

FOCUS GROUP MEETING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW MULTISAND REGIONAL WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

DE WILDT HELPMEKAAR MAATSKAPPY

Date: 12 March 2014 **Time:** 11:30 **Location:** Off Ramp 75, R513, De Wildt, Skietfontein Cafe Building

Purpose The purpose of the meeting was to have a discussion with representatives from the De Wildt Helpmekaar Maatskappy (DWHM) regarding the proposed landfill project; providing an opportunity for stakeholders to raise comments or issues with regard to the proposed project and to ensure that all comments regarding the proposed project are taken into account and addressed in the final Scoping Report (FSR).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 WELCOME

Mr J Hayes opened the meeting at 11:30. He welcomed all and thanked them for attending. Attendees introduced themselves. Please refer to **Table 1** for a list of the project team members and **Table 2** for the De Wildt Helpmekaar Maatskappy representatives that were present at the meeting.

1.2 ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Three (3) project team members attended the Focus Group Meeting (FGM).

Table 1: Project Team Members

Title	Initials and Surname
Mr	J Hayes
Mr	K Otto
Ms	M Maimane

Nine (9) representatives from De Wildt Helpmekaar Maatskappy attended the Focus Group Meeting (FGM).

Table 2: De Wildt Helpmekaar Maatskappy Representatives

Title	Initials and Surname
Mr	M Lemmer
Mr	J Lemmer
Mr	J Wesson
Mr	P Louw
Mr	J van Zyl
Mr	F Grabie
Mr	J Oosthuizen
Mr	J van Renburg
Ms	S Petersen

Please refer to Appendix A for a detailed attendance register.

2 CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

The following agenda was presented for the FGM. The subsequent presentation followed the structure of the agenda.

Table 3: Agenda for the FGM

No	Item
1	Welcome and Attendance
2	Purpose of the Meeting
3	Project Description and Location
4	Discussion
5	Way Forward
6	General
7	Closure

3 PRESENTATION

Mr J Hayes gave a brief overview presentation on the proposed Multisand Landfill project. The presentation covered the:

- Project Description;
- Project Location; and
- Contents of the Draft Scoping Report.

Please refer to Appendix B for a copy of the presentation.

4 DISCUSSION

	Comments	Response
1	DWHM requested to meet with the project team 3 more times during the course of the EIA	Mr Hayes indicated that a public open day is schedule to take place in April, and that another open day and focus group meeting will be held during the EIA phase. The public open day in April will be conducted outside of school holidays and at the Vissershoek Laerskool, as requested.
2	DWHM enquired whether a Class B Landfill site have limits on the type of waste it can receive	Mr Otto indicated that a Class B landfill accommodates mostly general waste, but according to the new classification of waste, it can also accept low risk hazardous waste.
3	DWHM enquired whether the proposed waste site cater for industrial waste.	Mr Otto indicated that the proposed landfill will cater for domestic, commercial and industrial general waste, as long as it fits in with the approved waste classification. Mr Otto also indicated that the proposed Multisand landfill will be a large regional facility, serving a larger area instead a number of smaller landfills serving smaller communities.
4	DWHM enquired whether, since the proposed landfill is privately owned, it will also cater for Madibeng's waste	Mr Otto indicated that Madibengs waste can be disposed of at the proposed Multisand Landfill
5	As it will be a regional landfill, and cater for waste generated across provinces, an objection was lodged by DWHM as the project is to be advertised in the government gazette as well, in addition to a regional and local	Mr Hayes indicated that they will investigate this matter and advertise in the government gazette if required

