

APPENDIX C3:
Process Notification Letter

12 November 2021

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

**GENERAL WASTE DISPOSAL SITE AT THE ESKOM MAJUBA POWER STATION NEAR AMERSFOORT,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

NOTICE OF SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Eskom Majuba Power Station is proposing the development of a new general waste disposal site on Portions 1, 2 and 6 of the Farm Witkoppies 81HS, approximately 13km southwest of Amersfoort and 40km north-northwest of Volksrust in the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality, which forms part of the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The new general waste disposal site will be constructed adjacent to the existing, closed landfill site at the Eskom Majuba Power Station.

Infrastructure associated with the new general waste disposal site will include the following:

- » Fencing with appropriate signage.
- » An adequate access road.
- » An access control gate.
- » A guard house with an ablution facility.
- » Covered parking facilities.
- » A designated area for parking and servicing of plant and machinery.
- » Sorting and storage facilities for recyclables.
- » A conservancy tank connected to the ablution facility.
- » Adequate water and electricity connection from the existing rising mains.
- » Stormwater drainage network and evaporation pond for the stormwater entering the site through the waste body.
- » A leachate management system.

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of December 2014 (as amended in April 2017), published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA), and the List of Waste Management Activities (GNR 921), the construction and operation of the general waste disposal site is a listed activity requiring an Integrated Environmental Authorisation (IEA) and Waste Management Licence (WML) from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). In terms of GNR 326 and GNR 921, the application for an Integrated EA and WML is required to be supported by a full Scoping and EIA process. The application for an Integrated EA and WML is required to be supported by comprehensive, independent environmental studies.

The Scoping and EIA process is an effective planning and decision-making tool. It allows the environmental consequences resulting from the construction and operation of a project to be identified and appropriately managed. It provides the opportunity for the developer to be forewarned of potential environmental issues and allows for the resolution of the issue(s) reported on in the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, as well as opening a dialogue with interested and affected parties.

In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Eskom had previously appointed BTW & Associates as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and EIA process and prepare a Scoping and EIA Report in support of the proposed project.

The Scoping Report and Plan of Study for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prepared by BTW & Associates was submitted to the DFFE on 20 September 2019. The Scoping Report was accepted and the Plan of Study for the EIA approved by the DFFE on 04 November 2019. Since acceptance of the Scoping Report and approval of the Plan of Study for the EIA by the DFFE in 2019, an EIA Report, inclusive of specialist reports and an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), has not been submitted to DFFE for their consideration and decision-making.

As it has been over two (2) years since the date of acceptance of the Scoping Report, and no EIA Report, inclusive of specialist studies and an EMPr has been submitted to the Department, the Scoping and EIA process for this project is being reinitiated and Eskom has now appointed Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd (Savannah Environmental) to undertake the required S&EIA and public participation process for the project, in order to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed general waste disposal site and recommend appropriate mitigation measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). As part of these environmental studies, Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through the public participation process being undertaken by Savannah Environmental.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

Various specialists were appointed by BTW & Associates (i.e., the previous EAP on this project) in 2018 to undertake an assessment of the project site as part of the Scoping Phase, with the aim of identifying the potential for environmental impacts. These specialist studies will be updated further to inform the EIA Report during the EIA Phase of the project. Specialist studies relevant to this project include the following:

- » **Wetland Delineation and Biodiversity Impact Assessment** – which includes an assessment of impacts and associated disturbance to drainage lines, rivers, and wetlands at a broad and fine scale. It also includes ecology, fauna and flora and assesses the potential impact and the associated disturbance of vegetation on the biodiversity of the area (including critical biodiversity areas and broad-scale processes).
- » **Heritage Impact Assessment** – which includes an assessment of the potential disturbance to or destruction of heritage sites during the construction phase through excavation activities.
- » **Palaeontological Impact Assessment** – which includes an assessment of the potential disturbance to or destruction of fossils during the construction phase through excavation activities.
- » **Geotechnical and Geohydrological Impact Assessment** – which includes information on the physical characteristics of soil and/or rock within an area. It also includes an assessment of the impacts on the receiving groundwater environment.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers I&APs the opportunity to become actively involved in the EIA processes. Comments and inputs from I&APs are encouraged in order to ensure that potential impacts are considered throughout the EIA processes. The public participation process aims to ensure that:

- » Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the applications are made available to I&APs for review.
- » I&AP participation is facilitated in such a manner that they are provided with reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed projects.
- » Adequate review periods are provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the Scoping, EIA and Basic Assessment Reports.

In order to ensure effective participation, the public participation processes includes the following:

- » Identifying I&APs, including affected and adjacent landowners and occupiers of land, and relevant Organs of State, and recording details within a database.
- » Notifying registered I&APs of the commencement of the EIA processes.
- » Providing access to registered parties to an online stakeholder engagement platform, which centralises project information and stakeholder input in a single digital platform.
- » Providing an opportunity for I&APs to engage with the project team.
- » Placing site notices at the affected properties and in the study area.
- » Placing an advertisement in a local newspaper and using a local radio station (where available).
- » Notifying I&APs of the release of the Reports for review and comment, meetings to be held and the closing dates by which comments must be received.
- » Providing an opportunity to engage with the project team via appropriate virtual platform (to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19) or telephone.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN I&AP

In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the Public Participation Guidelines, 2014, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- » To participate in the EIA processes, you must register yourself on the I&AP database.
- » You are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest that you may have in the approval or refusal of the applications.
- » You must ensure that any comments regarding the proposed projects are submitted within the stipulated timeframes.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

1. By responding (by phone, fax or email) to our invitation for your involvement which has been advertised in a local newspaper and on site.
2. By attending the virtual meetings to be held during the course of the EIA process.
3. By contacting the consultants with queries or comments.
4. By reviewing and commenting on the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports within the stipulated 30-day review periods.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for the proposed projects, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to provide comment, raise issues and concerns which affect and / or interest you, or request further information. Your input forms a key element of the EIA processes.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

As a registered Interested and Affected Party, you are hereby notified that the Scoping Report for the project is available for review and comment from Friday, **12 November 2021** until **Monday, 13 December 2021** and can be downloaded on the Savannah Environmental website (<https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/other/>). The final date to submit comments is Monday, **13 December 2021**.

The availability of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for review and comment will be announced once the EIA Phase of the project has commenced.

Should you wish to obtain further information on the project, register on the project's database, and submit written comments on the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, please direct your communication to Tumelo Mathulwe of Savannah Environmental using the contact information below:

Savannah Environmental
Tumelo Mathulwe
P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157
Tel: 011 656 3237 / Fax: 086 684 0547
Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
Website: <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/other/>

Kind regards,

TUMELO MATHULWE

Public Participation Consultant

Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com