

THE PROVISION OF A TRUCK LOAD CONTROL SYSTEM AT THE WOESTALLEEN INTERCHANGE ON SECTION 4(C) OF THE MAPUTO DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

MAY 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform the public of the intention of the South African National Roads Agency (Soc) Ltd and Trans African Concessions (Pty) Limited (TRAC) to construct a truck load control system at the Woestalleen interchange on section 4 (c) of the Maputo Development Corridor. A Basic Assessment will be undertaken for the proposed activity and environmental authorisation sought. The reference number for the project is 14/12/16/3/3/1/567. Public consultation is an essential part of the process. You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP). All comments from you will be recorded and presented to the project team and regulatory authorities. You will receive feedback on how your comments have been taken into account and the outcome of the assessment.

Chameleon Environmental was appointed by SNA Civil and Structural Engineers (Pty) Ltd to facilitate the Basic Assessment and public participation process.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The work mainly entails the construction of an access road from km 32,333 to km 33,626 (total length = 1,293 km) to two weighbridge sites with entrance points located on ramp D of the Woestalleen interchange and a direct access from the N4 section 4(C) at approximately km 33,320. A parking area and building platform are also to be constructed at each of the weighbridge sites. A truck holding area is to be constructed approximately halfway between the two weighbridge sites.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) has been compiled and distributed for the following purposes:

- To notify Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed new development;
- To provide a brief project description;
- To describe the Basic Assessment process.

3. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment (BA) process will be guided by the EIA Regulations and environmental management principles and objectives of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, 2010 were promulgated on 18 June 2010 in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and came into effect on 2 August 2010. Activities identified in terms of Regulation R. 544 may not commence without environmental authorization from the competent authority and in respect of which the investigation, assessment and communication of potential impacts of activities must follow the Basic Assessment procedure as prescribed.

A Basic Assessment is a process involving consultation with regulatory authorities and other I&APs that serve to inform a decision on whether or not a development is environmentally acceptable.

The National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) will be the final decision making authority with regard to this project with the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism as the commenting authority.

4. STUDY APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The goal of the Basic Assessment is to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts (biophysical and social) associated with the proposed development.

The following tasks are included as part of this process:

- Submit application form to DEA;
- Site visit and desk study of available information and identification of key issues;
- Identify and compile a list of I&APs;
- Compile and distribute a Background Information Document (BID) to I&APs;
- Advertise in the local newspaper notifying the public of the project;
- Synthesis issues for preliminary investigation.
- Compile a Draft Basic Assessment Report and make it available for public comment.
- Submit Final Basic Assessment Report to environmental authorities for approval.

5. SPECIALIST STUDIES

No specialist studies are anticipated for this project.

6. AUTHORISATION

DEA will consider the final Basic Assessment and will either issue an authorisation with or without conditions, or reject the proposed project. The authorisation issued by the DEA will be distributed to I&APs as part of the appeal period. An appeal period of 30 days will be provided by DEA. Formal, motivated appeals should be

lodged with the Department. The results of the appeal process will then be made known to the public through the distribution of a final feedback letter.

7. COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

It is proposed that the project will be put out to tender once the authorisation is received from DEA. Construction cannot commence without authorisation from the environmental authorities. Any enquiries regarding the tender or employment opportunities should be directed to the applicant.

8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A number of opportunities for public involvement are provided during the Basic Assessment Process.

Please contact Chameleon Environmental if you require further information on the application and or activity, please submit your name, contact information, interest and relevant issue on the matter before or on the 31 July 2012. The contact details are:

CHAMELEON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Attention: Dr Jenine Bothma

(Registered EAP With Interim Certification Board For
Environmental Assessment Practitioners Of South Africa)

