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Dear Sir/ Madam

**PROPOSED HYDROPOWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT BOEGOEBERG DAM ON THE  
ORANGE RIVER, NEAR GROBLERSHOOP, NORTHERN CAPE:  
AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT  
DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/568; NEAS Ref: DEA/EIA/TBA**

The above-mentioned project has reference. The purpose of this letter is to notify Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed projects and provide I&APs an opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) for the proposed project.

### 1) Introduction

Boegoeberg Hydro Electric (Pty) Ltd (Boegoeberg Hydro) wishes to construct a hydropower station and associated infrastructure of approximately 10.05 Megawatt (MW) at Boegoeberg Dam on the Orange River, on the farm Zeekoebaart (Remainder of Farm no. 306 and Portion 1 of Farm no. 306), approximately 26km south east of Groblershoop.

The proposed project would use the existing Boegoeberg Dam to provide water to the in-take structure which would supply the hydropower plant. It is proposed to divert a maximum of 120m<sup>3</sup> of the total flow from the river. This diverted flow would then pass through the hydropower plant infrastructure and be returned to the river some 400m downstream of the weir in-take structure. The dam would always maintain the full irrigation requirements of the agricultural canal as well as an agreed quantity of water, or the Environmental Flow Reserve (EFR)<sup>1</sup>, to pass the dam wall. Therefore, only a portion of the water left over once the irrigation canal and EFR have been satisfied would be diverted into an in-take structure. The in-take structure regulates the amount of water transferred into the water conveyance infrastructure (i.e. canal/tunnel leading to the powerhouse). The water would then be channelled through a canal and/or tunnel to convey the water to the powerhouse to be used to turn the turbines and generate electricity. The water would then exit into the Orange River from the powerhouse through a tunnel known as the tailrace. The electricity generated would be evacuated through an overhead transmission line of 132kV or less to the Fibre Substation and then into the national grid.

### 2) Regulatory Processes

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) the proposed projects trigger a number of listed activities and therefore a Scoping/ Environment Impact Assessment process in terms of the 2010 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations) is required. Boegoeberg Hydro has appointed Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Scoping/EIA Process. An application for Scoping/EIA has been submitted to the competent environmental authority namely the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

### 3) Public Participation

You have been identified as a potential I&AP for this project, either because you represent an affected organisation or because of your proximity to the proposed projects. Public participation is an integral part of the environmental process, and more detail on the public participation process is included in the Executive

<sup>1</sup> Flow required to sustain the aquatic ecology in the river.

Summary. This includes a request for potential I&APs to recommend other potential I&APs to include on the database (chain referral process).

*Availability of the DSR*

The DSR has been compiled and can be reviewed at the Groblershoop Public Library, at Kheis Municipality in Groblershoop and on Aurecon's website ([www.aurecongroup.com](http://www.aurecongroup.com), change "Current Location" to South Africa, and then click on '**Public participation**'). The Executive Summary, which highlights the key findings of the DSR, is also enclosed.

I&APs have until **26 August 2013** to submit comments on the DSR.

**4) Way Forward**

Should you have any comments or concerns regarding the proposed projects, please provide your comments in writing to Aurecon by email, fax or post, on or before **26 August 2013**. All comments received and issues raised will be included in a Comments and Response Report (CRR), which will be appended to the Final Scoping Report. Copies of the CRR will be sent to those who submitted comment. All registered I&APs will be notified when the Final Scoping Report available for comment.

If you have any questions or comments, or require clarification of the content of this letter, please contact **Simon Clark** or **Diane Erasmus** of Aurecon.

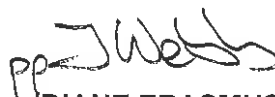
Yours sincerely

AURECON



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