

SASOL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE TANKS AT THE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY FUEL BLENDING FACILITY LOCATED AT THE SASOL ONE COMPLEX, IN SASOLBURG, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Aim of the Process

The Proponent, Sasol Energy Technology, a Division of Sasol South Africa (Pty) Ltd, proposes to upgrade the existing underground fuel storage tanks at the Fuel Blending Facility at the Sasol One site (Proposed Project). Due to the nature of the upgrade, Sasol is required to follow a Basic Assessment (BA) process to gain environmental approval prior to the commencement of the Proposed Project.

Purpose of this Document

WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to manage the BA process. This process includes the consultation with parties that may be affected by, or have an interest, in the Proposed Project. These parties are referred to as interested and affected parties (or 'stakeholders').

The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide background information regarding the existing underground tanks.
- Provide information on how the upgrade will take place.
- Provide an outline of the environmental impact assessment process to be followed.
- Inform members of the public of their rights and responsibilities regarding participation in certain parts of the authorisation process.
- Assist members of the public in determining whether they are interested in and/or affected by the proposed project.
- Assist the public to formulate their comments in a manner that will ensure that they can be afforded due attention.

To register as a stakeholder on the project database, kindly complete the attached form and return it to WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff using the contact details provided.

Background Information

Location

The Sasol One complex is located off the R57, on the south eastern side of Sasolburg, in the Free State Province. Sasolburg is approximately 84 km south west of Johannesburg, 88 km east of Potchefstroom, 63 km north of Heilbron and 93 km west of Grootvlei.

Sasol One falls within the jurisdiction of the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, which forms part of the Fezile Dabi District. The location of Sasol One is illustrated in **Figure 1** (see page 4).

Existing Land Use

The current land use of the Sasol One facility is industrial.

Surrounding Land Uses

The land use surrounding the Sasol One site is industrial, commercial and residential.

What are the underground fuel storage tanks

The Fuel Blending Facility is a 'research and development' facility used to mix different fuel components with the purpose of creating effective blends. The fuels are obtained from different refineries which are stored in underground storage tanks before being mixed as ratios to create new fuel blends (potential product). There are currently fifteen underground tanks which include:

- 4 x 7.5m³.
- 4 x 15m³.
- 4 x 23m³.
- 3 x 10m³.

The fifteen tanks total 212m³. The tanks were installed in the 1980s and are reaching their end-of-life. They are to be replaced by nine new tanks which include:

- 5 x 30m³.
- 4 x 23m³.

The proposed tanks have a total combined capacity of 242m³. The proposed tanks will be installed directly adjacent to the existing tanks on the same site.

Delegated Lead Authorities

The Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (FS-DESTEA) is the delegated lead authority.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the Metsimaholo Local Municipality and the Fezile Dabi District Municipality form the project commenting authorities.

Environmental Authorisation

A BA Process is required prior to commencement of the proposed project. The environmental impact assessment process will be undertaken according to the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and its associated Regulations. Documents related to this process will be submitted to the FS-DESTEA.

The following Listing Notice 1 [Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 983] listed activity is considered applicable:

Regulation 51 (i):

The expansion of facilities for the storage, or storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where the capacity of such storage facility will be expanded by more than 80 cubic metres.

Since the proposed tanks will be installed before removing the existing tanks, a temporary expansion of 242m³ will occur for a period of approximately three months while the transfer of fuel is underway.

As a result of the triggering of listed activity 51, Sasol is required to undertake a BA process in accordance with the GNR 982.

What is a BA and why is it Important?

A BA process is undertaken for project activities listed under Listing Notices 1 and 3. It is undertaken when the impacts of the activities are more generally known and can be easily mitigated or managed. This process is much shorter than a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting process which is done in more detail for projects where the impacts are not necessarily easy to understand.

The BA process highlights the potential or existing impacts – positive or negative – that a proposed or existing activity may have on the surrounding environment, consisting of natural, social and economic aspects.

The assessment highlights, predicts and/or identifies any issues before decisions are taken by the competent authority. Furthermore, it assists the Proponent in identifying ways and means of avoiding negative impacts and enhancing positive impacts.

