



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Waste Licensing Application for the Proposed Continuous Ashing Activities at Majuba Power Station

Ezamokhuhle Community Hall

Public Meeting

20 November 2012



Purpose of the Meeting

- Provide information regarding the project
- Provide an opportunity to raise issues and comments on the project
- Invite I&APs to register on the project database
- Provide an opportunity for interaction with the project team











Conduct of the Meeting

- Focus on issues at hand
- Equal opportunity
- Cell phones on silent
- Work through the facilitator
- Speak in language of choice



Role Players

	Lidwala Consulting Engineers (SA) (Pty) Ltd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner
	Imaginative Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Participation Consultant
	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd – Generation Division Majuba Power Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant
	Department of Environmental Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Decision-maker for the Environmental Authorization Application
	Interested and Affected Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise comments and issues regarding the proposed project for inclusion in the relevant documentation
	Commenting Authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDEDET, • DWA • SAHRA • DAFF • DMR, etc..





What does the Project Entail?

Presented by:
**Tebogo Madisha – Majuba Power
Station**



What does the Project Entail?

- The project entails the continuation of dry ash disposal at Majuba Power Station
- Majuba disposes it's ash via conveyors and stackers.
- Extension of drainage canals, access roads and fence installations.
- The extension is envisaged on previously acquired/purchased land (Existing footprint).



Current challenges:

- Majuba will run out space for the disposal of ash on the existing footprint



Specification and Requirements

- Land for continuous ash disposal up to 45 years (remaining life of station).
- Ash disposal capacity of 184 million cubic metres and land of 800 hectares.
- Eskom would like to align its ashing activities with NEMWA's requirements.
- EIA in progress to investigate potential alternatives within the vicinity of Majuba Power Station.

Majuba's Existing Ash Disposal Facility






Map



Photos



Environmental Studies

Presented by:
Ashlea Strong

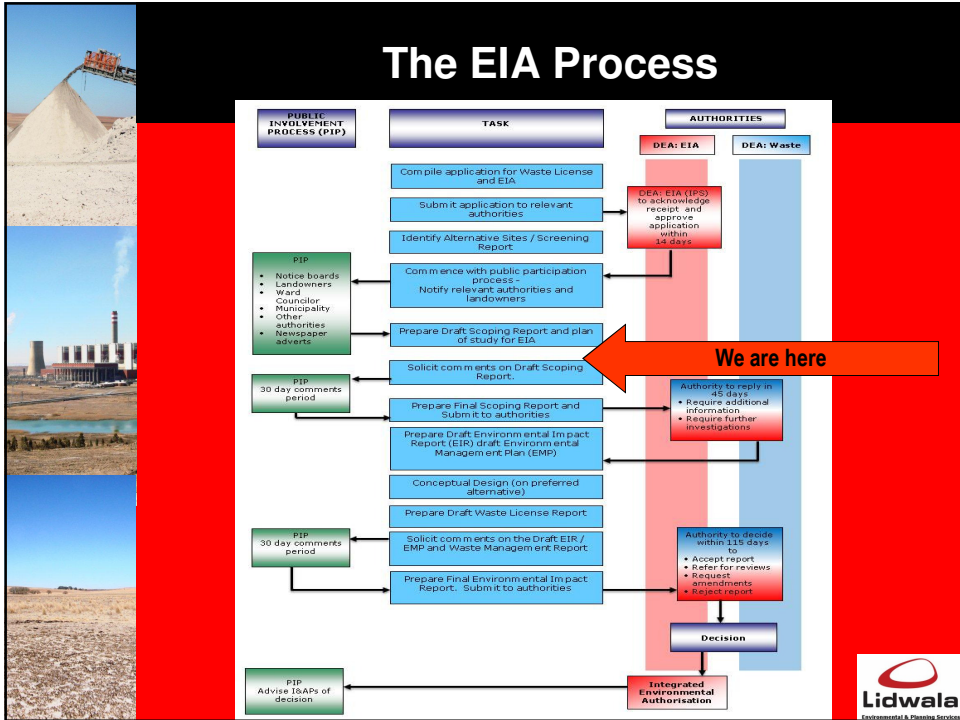


Why Environmental Studies?

