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**Department :**

Economic Development, Tourism and  
Environmental Affairs

**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

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Reference : 0011/July/2017  
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Date :  
Usuku :  
Datum : 31 / 07 / 2017

**Directorate: Environmental Services**

**Attention:** Ms. Carla Elliott (Principal Consultant: WSP, Environment & Energy, Africa)

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**Re: Proposed SBM Pipeline stabilization for SAFREF, which is located within the eThekwin Municipality.**

Dear Madam,

Please be advised of the following:

- 1) The following has reference:
  - a) The meeting held on 06 July 2017 regarding the above-mentioned proposal;
  - b) The internal legal opinion provided by the Department in terms of the competent authority; and,
  - c) The motivation received from Ms Carla Elliott in terms if the project is considered maintenance, received by the Department on 19 July 2017.
- 2) Inspections undertaken by Shell abd BP South Africa Petroleum Refineries (SAPREF) have shown that approximately 600m of the single buoy mooring (SBM) subsea pipeline between 1.4km and 2km from the Pipeline End Manifold (PLEM) is not resting on the seabed (elevated by approximately 2m) and as such there is an increased risk that the pipeline could fail as a result of high stresses. The subtidal pipeline enters the sea approximately 1km north of Isipingo and is used to facilitate the transfer of crude oil between tanker vessels and the shore.
- 3) Investigations have been carried out by SAPREF to identify possible options for pipeline re-settling and remediation. The preferred solution is to trench the pipeline below the seabed level to prevent it from obstructing sand migration and thereby ensuring pipeline integrity. This can be undertaken through various means including:
  - a) Water jetting by blowing;
  - b) Water jetting by suction; and
  - c) Mechanical excavation.

- 4) The above-mentioned information was reviewed and taken into consideration in the decision making process. The Department is of the opinion that the project **does not constitute an activity** which is identified in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, December 2014 as amended, and the subsequent amendment to the EIA Regulations, 07 April 2017. Therefore an environmental authorisation **will not** be required.
- 5) The project could have potentially triggered Activity 19A of GNR 983 of the EIA Regulations 2014 and the subsequent amendment to the EIA Regulations, 07 April 2017 which reads:

**Activity 19A of Listing Notice 1:**

*The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from-*

*(iii) the sea;*

*but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving-  
(g) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.*


- 6) Activity 19 of GNR 983, December 2014 (as amended) allows for maintenance activities to commence provided it is undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. Based on the above, the proposal is not listed in terms of the EIA Regulations, December 2014 (as amended) and 07 April 2017. The Department awaits the Maintenance Management Plan and the Method Statement for the above-mentioned project.
- 7) Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any enquiries.

Yours faithfully



**Ms. Natasha Brijlal**  
**Control Environmental Officer: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**  
**KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs**  
**eThekweni District**

31/07/2017

Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs, KwaZulu-Natal	0011/July/2017: Maintenance of the SBM pipeline, SAPREF	Page 2 of 2	 Initials
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