

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE INCINERATOR UPGRADE AT QUEENSTOWN VETERINARY LABORATORY, EASTERN CAPE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



MARW/KILK/NELK

BID No: 497875/1

February 2016

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) serves as notice (in terms of regulation 41(2) published in Government Gazette No. R982 under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998) of the intent to upgrade and use an incinerator for the incineration of waste generated at the Queenstown Veterinary Laboratory, Eastern Cape.

This document will provide you with a brief description of the proposed project and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process that will be followed, as well as give you the opportunity to:

- **Register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP); and**

Notifications regarding the process and the availability of reports will only be sent to registered IAPs; and

- **Provide initial comments on any environmental, social and economic issue relating to the proposed development.**

During the EIA Process which will be followed, issues of concern and potential environmental and social impacts will be evaluated. Your comments will ensure that relevant issues are evaluated and will form part of the EIA.

You are hereby invited to register your interest in the proposed activity and provide your input by completing the Registration & Comment Form at the end of this document and sending it (either via email, post or fax) to:

Wanda Marais

SRK Consulting

Postal address: P O Box 21842, Port Elizabeth, 6000

Fax: (041) 509 4850; E-mail: wmarais@srk.co.za

Your comments must reach SRK Consulting by **12:00 on 30 March 2016**, to ensure that they will be included and addressed in the draft report. You may however, request to be registered as an IAP at any time during the EIA Process.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT

SRK Consulting (SRK) has been appointed by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed upgrade and use of an incinerator for the incineration of waste generated at the Queenstown Veterinary Laboratory. The existing incinerator is more than 30 years old and as a result has become unserviceable. The main core of the existing incinerator at Queenstown laboratory is melting away and needs to be replaced. Some of the main objectives of the proposed incinerator upgrade are to ensure that the facility complies with the relevant air quality and waste legislation and standards. Investigation into alternative activities and technologies will be considered in the EIA process and inform the final proposal.

The Queenstown Veterinary Laboratory generates organic, plastic and general waste during the conduct of diagnostic and analytical testing of specimen of animal origin. Organic waste which includes animal carcasses and general waste is disposed of through incineration. The incineration process is carried out by placing the material in the incinerator, adding diesel and igniting the diesel using an electrical burner. Incineration is done once or more times a week depending on the accumulated volume of material for disposal. The resulting ash is placed in containers and disposed of at the municipal landfill site.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed facility requires authorisation in terms of the following:

- National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004) (NEM:AQA);
- National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) 2014 EIA regulations; and
- Schedule in Government Notice 921, 2013, published in terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA).

The environmental authorisation process prescribed for listed activities under Listing Notices 1, 2 and 3 published in Government Gazette Numbers R983, R984 and R985

respectively and the waste licensing process for listed activities contained in the Schedule in terms of NEM:WA are defined in the EIA Regulations made under section 24(5) of NEMA.

Activity 28, listed in GN R984 (Listing Notice 2) of the NEMA EIA regulations and Activity 6 of Category A, listed in GN R921 of under NEM:WA, are the main activities associated with the proposed project, calling for an Integrated Environmental Authorisation process to be followed:

GNR 984 (28): Commencing an activity, which requires an atmospheric emission licence in terms of Section 21 of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004).

This activity is triggered as the replacement of the incinerator and chimney requires an atmospheric emissions licence.

GNR 921 (6) Category A: The treatment of general waste using any form of treatment at a facility that has the capacity to process in excess of 10 tons but less than 100 tons.

The above activity is triggered as hazardous waste from the Veterinary Laboratory will be disposed of by means of incineration.

An application will also be submitted to the District Municipality in terms of NEM:AQA as the following activity is triggered in GN R893 of 2013:

GN R893 (2) Category 8.2: Crematoria and veterinary waste incineration. Cremation of human remains, companion animals and the incineration of veterinary waste.

The laboratory generates organic, plastic and general waste during the conduct of diagnostic and analytical testing of specimen of animal origin. Organic waste which includes animal carcasses and general waste is disposed of through incineration.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify the environmental consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place.

The purpose of the EIA is to describe the potential consequences of the proposed development in environmental, economic and social terms. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified timeously so that these can be recorded and responded to in the EIA. All comments received in writing are included in the submission to the competent authority for their consideration.

