

**Background Information Document for
the proposed upgrade and re-engineering
of the Harding Landfill Site,
Umuziwabantu Municipality, KwaZulu-
Natal**

**KZNDAE Reference Number:
*DC21/WML/0015/2012***

**Description and location of the proposed
project**

Umuziwabantu Municipality proposes to upgrade and re-engineer the existing landfill site, situated on the Remainder of Lot 9 of Harding Townlands (District of Alfred), approximately 1.5 km north-west of Harding Town, KwaZulu-Natal.

A recent study done by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development (KZN – DAERD) found that the landfill facility is poorly operated and is in dire need of upgrade. As a response to the KZN-DAERD's findings, the Umuziwabantu Local Municipality has identified in their Integrated Development Plan (2011/2012) the management and upgrade of the landfill site as a high priority.

The proposed upgrade envisaged for the Harding landfill site will make provision for the re-engineering of the landfill facility, the addition of infrastructure for the improvement of waste management, and the establishment of formal recycling facilities. The proposed upgrade of the landfill site includes the subdivision of the landfill

site into four cells, of which the first cell (currently used for the disposal of waste) will be capped and decommissioned, and the remaining three cells will be re-engineered to include barrier systems to prevent leachate from entering the natural environment. Proposed associated infrastructure includes the addition of a weigh bridge, staff offices, vehicle wash bays, ablutions, a store room, and a formal recycling facility. Establishing formal recycling infrastructure will reduce waste deposition at the landfill facility, and by employing and training local residents to assist in recycling practices, will also contribute to Local Economic Development (LED) in the Harding area.

Environmental Impact Assessment Process

Due to the extent and nature of the project, Umuziwabantu Municipality is required to obtain a Waste Management Licence prior to commencement of the activity.

The Centre for Environmental Management (CEM) has been appointed to act as Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct a Basic Assessment and related processes and specialist studies for the purpose of obtaining a Waste Management Licence for the project.

The process is being undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (59 of 2008) (NEM:WA), which prescribes that a

Basic Assessment Process must be conducted in terms of the EIA Regulations (GN R. 543 of 2010).

The EIA regulations promulgated in terms of NEMA prescribe the procedures that must be followed in the consideration, investigation, assessment and reporting of activities that have been identified. These regulations aim to provide the competent authority with adequate information to make decisions that will ensure that activities that may have an unacceptable negative impact on the environment are not authorised, and activities that are authorised are undertaken in such a manner that the environmental impacts are managed to acceptable levels.

When an applicant proposes to undertake identified activities, applications for authorisations must be submitted to the competent authorities (KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environment Affairs - KZNDAE). Such an application must be supported by reports that are compiled upon completion of the prescribed assessment procedures. After the competent authorities have made decisions on the applications, appeals may be lodged against the decisions, or parts of the decisions.

The aims of environmental assessments are to:

- establish the environmental sensitivity of the site;

- determine environmental impacts related to the project;
- identify alternatives to the current proposals;
- inform Interested and Affected Parties (e.g. neighbours & community groups) about the project and provide them the opportunity to identify issues and alternatives;
- assess the proposals and the issues raised.

The EIA Regulations provide for two types of assessment processes i.e.:

- A Basic Assessment process;
- A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process.

What process will be undertaken?

The proposed development includes the following activities in terms the Regulations of Section 20 (b) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 20088 (Act No. 59 of 2008):

Activity 5 as published in Category A of GN 718 of 2009

The sorting, shredding, grinding or bailing of general waste at a facility that has the capacity to process in excess of one ton of general waste per day.

Activity 18 as published in Category A of GN 718 of 2009

The construction of facilities for activities listed in Category A of this Schedule.

Activity 19 as published in Category A of GN 718 of 2009

The expansion of facilities of or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity, which requires an amendment of an existing permit or license or a new permit or license in terms of legislation governing the release of pollution, effluent or waste.

Activity 20 as published in Category A of GN 718 of 2009

The decommissioning of activities listed in this Schedule.

These listed activities may not commence without a Waste Management Licence after the investigation, assessment and communication of potential impacts have been undertaken that followed the Basic Assessment process.

The environmental assessment process for this project will involve the following steps:

- Engaging with competent authorities
- Development of Background Information Document (BID) & Advertisements (newspaper & site notices)

- I&AP registration & circulation of BID to registered I&APs
- Conducting Specialist Studies
- Public participation meeting (if sufficient interest)
- Drafting of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) & Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Circulation of draft BAR & EMP to registered I&APs for review
- Revision of BAR & EMP, based on I&AP comments
- Submission of final BAR & EMP to authorities
- Informing registered I&APs of the decisions by competent authorities (letter & newspaper advertisement).

Details of the EAP and contact person for I&AP registration and all correspondence regarding the environmental authorisation processes:

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