

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

<b>Purpose of Meeting:</b>	Majuba Continuous Ashing EIA – Focus Group Meeting: Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality
<b>Venue:</b>	Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality Offices (New Committee Room) Volksrust
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2012

Attendance Register			
Attendees:			
Name	Company	Name	Company
Ashlea Strong (AS)	Lidwala SA	Bongi Mhlanga (BM)	Lidwala SA
Nicolene Venter (NV)	Imaginative Africa	Tobile Bokwe (TB)	Eskom – EIA Centre of Excellence
Belinda Roos (BR)	Eskom – EIA Centre of Excellence	Bianca Wernecke (BW)	Eskom – Graduate in Training
Tebogo Madisha (TM)	Eskom – Majuba Technical	Zama Mkhize (ZM)	Eskom – Majuba Environmental (GIT)
Tanja vd Linde (TvdL)	Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality	Sibusiso Moloi (SM)	Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality
Phakamile Mqoibula (PM)		Vusi Zwane (VZ)	
Gugu Madida (GM)		Sam Ngwenya (SN)	
Nadia Kadanyo (NK)		Sipho Mtshali (SM)	
Dan Hlanyane (DH)			

Item	Actions	Action by whom	Action by when
<b>1.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION / WELCOME</b>		
	NV welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting		
	The team members introduced themselves, and briefly described their roles and responsibilities associated with this proposed project.		
<b>2.</b>	<b>PRESENTATIONS (Due to size of the Presentation Document (5MB), it is not attached. Should you be able to receive a 5MB file by e-mail, please request your copy from the Public Participation Consultants)</b>		
2.1	NV presented the draft Agenda, purpose of the meeting and the conduct of the meeting.		
2.2	AS presented the need for the proposed project, and a brief summary of the environmental findings as per the draft Scoping Report.		
2.3	TM presented the technical information associated with		

	this proposed project.		
2.4	NV presented the Public Participation Process and opened the floor for discussion.		
<b>3.</b>	<b>DISCUSSIONS</b>		
3.1	<p>VZ stated that it is believed that the land acquisition process would be a challenge.</p> <p>TB replied that the process of land acquisition is started in parallel with the EIA consultation processes. This is normally in the form of presentation/s on how the purchasing process would be done, and it can be presented to individuals or to individually affected landowners. Thus there is a connection with the Eskom Properties Department which allows the EIA and land purchase processes to support each other. As the EIA process progresses, and once the preferred site has been recommended, Eskom Land &amp; Rights Department (purchase team) will enter into negotiations with the affected landowners and goes through the process to acquire the land. For the land purchase process, Eskom appoints a valuator, but the negotiation process could allow the landowner to appoint his own valuator ~ this is to allow for comparison of the evaluation processes for a satisfactory and agreed valuation result. It needs to be mentioned that once a preferred site (or sites) has been identified the land acquisition and EIA process can run parallel.</p>		
3.2	<p>VZ enquired what is the proposed alternatives of the EIA should option 1 not materialise.</p> <p>AS replied that as per the presentation, there are five (5) site alternatives, and there is also a combination of alternatives between the five (5) proposed sites.</p>		
3.3	<p>VZ asked what role must the Municipality play in this EIA.</p> <p>BM replied that one of DEA's requirements is to obtain written comments from the Local Municipality in whose jurisdiction the development is planned.</p> <p>TB added that the Municipality's SDF and IDPs are considered to ascertain that the sites do not clash with what the Municipality plans for that area / site. Such an assessment is to ensure alignment of the proposed development with municipal plans</p>		
3.4	VZ asked what is the possible economic benefit of		

