

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) with background information about the proposed project and introduce the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be followed. It also aims to inform IAPs on how to fully participate in the EIA and encourages response to documents distributed for review and active attendance at meetings.

What is Proposed and Where?

Pongolapoort Hydro proposes to develop a 4 MEGAWATT per hour micro-hydro power station on KwaZulu-Natal Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) land below the Pongolapoort Dam Wall on the south bank and connected to the existing DWS canal outlet pipe waterworks infrastructure. The proposed power station consists of a 65m² reinforced concrete building, a 120m x 2.7m diameter buried steel 'penstock' pipeline, a 40m x 2m 'tailrace' channel into the Pongola River, a 220m on-site 6.6/11Kv powerline through Jozini town sub-station and a 5m x 65m gravel service road.

Why is a Basic Assessment Required?

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (No.107 of 1998) [NEMA], as amended, and associated EIA Regulations published in 2014 (amended in 2017), an **Environmental Authorisation** must be obtained from the relevant competent authority, the KwaZulu Natal Department Of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), prior to the commencement of certain listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. The proposed project involves, inter alia, the following listed activities;

Activity 19 of GNR. 327: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from;

(i) a watercourse;

Public Participation Process (PPP)

The PPP aims to inform a wide range of IAPs about the proposed development and the environmental process to be followed. It is a tool to allow the public to exchange information and to express their views and concerns on the proposed development for which the EIA is being conducted. The PPP assists in identifying potential issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the impact assessment by highlighting relevant information to be included in the assessment. PPP enables more accurate and descriptive analysis and helps to focus and enhance decision-making.

The EIA will be open and transparent to the public through this process with all registered IAPs continuously updated on events throughout the process. All contributions from IAPs must be fully documented, evaluated and responded to in the EIA.

Activities of the PPP

The public is invited to register as an IAP and take part in the PPP through:

- Media Notices placed in newspapers:
- Distribution of the BID
- Site notice boards
- Public meeting and Stakeholder meetings (if necessary)
- Submission of comments on the media notices, BID and Draft Basic Assessment Reports

PHONGOLA HYDRO

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How to Register as an Interested and Affected Party?

IAPs may forward their written comments along with their name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application by telephone or email to:

EAP:

Miss Kuda Zhandire

Baboloki Geohub

C: 079 962 1987

E: babolokigeohub@gmail.com

Note: All information is available on request

ALL COMMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE 31ST JANUARY 2019.