The EIA consists of two phases. The first phase is a Scoping Study, which identifies potential issues requiring more detailed investigation via specialist studies. A complete list of specialist studies and the issues they should address will be detailed in the Draft Scoping

Report, which will be made available for public and authority review.

The second phase is the Impact Assessment phase, during which detailed investigations of the issues identified during scoping, will be undertaken.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The flow diagram below provides an overview of the EIA process according to the 2014 EIA Regulations:

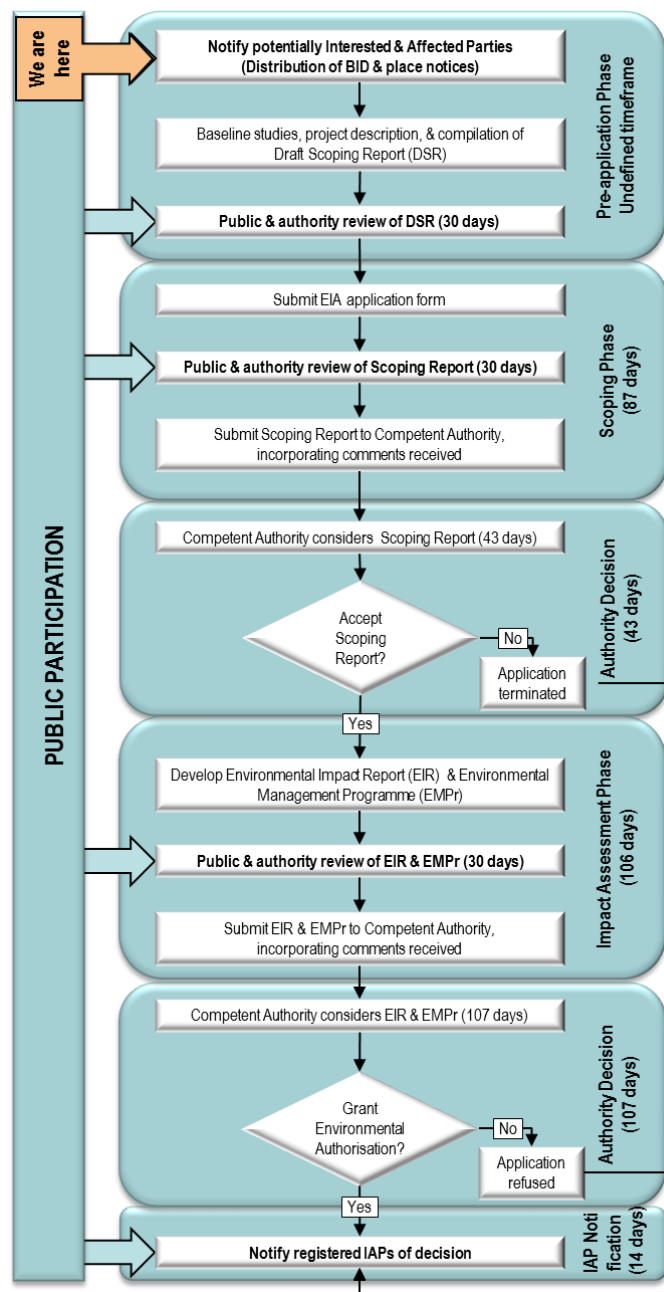


Figure 1: A typical Environmental Impact Assessment Process and stages where public comment will be invited

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

A number of potential impacts have been identified which will be considered further in the process. Specialist assessments will be conducted for the impacts that could potentially be significant and which required additional information. Potential impacts that have been identified at this stage include:

- Air quality;
- Waste management; and
- Construction related impacts, e.g. noise.

Additional impacts can be added based on the findings of the desktop and site inspection as well as input from the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) govern most aspects of Environmental Impact Assessments, including public participation. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).

During the Public Participation Process, input from the applicant, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process. IAPs will be given the opportunity to comment on the findings