Postal Address: PO Box 11788, Silver Lakes, 0054

Street Address: 15 Els Street, Silver Lakes, Pretoria

E-Mail: Ce.j@mwebbiz.co.za

Fax: 086 6855 080

Tel: 012 809-1704 (Office Number)

www.Chameleonenvironmental.Co.Za

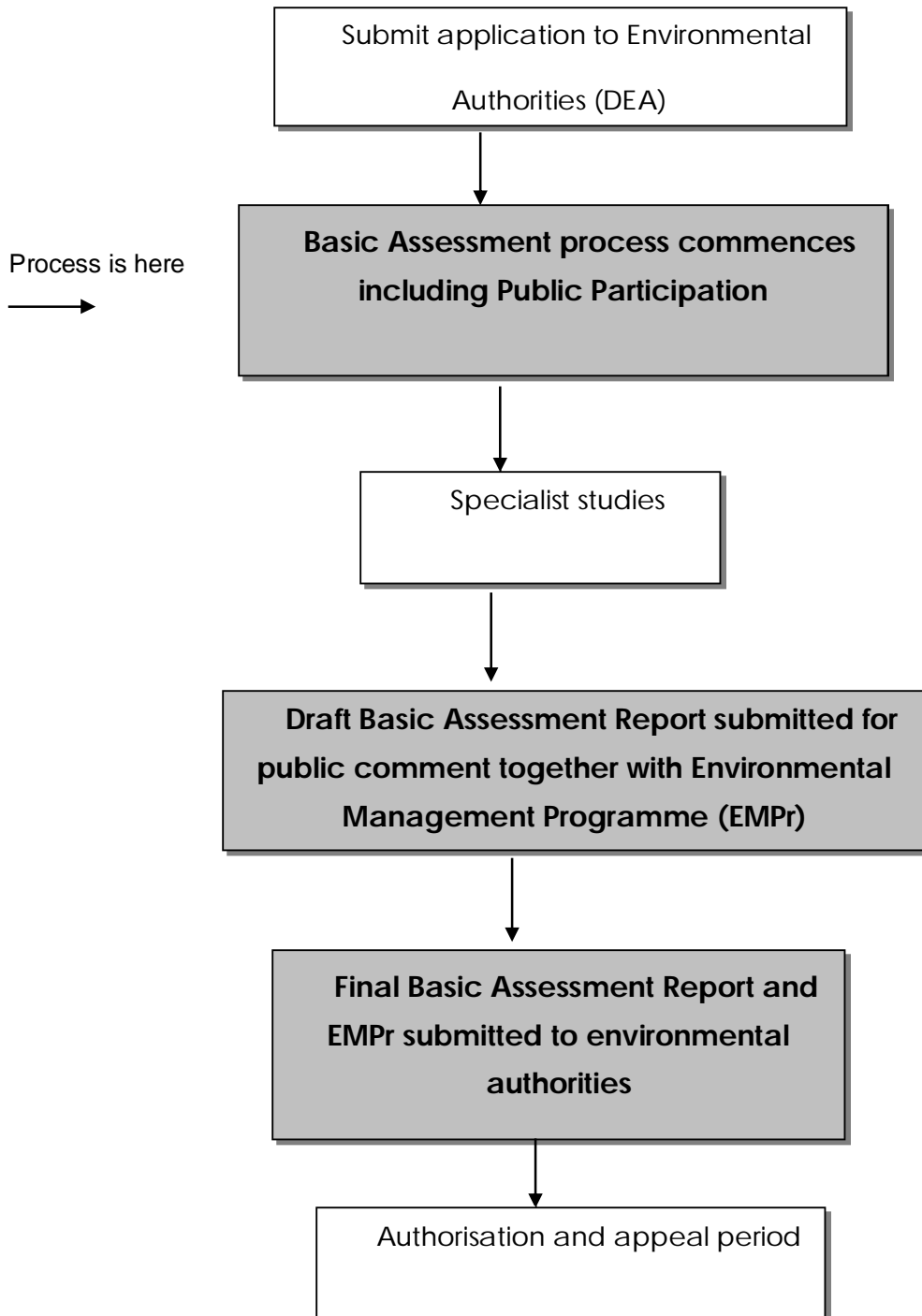


Figure 1: PROPOSED BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS