

13 April 2018

Dear Stakeholder

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) AND A WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENSE (WML) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUTSHO POWER PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON A SITE NEAR MAKHADO (LOUIS TRICHARDT), LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**DEA REFERENCE NUMBER: 14/12/16/3/3/3/2220**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT FOR REVIEW**

Mutsho Power (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of a new coal-fired power station and associated infrastructure on a site near Makhado (Louis Trichardt), in the Musina Local Municipality of Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. The project is to be known as the Mutsho Power Project, and is intended to form part of the Department of Energy's (DoE's) Coal Baseload Independent Power Producer (IPP) Procurement Programme (CBIPPPP). The Mutsho Power Project will therefore have a generation capacity of up to 600MW, and will make use of Supercritical (SC) Circulating Fluidised Bed (CFB) technology.

The project will utilise coal mined at the Makhado Colliery, to be developed approximately 20km south-east of the project site, to fuel its operations. Coal will be transported to site either via a new 22km railway loop, proposed for development between Makhado Colliery and the existing Huntleigh railway siding, or via road transport.

The project is planned to comprise of the following key components and associated infrastructure:

	<b>600MW SC CFB Plant</b>
<b>Power island consisting of:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 2 x 300MW Supercritical (SC) Circulating Fluidised Bed (CFB) boilers.</li> <li>» Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP)</li> <li>» Flue / smoke stack up to 150m in height.</li> <li>» Direct dry-cooling (air-cooling) systems.</li> <li>» Balance of plant components (including steam turbines and generators etc.).</li> </ul>
<b>Raw materials storage and handling:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Coal and Limestone / Lime Rail Spur and / or Road off-loading systems.</li> <li>» Upgrading or establishment of a rail siding.</li> <li>» Coal crusher and raw material handling equipment.</li> <li>» Strategic and working coal stockpile.</li> <li>» Limestone or Lime storage and handling area.</li> </ul>
<b>Ash handling and disposal:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Ash dump (dry-ashing is proposed in order to reduce the project's water requirements in alignment with the recommendations of the National Development Plan (NDP) and Integrated Energy Plan (IEP)).</li> </ul>

<b>Water infrastructure:</b>	» Raw water storage dam (up to 5ha).
	» Water supply pipelines and booster stations.
	» Pollution control / run-off dams (up to 2.5ha each).
	» Packaged Water treatment plant (WTP).
	» Wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).
	» Storm water management systems.
<b>Electrical infrastructure:</b>	» HV Yard and substation components with HV overhead transmission lines connecting to Eskom infrastructure.
<b>Associated infrastructure:</b>	» Control room, office / administration, workshop, storage and logistics buildings.
	» On-site critical staff accommodation required during construction (up to 1.5ha).
	» Temporary site office, laydown and assembly areas, and batching plant (up to 5ha in total).
	» Upgrading of external roads and establishment of internal access roads.
	» Security fencing and lighting, and access control with guardhouse.

Detailed grid integration and bulk water supply options are to be assessed through separate feasibility and permitting processes.

A minimum development footprint approximately 350ha in extent is required for the power plant and associated infrastructure. While the physical power generation components, require approximately 50ha, supporting areas required for the establishment of coal and other raw material stockpiles, and an ash dump, increase the development footprint.

Two properties have been identified for the development of the project:

- » Remainder of the Farm Du Toit 563
- » Remainder of the Farm Vrienden 589

The possibility exists that the project may be developed in its entirety on either of the abovementioned properties, or alternatively components of the project may be developed on both properties. Three alternative layouts have been considered within the EIA process.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The development of the Mutsho Power Project and associated infrastructure requires that Environmental Authorisation (EA) be obtained from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the Competent Authority (CA), in consultation with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LDEDET), the Local Commenting Authority, in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), and the provisions of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GNR 326); subject to the completion of a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process.

In addition to EA, the project also requires a Waste Management License (WML) in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA), and the List of Waste Management Activities (GNR 921). The application for a WML for the project is also subject to the completion of a full S&EIA process.

An EIA process is therefore being conducted in support of an integrated application for EA and a WML (DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/3/2220), and is also intended to support future applications for the following:

- » A Water Use License (WUL) required in terms of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1989) (NWA) and the Regulations Regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use License Application and Appeals (GNR 267).
- » An Atmospheric Emissions License (AEL) required in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (No. 39 of 2004) (NEM:AQA) and the List of Activities resulting in Atmospheric Emissions (GNR 893).

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Consultants, responsible for managing the integrated Application for EA and a WML, and the supporting EIA process.

#### **AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report has been prepared for the project and is available for review and comment for a 30-day period in accordance with Regulation 3(8) of the EIA Regulations (GNR 326). The report is available at the Musina-Nancefield Public Library (3 Ralph Small Street, Nancefield), the Louis Trichardt Public Library (Erasmus Street, Louis Trichardt), and the Makhado Centre of Learning (Tanga Farm, along D745) from **13 April 2018 – 15 May 2018**. The report is also available for download on [www.savannahsa.com](http://www.savannahsa.com). The due date for written comment is **15 May 2018**. Comments must be made as written submission via fax, post or email.

#### **NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE**

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to attend an open house to be held on **Thursday, 03 May 2018 from 14:00 to 17:00** at the Louis Trichardt Public Library, Erasmus Street, Louis Trichardt.

Should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the project please do not hesitate to contact us. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement in this process.

Kind regards

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