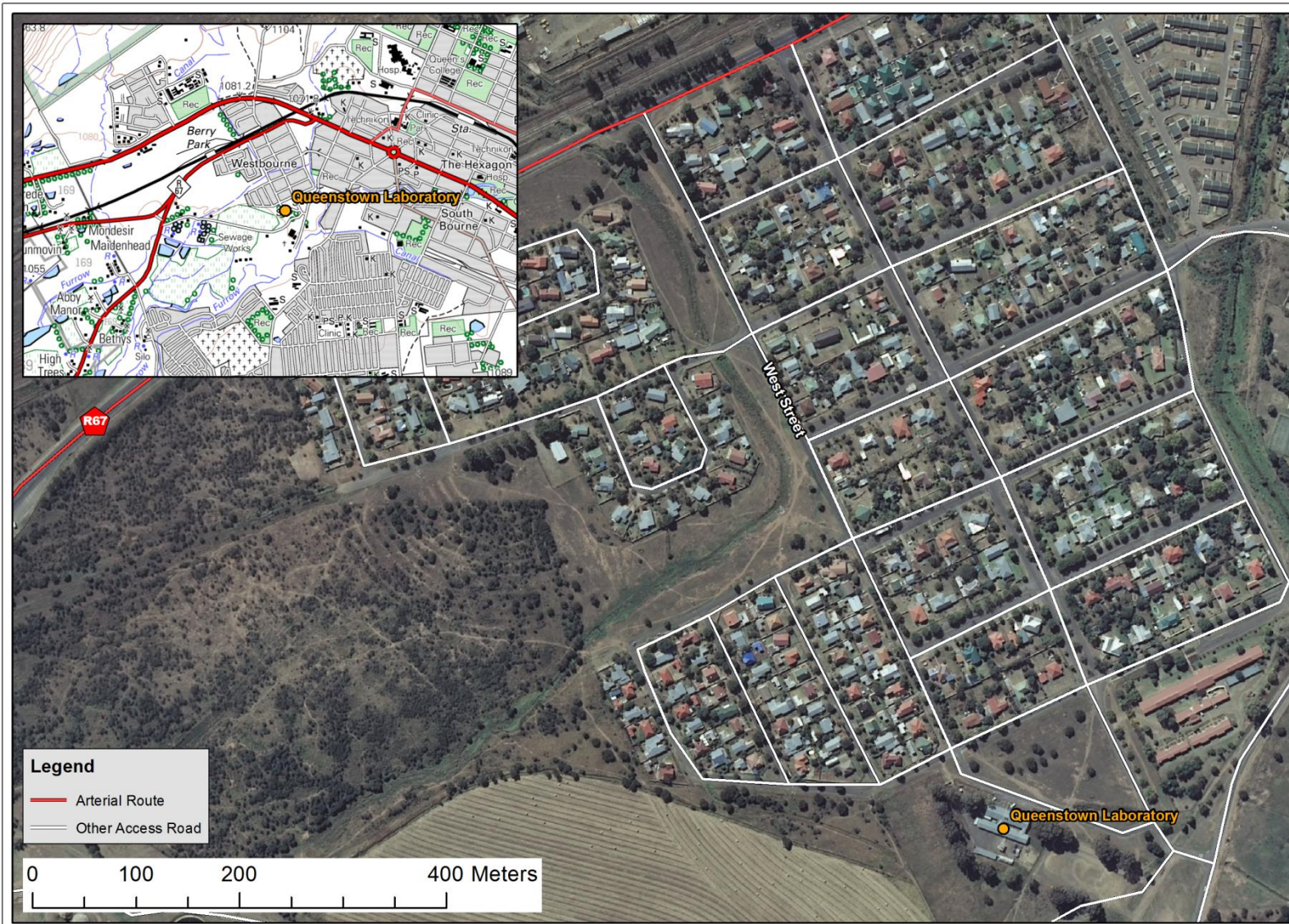
of both the Scoping and EIA Reports, and findings of the Specialist studies during the specified comment periods.

IAPs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed project.

To receive further communications regarding this development, please register by sending the completed and signed registration sheet at the back of this document to SRK Consulting.

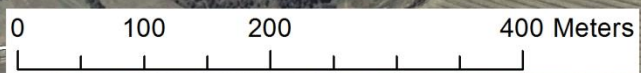
Who is doing the EIA?

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner must be appointed to conduct the EIA. SRK Consulting has been appointed to conduct the assessment. SRK will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity by conducting an objective and independent environmental assessment in which all the relevant information and opinions of Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) will be collected and passed on to DEDEAT. In this way an informed decision-making process can take place.



Legend

- Arterial Route
- Other Access Road



Incinerators EIA & AEL
 Locality - Queenstown



Scale: 1:5 000		A4
Projection: TM	Datum: HH94	
Central Meridian/Zone: Lo27		
Date: 18/02/2016	Compiled by: VERJ	
Project No. 497875	Fig No. 002	
Revision: A Date: 00 00 2013		

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Figure 2: Locality Plan