	newspaper.	
6	DWHM enquired whether Interwaste will subcontract to municipalities.	Mr Otto indicated that Interwaste may subcontract waste removal to the site to municipalities. However, it was indicated that all subcontractors to Interwaste will have to adhere to Interwaste's policies, rules and regulations. Since Interwaste is a private and JSE listed company, they will strictly adhere to the minimum requirements when operating a landfill.
7	DWHM enquired as to how informal reclaimers and recyclers will be managed / controlled on site.	Mr Otto indicated that Interwaste does not allow for on-site waste reclaimers or recyclers, due to the health and safety risks associated with that. Recycling is best done at source, and discussions regarding recycling facilities will be held with the municipality.
8	There is no control of what waste is dumped at other sites in the region e.g Onderstepoort. DWHM enquired how will the waste dumped be controlled at the proposed Multisand site?	Mr Otto indicated that Interwaste, as a private and JSE listed company will adhere to the minimum requirements for operating a landfill site. All waste will be classified on site, and only waste within the approved classification will be allowed to be disposed of at the proposed site. Mr Otto indicated that Interwaste will be liable for pollution up to 30 years subsequent to the closure of the landfill site. For this reason, strict measures will be put in place to manage and control the types of waste disposed of at the proposed landfill.
9	DWHM enquired whether Interwaste is ISO14001 certified?	Mr Otto confirmed that Interwaste is ISO14001 certified. He also invited members of the DWHM to visit the Interwaste website for more information on its current operations.
10	A concern was raised by DWHM in terms of the potential traffic impacts and traffic safety risks due to the increase in trucks transporting waste to the proposed landfill. In addition, the areas where the waste will be generated needs to be considered in line with the proposed access route.	Mr Hayes indicated that a traffic impact study will be conducted as part of the EIA. Mr Otto also indicated that two access routes, possible from the north and south, will be assessed.
11	DWHM enquired whether, as there are numerous quarries adjacent to the Multisand property, Interwaste propose to expand to the sites in the future to include neighbouring quarries	Mr Otto indicated that Interwaste does not intend to use neighbouring quarries in future, as the proposed Multisand landfill will be a large regional landfill with capacity expected to serve Interwaste's needs for more than 80 years.
12	DWHM indicated that the EIA team needs to investigate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer area of the biosphere reserve • Bullfrogs that may occur in the area • Occurrence of grass owls • Conservation status of the koppies within the project area • Presence of wetlands 	Mr Hayes indicated that these items will be investigated during specialist studies undertaken as part of the EIA investigations.

13	DWHM enquired as to the number of employment opportunities that will be created by the proposed project	Mr Hayes indicated that between 20 – 30 permanent opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the proposed project. These opportunities will include various skill levels
14	DWHM requested that the visual characteristics of what the proposed site will look like should be indicated during the EIA process	Mr Hayes indicated that a visual assessment will be conducted. This study will indicate what the operational site will look like, as well as what the landfill will look like subsequent to closure and rehabilitation.
15	DWHM enquired whether the existing quarry will still operate should the proposed landfill be developed	Mr Otto indicated that mining will continue to take place after the landfill was developed for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to sterilise potential mineral resources • Not to result in unnecessary job losses • To optimise development cost for the proposed landfill by creating more waste disposal capacity per m² landfill liner installed
16	DWHM indicated that the area is supplied with water from a few selected boreholes within the area. If the proposed landfill impact negatively on groundwater, it may affect the entire community	Mr Otto indicated that a groundwater study will be conducted to characterise the quantity and quality of existing groundwater. As the landfill cells will be lined with a Class B liner, potential groundwater pollution due to the landfill operation is minimal. It was however highlighted that a landfill monitoring committee will be established, which will also include members of the DWHM.
17	DWHM enquired whether the proposed access road will be tarred	Mr Otto indicated that the traffic assessment study will determine the level to which the site access road will need to be upgraded. However, if it is not tarred, dust suppression measures will definitely be applied on any gravel roads used for site access.
18	DWHM enquired how will Interwaste control flies that are attracted to the proposed landfill.	Mr Otto indicated that Interwaste will need to comply with the standards set by DWA's Minimum Requirements for Waste Disposal by Landfill and will operate the proposed landfill accordingly. This will include daily compaction and covering of waste which will greatly reduce the attraction and spreading of flies and other vectors (e.g. rats). In addition to this, mitigating measures like the use of "Red Top" fly traps are also used quite successfully on a number of landfills.
19	DWHM indicated that as the proposed project entails the development of a regional landfill, an advertisement would need to be placed in the government gazette.	AECOM will investigate the requirement for placing an advert in the government gazette. The outcome of this investigation will be contained within the Final Scoping Report. If required, any corrective procedural actions will be conducted.

5 WAY FORWARD AND GENERAL

Mr J Hayes presented the following programme for the proposed Multisand Landfill EIA process, but indicated that the dates are not fixed and may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Date	Activity
24 May 2014	Submission of the Final Scoping Report to Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

June-July 2014	DEA review of the Final Scoping Report
July-August 2014	Specialist Studies
August-October 2014	Public review of the Draft EIA Report
December 2014	Submission of the final EIA Report to DEA
December 2015-March 2015	DEA review of the Final EIA Report
May 2015	Decision on Environmental Authorisation (EA)
May 2015	<p>Notification of the EA* decision, whether authorisation to proceed with the project is granted or not.</p> <p><i>* Subsequent to the final EIA report is submitted, the relevant authority issues an "Environmental Authorisation" document. This document will either indicate a positive environmental authorisation (project may proceed) or a negative environmental authorisation (project may not proceed).</i></p>

On behalf of Interwaste, Mr Otto put out an invitation for DWHM to visit Interwaste's existing large regional FG Landfill in Olifantsfontein. Should there be interest in such a visit, this can be arranged by the EIA team.

6 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 12:00.

Appendix A

Detailed attendance register

Appendix B

Copy of the Presentation.