The concept of sustainable development serves as the base of such an assessment. In other words, development needs to take place, however it is how the potential impacts are managed as a whole, that will determine whether such an activity will bring about positive change.

The BA Process

The purpose of the BA process is to provide sufficient information to decision-making authorities to enable them to reach a decision on the scope of issues to be addressed in the authorisation process. The BA process being undertaken can be summarised as follows (please also refer to **Figure 3** for a diagrammatic representation of the processes to be followed):

- The Proponent must appoint an EAP.
- The EAP must conduct a public participation process.
- The EAP must give notice to the lead authority and any relevant organ of state with jurisdiction over the activity.
- The EAP must open and maintain a register of all I&APs.
- The EAP must consider all objections and representations received from I&APs during the public participation process.
- The EAP must compile a Basic Assessment (BA) Report.
- The EAP must give all the registered I&APs an opportunity to comment on the BA Report.

Why is Your Participation Important?

Participation by stakeholders is in everyone's best interest because:

- It provides opportunities for stakeholders and the authorities to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the activities associated with the project.
- It provides members of the public with the opportunity to provide comments (both positive and negative) regarding the environmental impacts of the project activities.
- It provides affected parties with the opportunity to suggest ways for reducing or mitigating any negative impacts of project activities, or for enhancing its benefits.
- It will enable the Proponent to incorporate the needs, preferences and values of stakeholders into their decisions.
- It contributes toward maintaining a healthy, vibrant democracy.

How can You get Involved?

- By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to the invitation for your involvement which has been advertised in local newspapers.
- By mailing, faxing or e-mailing the attached comment form to WSP.
- By attending the project public meeting to be held during the course of the project. Should you register as a stakeholder, you will be invited to attend the meeting. The meeting dates will also be advertised once the date is confirmed.
- By telephonically contacting WSP if you have a query, comment or require further project information.
- By reviewing the BA Report within the relevant review periods and sending your comments to WSP.

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Stakeholder:

Registered stakeholders have the right to bring to the attention of the competent authority any issues that they believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application. The rights of stakeholder are qualified by certain obligations, namely:

- Stakeholders must ensure that their comments are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved by the competent authority, or within any extension of a timeframe agreed by the applicant or EAP.
- A copy of comments submitted directly to the competent authority must be served on the applicant or EAP.
- Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that they might have in the approval or refusal of the application must be disclosed.

The roles of stakeholders in a public participation process usually include one or more of the following:

- Assisting in the identification and prioritisation of issues that need to be investigated.
- Making suggestions on alternatives and means of preventing, minimising and managing negative impacts and enhancing project benefits.
- Assisting in 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.
- Verifying that their issues have been considered.

In order to participate effectively, stakeholders should:

- Become involved in the process as early as possible.
- Register as a stakeholder.
- Advise the EAP of other stakeholders who should be consulted.
- Contribute towards the design of the public participation process (including timeframes) to ensure that it is acceptable to all stakeholders.
- Follow the process once it has been accepted.
- Read the material provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved.
- Give timeous responses to correspondence.
- Be respectful and courteous towards other stakeholders.
- Refrain from making subjective, unfounded or ill-informed statements.
- Recognise that the process is confined to issues that are directly relevant to the application.
- Assist with information that will contribute to a thorough study.



