

Your role in the Environmental Impact Assessment

Process

Your involvement will enhance the applicability and completeness of the Basic Assessment process.

Your involvement in the process is fourfold:

1. To ensure that your interests/concerns in the proposed activity are recorded and addressed, you need to register with Nsovo as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP).
2. To raise public awareness of activities taking place within your surroundings and to ensure inclusion of any issues, suggestions or comments you may be aware of regarding proposed activities.
3. To provide participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
4. To utilise opportunities provided to raise issues and provide comments throughout the process.

How to become Involved and Register as an I&AP?

Your participation in this process is valuable and is encouraged, therefore you are invited to register as an I&AP and contribute by written submissions by fax, post, email or telephone through any one of the contact details on the overleaf.

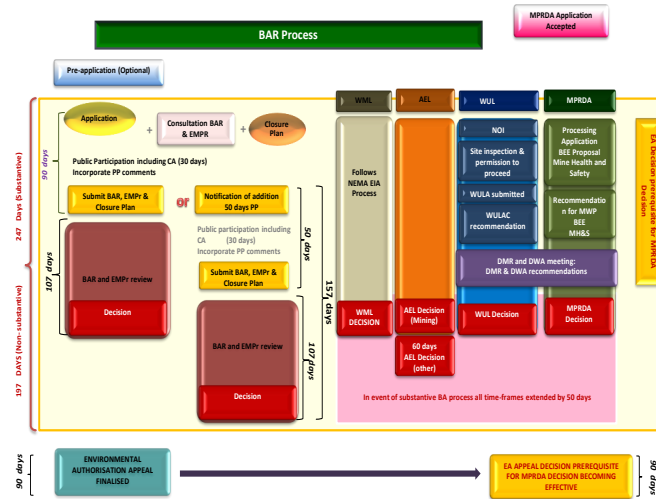


Figure 2: BAR Process



Contact Details

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NOTICE OF BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESSES FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF RAILWAY LOOPS AT THABAZIMBI, FERROGATE AND NORTHAM WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

MARCH 2017



From the world we live to the world we seek

Please Quote REF: F001-17 in all correspondence

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The aim of this document is to provide an overview of the proposed project and study area; to provide information of the Basic Assessment (BA) process to be followed prior to the development of the proposed development as per the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA); and to indicate how you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), can become involved in the BA process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

Public Participation Process (PPP) is any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision-making and forms an integral part of the BA process. The PPP provides I&APs with an opportunity to comment and/or make suggestions on the proposed project. The PPP will be undertaken in terms of Chapter 6, Regulation 39 through 44 of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of December 2014.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed development entails the expansion of railway loops at the aforementioned sites to accommodate 200 wagon trains.

The expansion will entail the following:

- The development of two railway loops of approximately 3.4km, crewing facilities, five (5) culverts and associated infrastructure adjacent the existing railway line at Thabazimbi;
- The expansion of the existing railway network of approximately 3km and (3) three culverts at Ferrogate; and
- The extension of the existing loop by approximately 4km and two (2) culverts at Northam.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed development triggers listed activities 12 (xii) (a) (c); 19 (i) and 64 under Government Notices R. 983., and Activity 14 (xii) (b) and (iv) under Government Notices R. 985 of the 2014 EIA Regulations and Section 21 (a) (c) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998). In accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, Transnet SOC Limited requires approval from the Competent Authorities (Department of Environmental Affairs and Department of Water and Sanitation) prior to commencement of the proposed project. The process is detailed in Figure 2.

NEED AND DESIRABILITY

Market Demand Strategy (MDS) requires Transnet Freight Rail to increase its volumes to 350 Mtpa by 2017. It is expected that unlocking the Waterberg and eventually the Botswana coal field, will contribute significantly to the targeted MDS volumes. The development of the Waterberg to Gauteng and Richards Bay corridors, will strengthen the favourability of using the Southern route rather than alternative routes to Mozambique.

Therefore, the expansion in rail capacity has been identified as a strategic initiative and received much focus from Government as a key drive for the South Africa's economy. In line with these strategic priorities for the country, Transnet has developed a programme for expansion of railway infrastructure between Lephalale in Limpopo and Pyramid South in Gauteng provinces. The expansions will feed the heavy haul coal line for increased coal exports through the Port of Richards Bay and also deliver coal to several power stations along the existing rail route.

LOCALITY

The proposed development is linear and it will be located at Thabazimbi, Ferrogate and Northam. The project will traverse various farms, in Wards 4, 5 and 7 within the jurisdiction of Thabazimbi Local Municipality, in the Limpopo Province, South Africa. The locality map provided indicates the proposed study area.

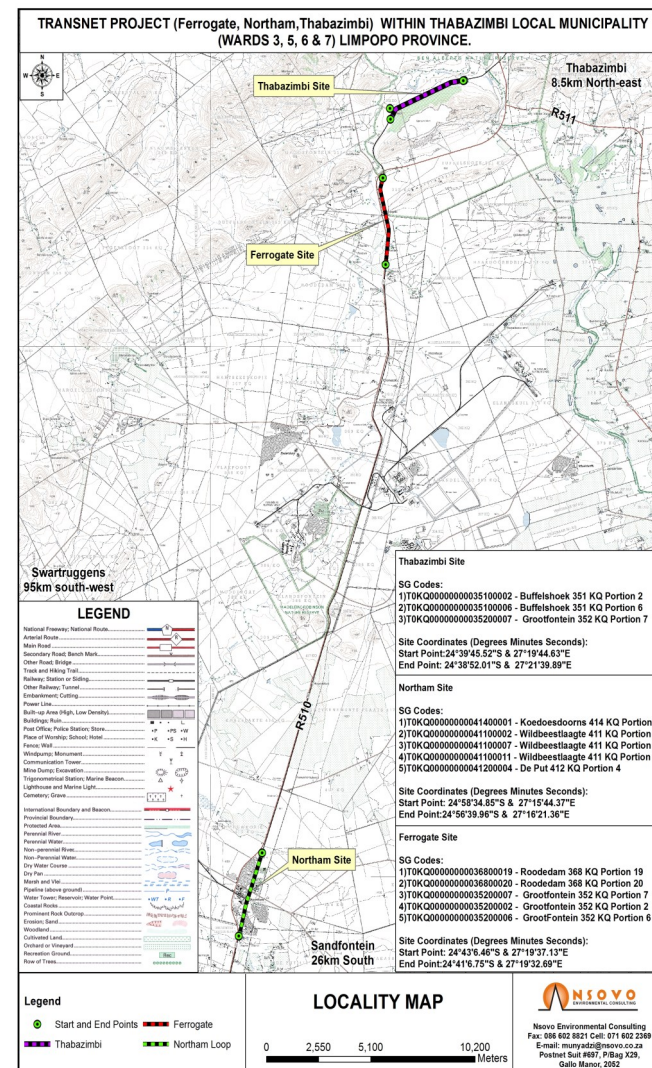


Figure 1. Locality Map