- Legislative tool used to ensure that potential impacts are:
 - Identified;
 - Assessed; and
 - Mitigation measures recommended
- Integrated Application
 - EIA Regulations (NEMA); and
 - Waste Act (NEMWA)



The EIA Process



Envisaged Timeline

Phase / Task	Envisaged Date
Application form submission	August 2012
Screening / Scoping Phase	August 2012 – January 2013
EIA Phase	January – June 2013
Final Documents to DEA	June 2013
Authorisation and License	August 2013



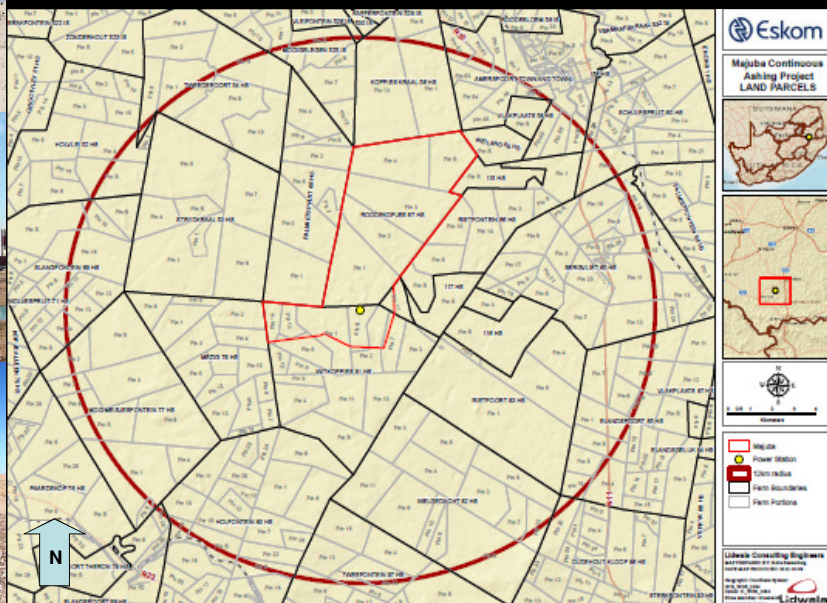


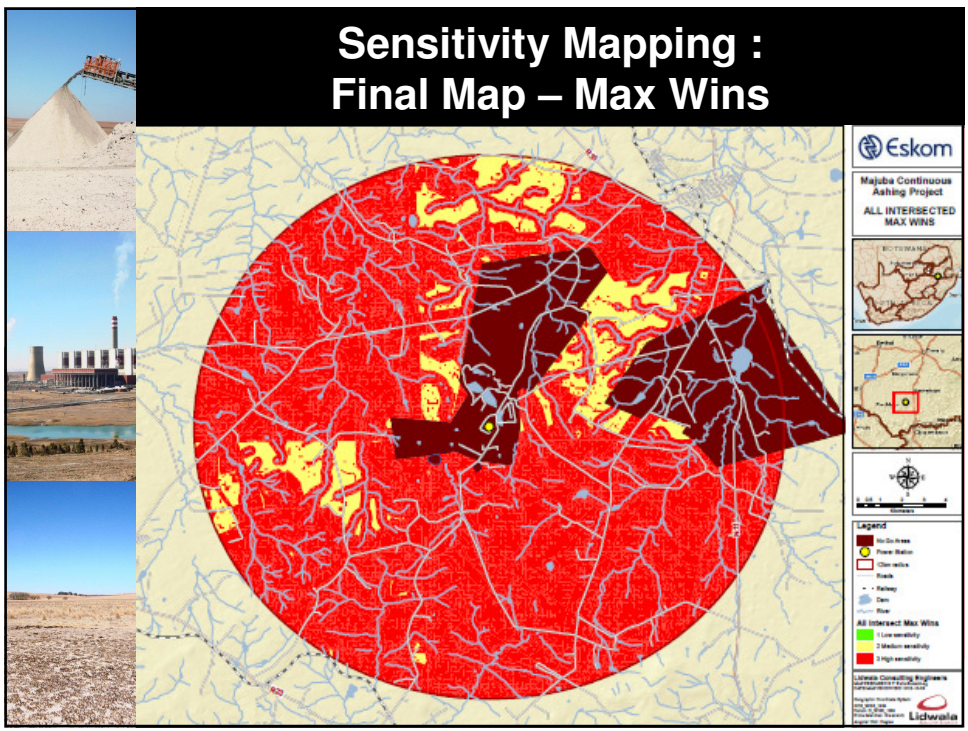
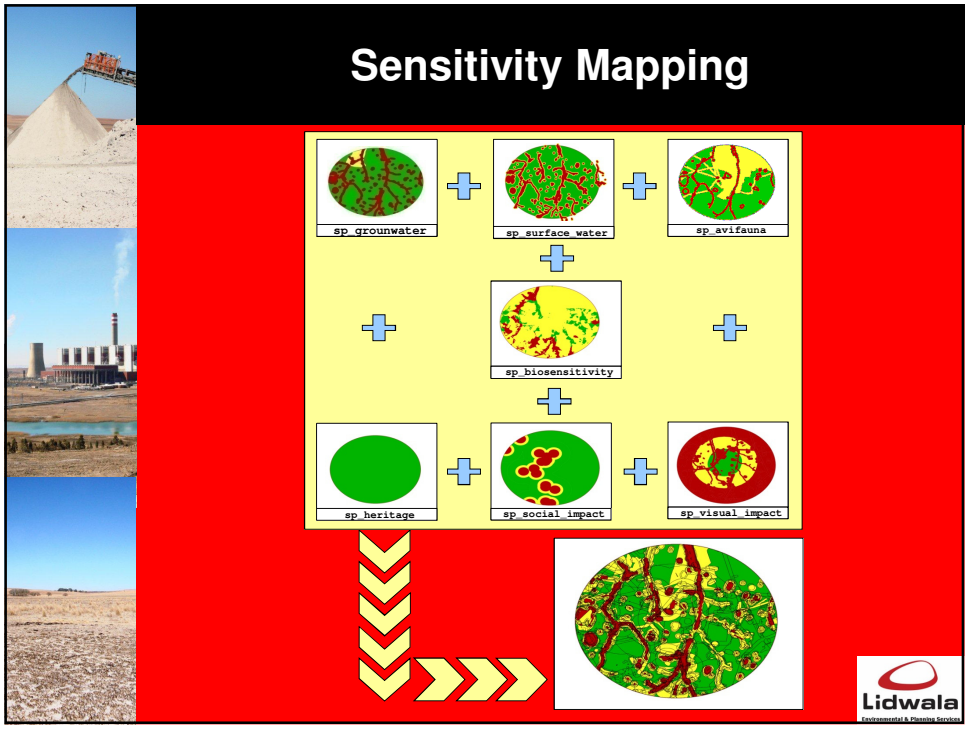
Sensitivity Mapping

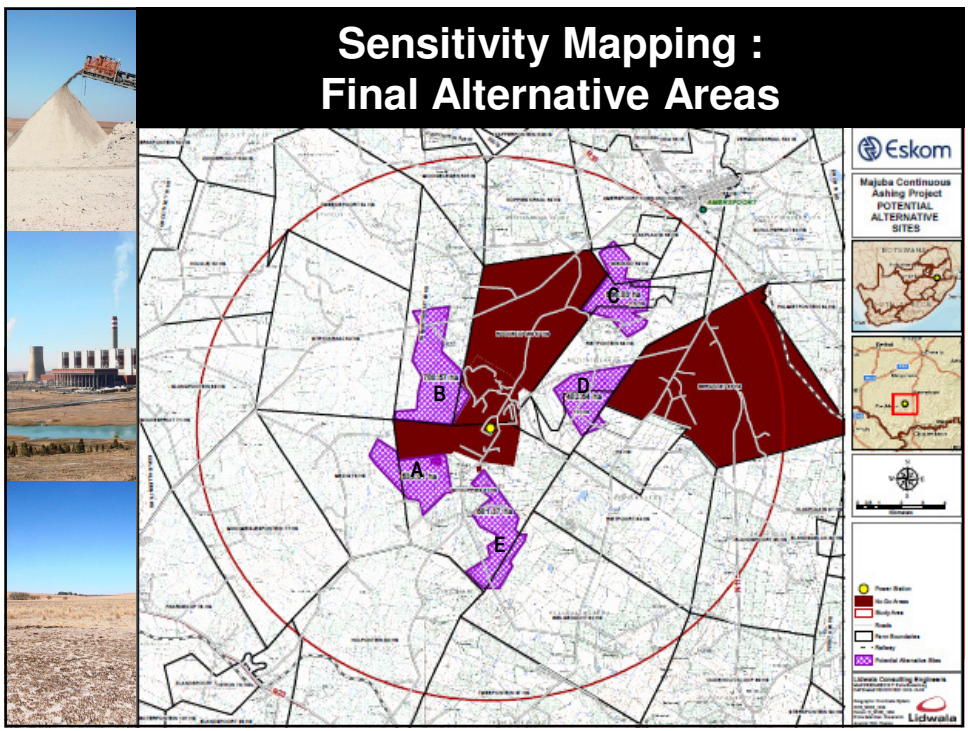
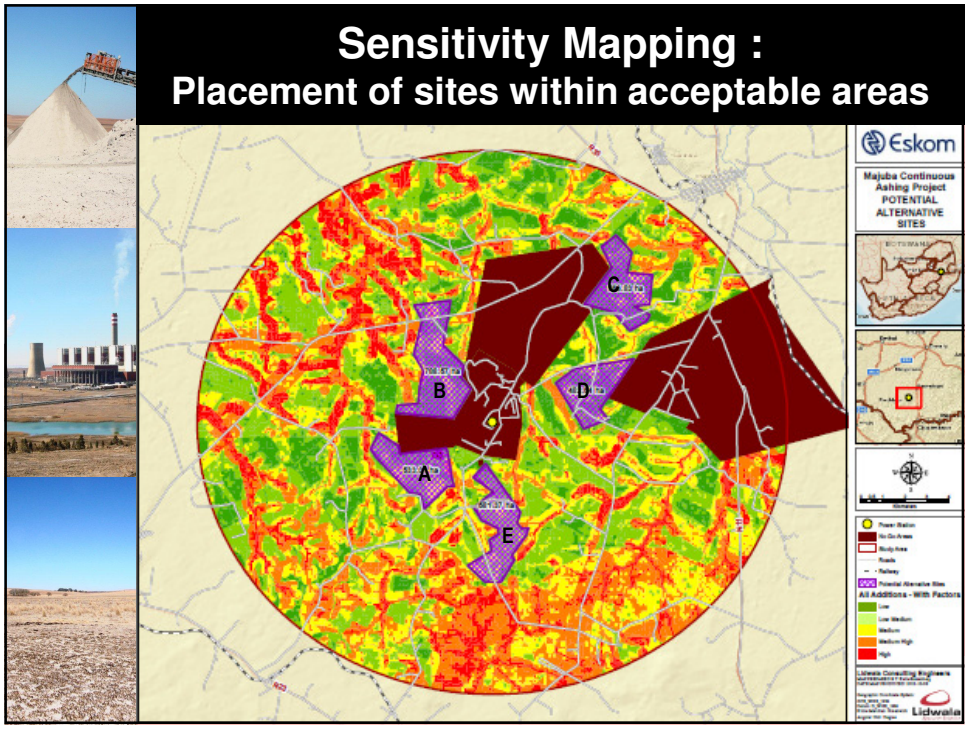
- Eskom have already identified an area for the proposed continuous ashing
- However - in order to allow for a robust environmental process all land within a radius of 12 km was assessed in order to:
 - Identify potential alternatives sites
 - Identify sensitive environmental aspects that may limit the suitability of all identified alternative sites



Proposed Study Area









Potential Impacts: Biophysical

- **Geology (underlying rock structure)**
 - Impacts related to the construction-related earthworks
 - Impacts related to the pollution in case of spillage/leakage of hydrocarbon and other hazardous material from storage facilities
- **Geotechnical issues (Stability)**
 - Phase 1 geotechnical study will be undertaken in the EIA phase.
- **Topography (hills and valleys)**
 - Change to drainage patterns due to construction-related earthworks and additional stormwater drainage patterns.



