

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT / WASTE LICENCE
APPLICATION FOR CLOSURE OF EXISTING LANDFILL SITE AND
IDENTIFICATION OF NEW LANDFILL SITE IN KOKSTAD**

1 INTRODUCTION

The Greater Kokstad Municipality is in the process of rehabilitating and closing the existing Kokstad Landfill Site. In order for this to occur, alternative arrangements for the disposal of waste generated by the area needs to be investigated. The Municipality is proposing to identify and establish a new waste disposal facility that is in line with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEM: Waste Act), 2008 (Act 107 of 1998)

Any activity identified in terms of Section 19 (1) of the NEM: Waste Act requires Waste Management Licence (WML) Application. The activities that require licensing under the NEM: Waste Act is as follows:

Government Notice Number	Category and Activity Number	Activity Description
GNR 718	Category A, (20)	The decommissioning of activities listed in this Schedule.
GNR 718	Category B, (10)	The disposal of general waste to land covering an area in excess of 200 m ² .
GNR 718	Category B, (11)	The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category B of this Schedule (not in isolation to associated activity).

In terms of the NEM: Waste Act, any person wishing to carry out a Category A activity is required to conduct a basic assessment process, as stipulated in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) regulations made under section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as part of a waste management licence application.

Similarly, any person wishing to carry out a Category B activity is required to conduct an environmental impact assessment process as part of the waste management licence application.

This background information document describes the proposed activity and the WML/EIA processes that are required.

2 WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The Greater Kokstad Municipality has recognised the need to rehabilitate and close the existing Kokstad Landfill site. However, in so doing, arrangements must also be made to deal with the waste that will still be generated in Kokstad and its surrounds. A new landfill will therefore be required once the old site stops receiving waste.

The site will only accept general waste which includes domestic refuse, non-hazardous industrial waste, commercial waste, garden refuse and builders' rubble. The site will not accept any hazardous waste i.e. waste which has toxic, chemical or long-lasting properties which may have a negative effect on human health or the environment.

Landfill sites cannot and should not be developed on land that is unsuitable. Sites need to be considered carefully in terms of socio-economic and biophysical characteristics. It is for this purpose that the EIA and WML processes have been developed to ensure that future waste disposal facilities are properly sited which did not always happen in the past.

The EIA/WML processes required for the closure of the old site and the identification of the new one are separate processes and also differ in type of assessment that is required by law. The closure of the landfill requires a Basic Assessment and the identification of the new site requires a full Scoping and EIA process. Although these are separate, the two projects will be run concurrently as they are interlinked.

The processes are described in more detail below.

3 EIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF NEW SITE

3.1 Scoping Phase

In terms of the EIA Regulations a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process will be followed.

The main objectives of the Scoping Phase are to:-

- Identify possible issues, impacts and concerns relating to the closure of a landfill site;
- Screen out non-issues; and
- Identify alternative sites for the location of the landfills.

A report on the Scoping Phase will be compiled and distributed to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for comment. Feedback received during this period will be incorporated into the document and submitted to the provincial environmental authority for approval. The provincial authority is the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development (KZN DAEARD). A Plan of Study for EIA will be submitted with the Scoping Report and will outline the steps that will be taken during the EIA phase. The authorities will have to assess the documents and approve and/or provide guidance on the course of action to be followed.

3.2 EIA Phase

The purpose of the EIA phase is to:

- Address issues that have been raised during the scoping phase;
- Assess alternatives to the proposed activity in a comparative manner;
- Assess all identified impacts and determine the significance of each impact; and
- Formulate mitigation measures.

The EIA report will be released for comment and discussion before being submitted to the authorities. It will also include the WML application documents which will need to contain all the information required by the licensing authority for them to be able to draft the actual licence and the conditions on which the landfill will be permitted to operate.

4 BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR CLOSURE OF OLD SITE

The overall purpose of the Basic Assessment is the same as that of the EIA for the new site. The main objectives would be to assess the alternatives for the rehabilitation and closure of the site and identify any social and biophysical impacts from the proposed closure.

The engineering team will also be responsible for the closure design of the landfill site.

This includes:

- Remedial design to address identified problem areas
- Final shaping, landscaping and re-vegetation
- Final landfill cover or cap design
- Permanent storm water diversion measures, run off control and anti-erosion measures
- Any infrastructure relating to the end-use plan

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Participation is a statutory requirement for projects of this nature in terms of the Constitution and NEMA. It establishes an ongoing mechanism for the collection and assimilation of I&AP inputs. The objectives of the public participation process can be summarised as follows:

- To inform I&APs of the proposed development;
- To provide an opportunity for I&APs to raise issues, concerns and suggestions;
- To promote transparency and an understanding of the project and its consequences;
- To facilitate liaison and communication with I&APs;
- To serve as a data gathering mechanism for the Scoping phase; and
- To address the issues and concerns raised by I&APs as far as possible.

6 HOW ARE SITES FOR THE NEW LANDFILL SELECTED?

The project team has identified several candidate sites for the proposed location of the new landfill site. These broad areas will be ranked according to economic, social and environmental suitability, explained below:-

- **Social Aspects**

Densely populated areas will be avoided as a landfill site does have the potential to impact on community health, safety and general well-being. For this reason, the landfill will require a sufficient buffer zone for it to be potentially suitable. A buffer zone is the piece of land between the boundary of the landfill and the nearest residential area.

- **Biophysical Aspects**

The biophysical attributes of an area must be considered in order to determine the type and level of risk the landfill will pose to its surrounding environment. The impact that the landfill may have on nearby water sources is usually of most concern, however, other factors such as topography, geology and climate play an important role in determining site suitability.

- **Economic Aspects**

Site selection is also determined by the financial cost of a landfill site. Factors such as access to major routes and distance to waste generation areas can determine the cost of operating a site. Finding a site that is economically feasible must tie in with other considerations because if the site becomes a burden to manage it can potentially impact on the social and biophysical environment.

7 AUTHORITY INVOLVMENT

The provincial environmental authorities will be consulted and kept informed throughout the process. Once the required documentation and reports are submitted, the respective

departments have a certain period of time in which to review it and issue their respective decisions and conditions of approval.

Waste Management Licences will be applied for from the provincial authority, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development (KZN DAEARD). However, other departments are also involved during the process, e.g. the National Department of Water Affairs (DWA) who are required to issue an internal Record of Decision in matters dealing with waste.

8 PROJECT TEAM

The Project Applicant is the Greater Kokstad Municipality. The Project Team involved with the proposed landfill sites consists of the following companies:-

- ❖ **Scientific Roets:** Engineering, Agricultural and Rural Development Specialists
- ❖ **Thekwini GeoCivils:** Civil and Structural Engineers; and
- ❖ **Icando:** Environmental and Waste Management Specialists

9 HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

Public involvement is an important aspect of the licensing process to ensure that issues and concerns of individuals who may be affected are taken into account. To register as an interested and affected party, or to raise any concerns or issues, please fill in the attached form and fax or email it to the offices of Icando.

10 CONTACT DETAILS

For further information please contact Icando (contact details are given below).

Verusha Nadar
P.O. Box 115, Link Hills, 3652
Tel: 031-763 3760; **Fax:** 031-763 3664
Email: verusha@icando.co.za

