

**APPLICATION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MES COMPLIANCE
TIMEFRAMES FOR ESKOM’S COAL AND LIQUID FUEL FIRED
POWER STATIONS**

1ST ROUND OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT –

WARD COUNCILLOR BRIEFING AT BALFOUR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

(GROOTVLEI POWER STATION)

MINUTES OF MEETING

MEETING DATE	28 August 2018
VENUE	Balfour Municipal Chambers
TIME	9:30 – 10:15 HRS
CHAIRPERSON	Marissa Botha
MEETING	Ward Councillors Briefing (Focus Group Meeting)

Content of the Minutes of Meeting:

1. Meeting Attendees
2. Discussions

Annexure A – Attendance Register

No presentation was given at the briefing. Councillors were requested to attend the public meetings for a full project presentation

1. MEETING ATTENDEES:

Name & Surname	Position	Abbreviation
Naledzi Environmental Consultants (NEC)		
Marissa Botha	EAP and Meeting Facilitator	MB
Desmond Musetsho	EAP and Project Manager	DM
Sithabisiwe Ncube-Gari	EAP and Public Participation Programme (Scribe)	SNG
Thendo Matsenene	EAP and Public Participation Programme (Scribe)	TM
Dipaleseng Local Municipality (DLM)		
Khethiwe Nkosi	Speaker	KN
Thabo Mabote	Ward Coordinator	TME
Willem Davel	PR Councillor	WD
Themba Mahlangu	Councillor Ward 6	TMU
Kent Nyamade	Councillor Ward 5	KNE
Lebohang Maruping	PR Councillor	LM
Siphiwe Nhlapo	Councillor Siyathemba	SN
Francis Dlamini	Councillor	FD
Johannes Vilakazi	Public Participation Officer	JV
Kgosh Mokoena	Councillor	KM

REFER TO ANNEXURE A FOR THE SIGNED ATTENDANCE REGISTER

2. DISCUSSIONS

NO	ITEM	OWNER
2.1	Welcome and Introduction	
2.1.1	Welcome and introductions by NEC and DLM.	
2.1.2	Attendance register The attendance register was circulated and signed.	MB (NEC)
2.1.3	NEC was requested to apologize for their late arrival. NEC apologized.	
2.2	Purpose of Meeting	
2.2.1	The purpose of this meeting is to inform the councillors of Eskom's intent to apply for postponement from the MES compliance time frames and NEC's approach to the PPP before communicating with the communities at Siyathemba and Grootvlei.	
2.2.2	Grootvlei power station is located south west of Balfour and falls within the Mpumalanga Highveld Region.	
2.2.3	In the process of generating electricity, the power station, like all other coal fired power stations, releases emissions from its stacks, which comprise combustion gasses Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), Nitrogen Oxides (NO _x), and fly ash referred to as Particulate Matter (PM). These three primary pollutants are regulated through a set of Minimum Emission Standards (MES). The MES have two sets of emission limits and compliance time frames: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 'existing plant' limits applying to existing plants • 2020 'new plant' limits which apply to new facilities The understanding of air quality and basic principles of power generation were explained.	
2.2.4	South Africa has a set of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) which sets limits for priority pollutants and indicate what level of exposure to these pollutants are considered less risky for people and the environment.	
2.2.5	To achieve the NAAQS government published a set of MES which specify which air polluters must comply with which set of emission limits so as to achieve the NAAQS.	
2.2.6	MB explained the difference between the NAAQS and the MES.	MB (NEC)
2.2.7	Eskom's power stations are considered air pollution sources, one such source is Grootvlei power station.	
2.2.8	Some of Eskom's existing power stations, such as Grootvlei, have challenges with compliance to limits set for 'new facilities'. Existing power stations were constructed before the promulgation of the MES, and were, thus, never designed to achieve MES compliance.	
2.2.9	Eskom will apply for postponement for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stations which will mostly be able to comply with the existing MES and in some cases with the new plant MES, however, not within the legislated timeframes. • Stations which are unable to comply with the new plant MES for SO₂. • Some of its older fleet, which will be decommissioned within the next 12 years, where, if the retrofit were to be applied, it would only, operate for a few years post-retrofit, before the power station is shut down according to its 50-year life expectancy and where it does not make sense to spend the money. 	
2.2.10	Eskom intends to apply for postponement of the compliance timeframes of the MES for 14 of its coal and liquid fuel fired power stations to the National Air Quality Officer (NAQO). Grootvlei power station forms part of the application. A Background Information Document (BID), which provides a project overview, has been distributed in this regard to the Speaker's Office at DLM and to the councilors.	
2.2.11	In accordance with the requirements for postponement applications, Eskom must submit an Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR), motivation and reasons for the application and a Public Participation Report to the NAQO. The application is hence subject to a public participation process (PPP).	