Potential Impacts: Biophysical

- **Agricultural Potential**
 - Pollution of soil due to handling, use and storage of hazardous substances during construction and operation.
 - The loss of available top soil.
 - Key variables that determine the land capability of the study area such as soil fertility reduced and disturbed due to the potential activities related to the ash disposal facility.
 - The loss of viable agricultural land.
- **Avifauna (birds)**
 - Destruction of habitat and disturbance of birds due to Ash Disposal Facility
 - Impacts due to associated Infrastructure such as powerlines e.g. Electrocutations, Collisions etc..





Potential Impacts: Biophysical

- **Surface Water**

- Impacts on surface water quality;
- Impacts on hydrology;
- Impacts related to erosion and sedimentation;
- Impacts on aquatic biota; and
- Impacts on aquatic ecosystem services.

- **Groundwater**

- Contamination of ground water due to hydrocarbon spillage and seepage into groundwater reserves, affecting groundwater quality.
- Further construction of infrastructure and compaction of the area will further contribute to reduced water infiltration rates to replenish groundwater aquifers.



Potential Impacts: Biophysical

- **Biodiversity (plants and animals)**

- Direct impacts on threatened flora and fauna species;
- Direct impacts on protected flora species;
- Direct impacts on common fauna species/ faunal assemblages (including migration patterns, corridors, etc.);
- Human - Animal conflicts;
- Loss or degradation of natural vegetation/ pristine habitat (including ecosystem functioning);
- Loss/ degradation of surrounding habitat;
- Impacts on SA's conservation obligations & targets;
- Increase in local and regional fragmentation/ isolation of habitat; and
- Increase in environmental degradation, pollution (air, soils, surface water).





Potential Impacts: Social

- **Air Quality**
 - Increase in dust generating activities during construction and operation including exceedances of PM10 concentrations and exceedances of dustfall rates.
- **Visual**
 - Impact on the current visual landscape.
 - Impact on sensitive receptors,
- **Heritage**
 - identify the potential heritage sites within the study area
 - identify any impacts (if any) that may occur on these sites as a result of the continuous ashing project
- **Socio-Economic**
 - Perceptions associated with the proposed project; and
 - Local, site-specific issues
 - Job opportunities - None



Conclusions and Recommendations


- Five Alternative Areas and the No-Go Alternative to be investigated in the EIA Phase
- Due to the fact that none of the alternative areas are big enough to stand alone the EIA will investigate which combination of 2 sites are most feasible for use
- Investigate alternatives for relocation / establishment of linear infrastructure (where required)
- Undertake detailed specialist studies
- Compile Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Waste License Report to be compiled
- Geotechnical studies to be undertaken along with site survey
- Develop Conceptual Design






Public Participation

Presented by:
Bongi Mhlanga

What is Public Participation?

- Public participation is a joint effort between:
 - Stakeholders
 - The proponent
 - Technical Specialists
 - Decision-makers
- Work together to produce better decisions
- Aim: To inform a wide range of I&APs
- Tool: Allows the public to exchange information and express their views and concerns
- Scoping: Facilitates the identification of issues and concerns early in the EIA process
- All contributions from I&APs will be fully documented, evaluated and responded to in the EIA





Public Participation Process to Date

- Identification of Stakeholders or I&APs
- Notification and Advertisements
 - Project advertised in 2 newspapers
 - The Record
 - Cosmos News
- Background Information Document
 - Distributed to all identified I&APs
 - Placed in local public libraries and municipalities
- Meetings:
 - Focus Group meetings, consultations, public meetings and one-on-one interactions
- **You can still get involved!! How?**



Discussion

**Facilitator:
Bongi Mhlanga**





Way Forward

- Compilation and distribution of minutes
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Environmental Scoping Report (FESR)
- Submission of FESR report to DEA and Provincial Environmental Authorities
- Release of FESR into the public domain
- Authority review
- DEA comments and decision on FESR and POS for EIA
- Proceed with EIA phase if FESR is Accepted



Contact Details

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

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