Figure 1: Locality Map



Figure 2: Fuel Blending Facility Layout

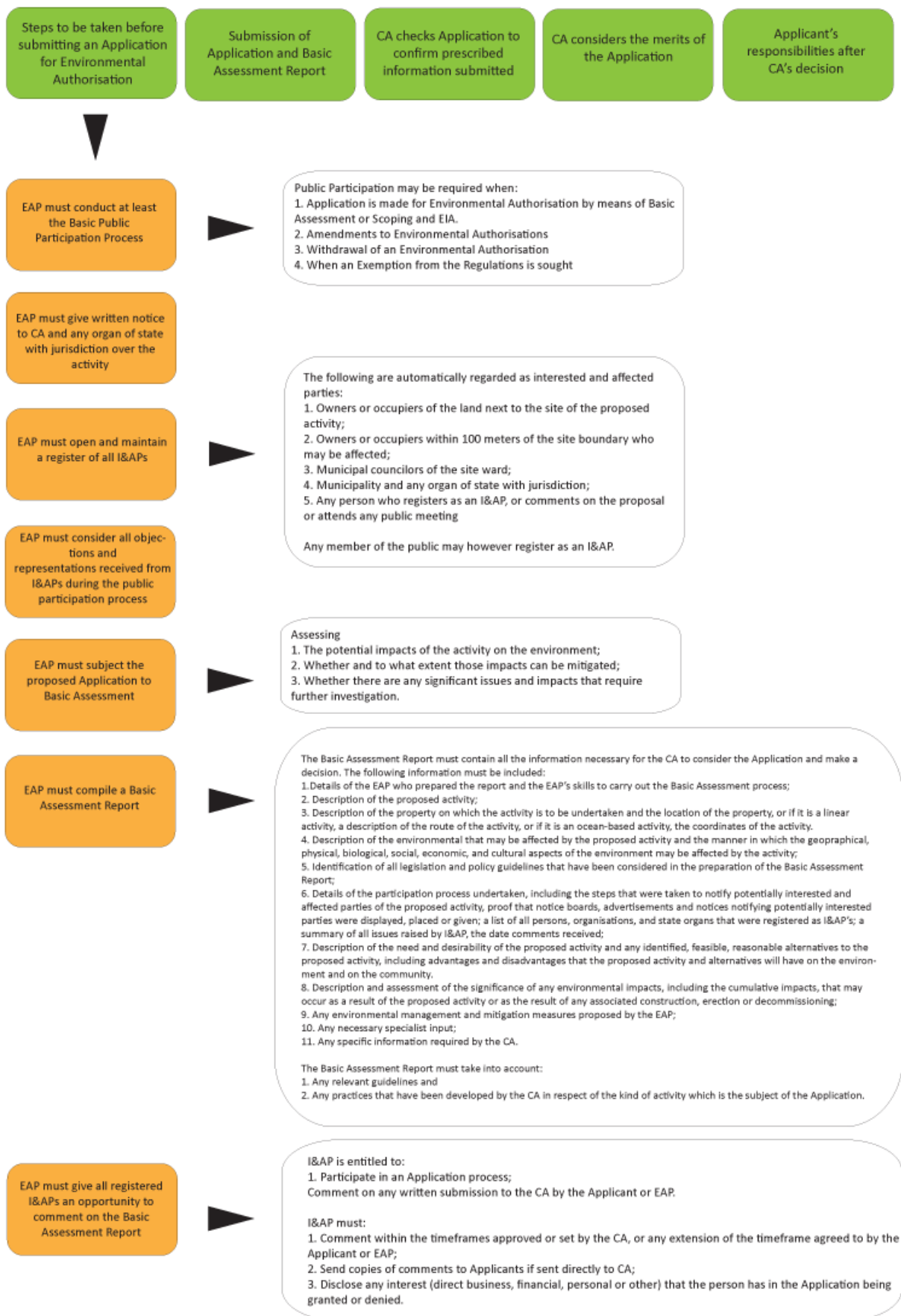


Figure 3: Basic Assessment Process

Registration and Comments Sheet

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To be a registered stakeholder and ensure all comments and queries regarding this project are accurately documented and addressed please forward your comments and contact details with the attached response sheet to:

Tutayi Chifadza
WSP Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Address: P.O. Box 98867, Sloane Park, 2152
Tel: 011 361 1390 **Fax:** 011 361 1301
Email: Tutayi.Chifadza@WSPGroup.co.za

Please insert your personal details below:

Name:				
Organisation & Designation:				
Address:				
Tel:				
Fax:				
E-mail:				
I would like my notifications by: (please tick the appropriate box)	Letter (mail)	E-mail	Fax	Telephone

In terms of GNR 982 (2014 EIA Regulations) please disclose below any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that you may have in the granting or rejection of the application for an environmental authorisation:

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Please list your interest in the project and comments below:

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Signature

Date