	<p>this proposed development of the entire project, i.e. what injection would there be for the community.</p> <p>TM Eskom advise the appointed contractor(s) that should local labour be required, that they be recruited locally through existing databases as provided by the Local Municipality. The SDNL also assist in terms of skills development.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> Eskom will be utilising their existing employees working at the ash disposal facilities at Majuba Power Station for the continuous ashing activities. No new permanent job opportunities will be available.</p>		
3.5	VZ made an outcry to Eskom to leave a legacy behind such as the establishment of an incubator.		
3.6	<p>VZ enquired as to what type of products can be made from the ash. The information could facilitate the Municipality to look at what possibilities there could be in terms of economic development.</p> <p>TB replied that there is a recently signed contract with a waste specialist that will identify the safe usage of ash. Once the results are obtained, they can be shared with the Municipality. It needs to be noted that this by-product is classified as waste and it needs to be determined whether it could be used. One cannot make use of this by-product without knowing the risk. TB also added that the utilisation of ash for other businesses is also in the plans of the Mpumalanga – Eskom Forum, in which the two parties have agreed to work together to support each other.</p>		
3.7	<p>NK informed the project team that the Municipality's SDF/IDF/EMF has been updated and that they need to familiarise themselves with these documents to confirm whether the proposed sites have not been earmarked for development, and if earmarked for development, what type of development is proposed by the Municipality. It was also pointed out that land needs to be used sustainably.</p> <p>AS requested if the team can obtain a copy (per DVD / flash disk) of the Municipality's latest SDF/IDF/EMF. It was also recommended that Lidwala Environmental provides the Municipality's</p>	AS	<b>20 November 2012</b>

	<p>GIS Department with shape files to overlay it on their maps to identify what the possible impact could be.</p> <p>NK informed the team that the Municipality does not have a GIS Department and advised Lidwala Environmental to speak to the Town Planner and recommends that Lidwala Environmental does the overlay and provide the Municipality with a copy of the map.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> AS obtained the information as discussed above after the meeting.</p>		
3.8	<p>NK confirmed that Eskom is looking at purchasing additional land for this proposed continuation of ash disposal. If that is the situation she enquired as to what will happen to the existing land in terms of rehabilitation and is a rehabilitation process in place.</p> <p>TB informed the attendees that Eskom will have to decommission the existing ash disposal facility (when it reaches its life span). As mentioned previously, studies are being conducted to look at possible ash utilization.</p> <p>TM responded that Majuba Power Station has a rehabilitation programme in place and one of the plans is to cover the ash with topsoil and plant grass.</p>		
3.9	<p>DH informed the project team that the country finds itself in an unfortunately situation by getting the balance right between the country's energy need and sustainable use of minerals. Their experience is not rosy regarding EAPs and unfortunately it is disappointing.</p> <p>DH informed the team that he just attended another meeting with an environmental consultancy, and stated that EAPs need to tread careful as to not undermine the capacity and skills of local people but to be informed that they have lots of knowledge.</p> <p>It was further stated that the presentation given is misleading as this area is an environmental hot spot and the proposed expansion of the ash facility at Majuba Power Station would definitely have an impact on ground water.</p> <p>It is requested that the scope provided to the EAP be forwarded to the Council so that they can familiarise themselves with it and also to be able to the attendees cannot advice the Council as to whether the project needs to be supported or note.</p>	AS	

3.10	<p>DH informed the project team that residential expansion in the Municipal area is a challenge and the possible procurement of additional land is a concern to them. 30 Years is a long period and it needs to be determined whether this proposed development would be environmentally sustainable and that all relevant mitigation measures are included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).</p>		
3.11	<p>DH expressed his concern that EAPs approach communities with a proposed development <u>before</u> the project has been presented to the Councillors. It needs to be noted that communities rely on their Councillor to take informed decisions. The problem with these processes is that the EAP first go and do land identification, yet the crucial information i.e. the environmental findings is not yet there. It needs to be noted that the EMPr and the environmental studies don't talk to each other.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> Lidwala can confirm that Municipal protocol regarding public participation will be observed and taken into account, in future, without compromising the EIA Regulations, PP Guidelines, the independency of the EAP, as well as not compromising the developer's apolitical position</p>		
3.12	<p>DH informed the project team that most times the EAPs makes the communities believe there could be economic spin offs and the project team present needs to take note that the District and Local Municipality does not want temporary spin offs.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> Eskom will be utilising their existing employees working at the ash disposal facilities at Majuba Power Station for the continuous ashing activities. No new permanent job opportunities will be available.</p>		
3.13	<p>DH enquired as to whether there will be any impact on the current road or infrastructure services. If anticipating additional trucks on their road network then the Council need to express their concern that this would be a serious problem to them. He asked as to who will be responsible (and pay) for road and infrastructure maintenance as the</p>		

