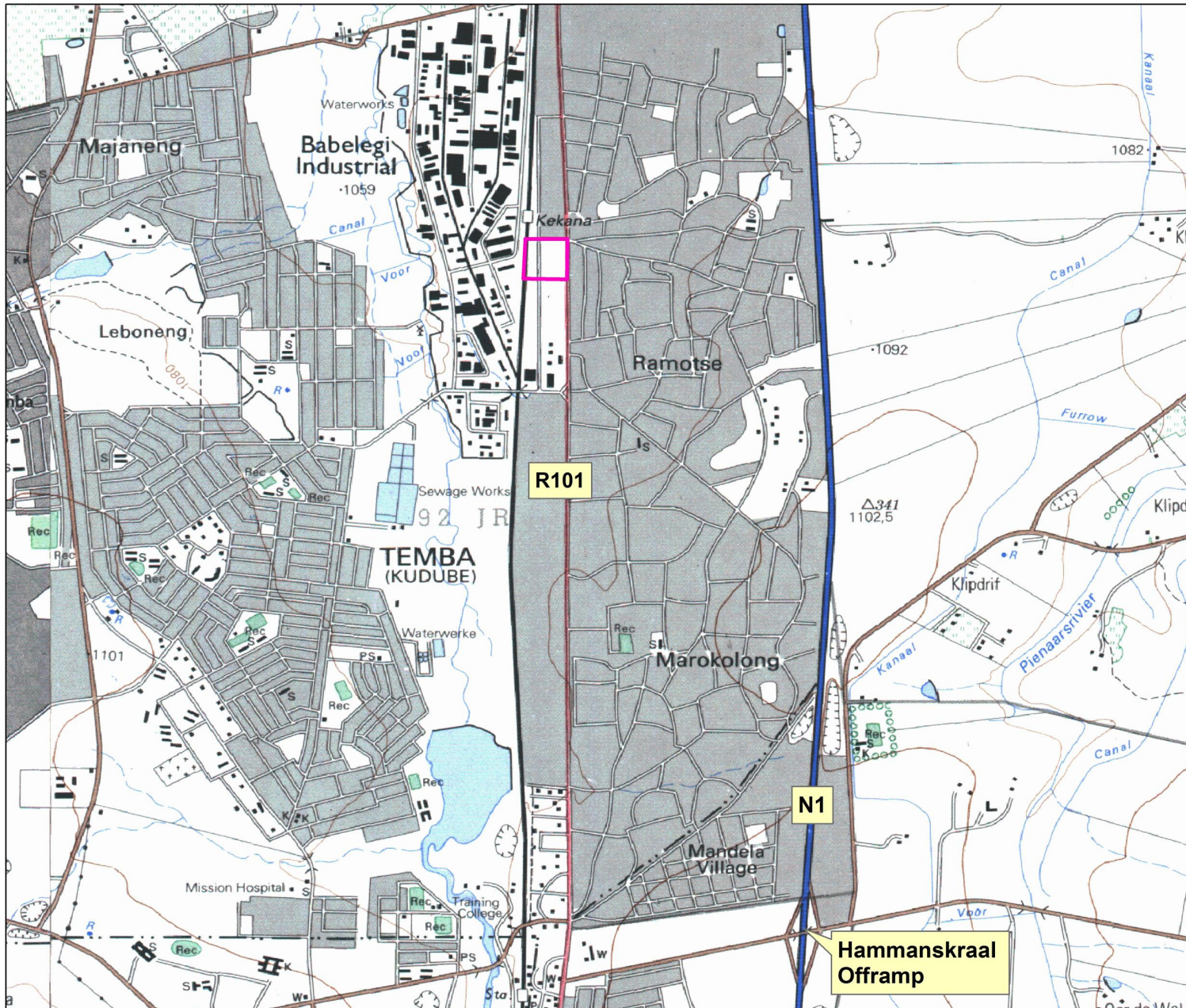
Fax Number: 086 607 2406

Email address: [hlonik@ages-group.com](mailto:hlonik@ages-group.com)

Postal Address: Postnet 74, Private Bag X07, Arcadia, 0007

**Please note: AGES is not appointed to handle any job related issues for this project.**






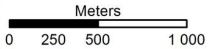



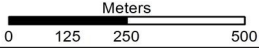


<b>Aerial Map</b>	
<b>Locality Map</b>	
<b>Legend</b>	
	Site Boundary
Client: Unica Iron & Steel	
Scale: 1:25 000	
	
 <b>AGES</b> GAUTENG OFFICE Plot 356 Zwavelpoort, Zwavelpoort Pretoria 0084 Tel: +27 12 751 2160 Fax: +27 86 607 2406	
Project: Babelegi Steel Recycling	
Date: 13-03-2012	
Compiled by: HD Gildenhuis	Version 1
Datum: WGS 84	Geographic Coordinate System
	

Figure 1 Regional Locality Map





<b>Aerial Map</b>	
<b>Locality Map</b>	
<b>Legend</b>	
	Site Boundary
Client: Unica Iron & Steel	
Scale: 1:10 000	
	
 <b>AGES</b> GAUTENG OFFICE Plot 356 Zwavelpoort, Zwavelpoort Pretoria 0084 Tel: +27 12 751 2160 Fax: +27 86 607 2406	
Project: Babelegi Steel Recycling	
Date: 13-03-2012	
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**Figure 2**      **Locality Map**