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	Eskom has appointed NEC has the independent consultant to conduct the specialist investigations and undertake the PPP.	
2.2.12	<p>The PPP will comprise two rounds of public engagement. In the 1st round we inform the public of the project through distribution of the BID and facilitation of a 1st round of public meetings. We, thereafter, return to the public in a 2nd round of public engagement in which we communicate the results of the specialist investigations. We currently in the 1st round of public engagement and have scheduled two public meetings in the area at Siyathemba and Grootvlei.</p> <p>More detailed explanations would be provided at the public meetings which will follow hereafter at Siyathemba and Grootvlei.</p>	
2.2.13	NEC would like to provide councilors the opportunity to ask questions and to comment on the planned approach of the application. NEC will record comments, issues and concerns regarding the application.	
2.3.	DISCUSSION SESSION	Response
2.3.1	<p>Willem Davel I am a PR Councillor and did not receive the BID for the project.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) We have BID's available here at the briefing. The BID was handed out and emailed to Mr Willem Davel.</p>
2.3.2	<p>Councillor Themba Mahlangu The public meetings only cover the areas of Balfour and Grootvlei. We also have the Nthorwane community at Greylingstad.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) NEC explained to the Ward Coordinator that we are able to conduct two meetings in the area. It was suggested that Grootvlei is closest to the power station hence we have scheduled a meeting at Grootvlei. Secondly, Balfour is the most populated area close to Grootvlei and hence the 2nd meeting has been scheduled there.</p> <p>We can consider alternative venues for the 2nd round of public engagement, in which the councilors decide in which two areas we should conduct the meetings.</p>
2.3.3	<p>Willem Davel There are many business owners in Balfour and farmers. Next time we should schedule a meeting at the Balfour Town Hall.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) Noted. We will consider the Balfour Town Hall in the 2nd round.</p>
2.3.4	<p>Willem Davel At Grootvlei power station the environment is a disgrace and the water of nearby water sources are polluted.</p> <p>Where were these meetings advertised? A lot of people of not aware of these meetings.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) NEC published advertisements in the Beeld, Daily Sun and Heidelberg/Nigel Heraut. We placed site notices in the area of Grootvlei, Balfour and Greylingstad. We have communicated the project to the Speakers Offices and sent the BID to the relevant councilors, hence the briefing meeting.</p> <p>DLM Speaker's office has also loud hailed the meetings in the communities.</p>
2.3.5	<p>Willem Davel Grootvlei power station is an old power station. It is</p>	<p>MB (NEC) Currently Grootvlei power station still</p>

NO	ITEM	OWNER
	<p>one of the power stations that have been recommissioned, but surely will also be decommissioned again soon.</p> <p>If Grootvlei will be decommissioned soon why spend all this money on postponements and retrofits? Why does Eskom not just close the station?</p>	<p>serves as a backup power supply. Eskom has already retrofitted the power station with a Fabric Filter Plant (FFP) to reduce PM. Grootvlei was one of the highest polluting power stations targeted for retrofits to reduce the impact on the ambient air quality.</p> <p>No further retrofits are planned for the power station from this point forward. The power station will operate up to 2026, in line with the 50 year life plan. In 2020 the power station must comply with more stringent new plant limits. Eskom will hence request for postponement from the MES compliance timeframe.</p>
2.3.6	<p>Willem Davel In the 2nd round of public engagement, let us schedule a councilors meeting two weeks prior to conducting the public meeting with the communities.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) Agreed.</p>
2.3.7	<p>Khetiwe Nkosi (Speaker) We have three areas in which meetings need to be conducted this includes Grootvlei, Balfour and Greylingstad.</p> <p>In the 2nd round we would like to have three meetings in the area not just two.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) We will consider the request, although budgetary limitations are driving the choice of venues. The choice seeks to make the best suitable area, as it is not feasible to hold meetings at all residential areas.</p>
2.3.8	<p>Khetiwe Nkosi (Speaker) Why is Eskom not present at the briefing?</p>	<p>MB (NEC) In our communication with the Ward Coordinator the Councilor Briefing meeting was scheduled for 09:00am. We received a last minute request for the meeting to take place at 08:00am. Due to distance we need to travel from Vereeniging to Balfour we could not commit to 08:00am and hence cancelled the meeting and informed Eskom of the cancellation. On our arrival at Balfour we decided to, at least, meet with the Ward Coordinator before the public meetings. He then suggested we still meet the councilors. Eskom was already informed that the meeting was cancelled.</p>
2.3.9	<p>Khetiwe Nkosi (Speaker) Please note our communities are not worried about air pollution. They are desperate for job opportunities. This will be raised at the public meetings.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) Noted. Yet in this process Eskom seeks to apply to the NAQO for postponement so that Eskom can continue with its current operations. Through the process, there are no additional job opportunities to be created. If the postponement application is not approved by the NAQO, Eskom's licence to operate is threatened, and job opportunities enjoyed by all employed at the station, may be at risk.</p>
2.3.9	<p>Khetiwe Nkosi (Speaker) We as the DLM Speaker's Office and all the</p>	<p>MB (NEC) Noted. We will start the public</p>

NO	ITEM		OWNER
	councilors will attend the public meetings scheduled today and will follow NEC after the meeting to the venues.	meeting at 11:00am at the Siyathemba Community Hall.	
2.8	Closure		OWNER
2.8.1	MB indicated the way forward and closed the meeting.		MB (NEC)

ANNEXURE A

Signed Attendance Register

ATTENDANCES REGISTER – 1ST ROUND OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

WARD COUNCILLORS BRIEFING, BALFOUR COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GROOTVLEI POWER STATION

APPLICATION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINIMUM EMISSION STANDARDS FOR ESKOM'S COAL AND LIQUID-FIRED POWER STATIONS, MPUMALANGA HIGHVELD, VAAL TRIANGLE AND CAPE REGION

DATE: TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2018, 09:00 – 10:00

VENUE: BALFOUR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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Naledzi Environmental Consultants CC

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