	<p>Council is responsible to guide and inform the community regarding this impact.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b></p> <p>The impact on the roads and infrastructure services will be investigated during the Impact Phase of the project through both the Traffic study and the Social Impact Assessment. In addition to this the existing impacts of Eskom's business on roads is being addressed through the Mpumalanga-Eskom Forum.</p>		
3.14	<p>DH request that the team consider holding another meeting after the Council has received Lidwala Environmental's Terms of Reference given. He stated that this type of meeting is a waste of the Council's time and as above, request that another meeting to take place to talk about the regarding the "nuts and bolts" of the project and way forward</p> <p>TB advised that detailed information is available in the Draft Scoping Report, and the Plan of Study for EIA for all specialists, and Terms of Reference to Lidwala Environmental is included in this Report.</p> <p>AS informed the attendee that both the Tutuka and Majuba Continuous Ash Disposal Facility projects' DSR was personally delivered to his offices on 8 November 2012. The delivery receipts were signed by the Security Officer on duty.</p> <p>The request regarding another meeting is noted and in principle the team does not have a problem to consider it. The team will provide feedback regarding this request in the draft minutes.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b></p> <p>The project team will hold an additional meeting with the municipality early in the Impact Phase, before the DEIR is released for public review.</p>		
3.15	<p>DH informed the project team that they cannot just consider the immediate farm(s) of the proposed site, but also those immediately adjacent.</p> <p>AS confirmed that the PP team will ensure that the landowners of the entire study are will be consulted with. Lidwala can confirm that the have already undertaken a Windeed search for all the farms within a 12km radius of the power station. Lidwala can also confirm that all the</p>		

	specialist studies will take the alternative sites and their surrounding areas into account when assessing the impacts.		
3.16	<p>DH enquired whether this project would trigger an Amendment to Majuba Power Station's existing Water Use Licence (WUL).</p> <p>TB responded that if site A and/or B is the recommended site, it would trigger an Amendment. The team has not yet confirmed whether the other sites would require a WUL, but this could only be determined after the detailed specialist studies have been completed. He further advised that the EIA process tends to include other potential permits for developments, hence the implications with respect to WUL are under consideration, and Eskom will undertake to do these processes together or in parallel, as much as possible.</p>		
3.17	<p>DH pointed out that this proposed project could contradict the existing WUL and the project team needs to have discussions with the District and Local Municipalities NOW and not in the impact phase.</p> <p>AS informed the attendees that the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) received a copy of the reports and await their written comments</p> <p>AS informed the attendees that all the commenting authorities on the project database are kept up to date regarding this proposed project. It also needs to be mentioned that Lidwala Environmental's Report will also go through a legal review and this would follow the EIA in detail, and identify any the licence / permitting that would be required.</p>		
3.18	<p>VZ informed the project team that the Council is happy that the team proceed to have their public meeting that evening (22 November 2012) . He request that in future the respective Councillor in whose jurisdiction the project is proposed should be met with timeously so that he/she can inform and urge the community to attend.</p>		
3.18	<p>DH informed the project team that the Municipality would like to avoid and prevent an unwanted "Marikana" situation. It is stated that the Municipal By-Law outlined the PP process to be followed and in short recommends the PP team to be in touch with the Speakers Office for arrangements for the next public meeting.</p>		

3.19	DH requested that the draft minutes be distributed within a week after the meeting to accommodate the up and coming holiday season	BM	28/11/2012
3.19	DH requested that the affected Ward Councillors receives hard copies and CDs of the Final Scoping Report.	BM	14/12/2012
<b>4.</b>	<b>Way Forward &amp; Closure</b>		
	NV presented the way forward and thanked everyone for their valuable comments raised and closed the meeting.		

Minuted by: Nicolene Venter

DRAFT MINUTES