



22 October 2013

Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
 National Department of Environmental Affairs
 Private Bag X 447
 Pretoria
 0001

ATT: Ms Milicent Solomons

**RE: APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED POSTMASBURG
 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: MOTIVATION FOR NO SITE ALTERNATIVES**

Dear Sir/Madam

Due to the need for accommodation of staff in the Postmasburg area, Transnet SOC Limited ("Transnet") is proposing a housing development in Postmasburg which is located within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality and greater Siyanda District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. Transnet SOC has appointed Savannah Environmental as the independent environmental consultants to undertake the required basic assessment process to obtain environmental authorisation for the construction of the proposed housing development. The project has been allocated with the following DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/991. The housing development is proposed to have up to 185 units to be located on Transnet-owned land, next to the Postmasburg Railway Station. The site for Transnet's proposed housing development is planned on the following plots of land in Postmasburg:

- » Portion of the Remainder of ERF 1
- » Remainder of ERF 3604
- » ERF 3666 (Portion of ERF 3604)
- » Erf 3618 (Portion of ERF 3604)
- » ERF 3665 (Portion of ERF 3604)
- » Remainder of ERF 1249 (Portion of ERF 1),
- » ERF 3664 (Portion of ERF 3604)
- » Remainder of ERF 763 (Portion of ERF 1)

Transnet SOC Ltd
 Registration Number
 1990/000900/30

Carlton Centre
 150 Commissioner
 Street
 Johannesburg
 2001

P.O. Box 72501
 Parkview, Johannesburg
 South Africa, 2122
 T +27 11 308 3001
 F +27 11 308 2638

Directors: ME Mkwana (Chairman) B Molefe* (Group Chief Executive) NK Choubey[#] MA Fanucchi Y Forbes HD Gazendam NP Mnxasana N Moola NR Njeke
 IM Sharma IB Skosana E Tshabalala DLJ Tshepe A Singh* (Chief Financial Officer)
^{*}Executive [#]Indian

www.transnet.net

Group Company Secretary: ANC Ceba



This letter details the motivation for selection of the proposed site and the only preferred technical, social, economic and environmental option for the proposed housing development. The goal of the housing development project is to provide adequate housing to Transnet employees near the train station in Postmasburg. The proposed site for the housing development project in the Postmasburg area is considered to be technically and socially desirable by Transnet for the following reasons:

- » The town of Postmasburg as a central location in relation to planned upgrades of Transnet's rail network. Postmasburg is centrally located between two of Transnet's main rail corridors namely: The Iron Ore Line (Sishen - Saldanha) and Manganese Line (Hotazel – Port Elizabeth and Ngqura), which means that staff housed at the proposed development site will quite easily be able to service both corridors. Both iron ore and manganese are vital commodities and contribute substantially to the South African economy. The economic activity and growth of the Postmasburg area has resulted in a need for more housing within the town. Many of Transnet employees currently live in Postmasburg. Transnet have realised that there is a need for their employees to be accommodated in Postmasburg.
- » The land is owned by Transnet; therefore no land acquisition is required. Use of this land parcel eradicates the need to acquire another piece of land through which Transnet will only further increase its spatial and ecological footprint.
- » The site is currently zoned as "transportation" and was previously utilised for old Transnet houses, which foundations still remain on the site.
- » The site is currently vacant land, which is not being used for any productive purpose.
- » The site is located adjacent to the Postmasburg Railway Station and the location will facilitate Transnet staff commuting to their place of work.
- » Currently, accommodation/ living conditions for Transnet staff is severely lacking, and Transnet has a social responsibility towards ensuring that their employees have basic needs such as houses.
- » The draft Basic Assessment report did not identify any fatal flaws/ environmental sensitivity of the proposed site, therefore it is also environmentally feasible to development on this piece of land.
- » Layout / design alternatives were considered by Transnet's technical team. The technically preferred option has been assessed in the basic assessment report.

Therefore, no feasible site alternatives exist for Transnet's proposed housing development in Postmasburg, and the selected site is the best option available to achieve the social needs for

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Transnet's staff. Therefore, Transnet requests the DEA to consider the application for environmental authorisation even though only the preferred and no-go options have been assessed in the basic assessment process.

Yours Sincerely

Velile Sikhosana

Project Director: Stream 5, Manganese

Transnet Capital Projects

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Registration Number
1990/000900/30

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