

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

This serves as a summary of the Public Participation Process (PPP) followed for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Gas to Power Project – Port of Richards Bay, uMhlathuze Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.

The PPP commenced on the **21 September 2020** where site notices were strategically placed along the proposed transmission line route in Richards Bay. During this time, the BID was distributed via email to the relevant Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Adverts were published in the Zululand Observer and the Bay Watch newspapers on the 21 and 23 September 2020 (respectively), requesting I&APs to register in order to be kept informed throughout the application process, including notice of any meetings that are held and online platform links.

A draft Scoping Report is distributed to the relevant authorities and to the public for review, for a 30 day comment period (**06 October 2020 – 04 November 2020**) in which commenting authorities, stakeholders and I&AP's are afforded the opportunity to raise any further issues and concerns.

The Scoping Report was submitted to DEFF on the 18 November 2020 and accepted on 06 January 2021. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be made available for comment from the **26 February 2021 – 31 March 2021**.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AS PART OF THE SCOPING PP PROCESS

Public Participation Plan

A Public Participation Plan was submitted to DEFF and approved during the pre-application meeting. The PP Plan was designed to ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs to participate in the EIA process by providing additional opportunities and means of communication other than the minimum requirements prescribed in Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Triplo4 also catered for I&APs who may not have access to electronic media.

Public Notices/Site Notices

3 Site notices (each in English and isiZulu) in size A2 were strategically placed along the study area. Refer to copy of:

- Site notices, providing the displayed detail in Appendix D3 – Site Notice;
- Photographs as proof of site notices displayed – refer to Appendix D4 – Proof of Site Notices.

Written Notices and Background Information Document (BID)

A notification letter and background information documents (in English and Zulu) with an invitation register to I&APs, Stakeholders and commenting authorities to submit was emailed to all registered I&APs, Stakeholders, and commenting authorities.

Refer to Background Information Document and I&AP Database provided in the Public Participation Process section (Appendix D7) for the details of the individuals contacted.

Advertisements

Advertisements regarding inter alia the proposed project scope of works, location, project details and date for draft Scoping Report review as well as details of EAP were placed in the Zululand Observer and the Bay Watch newspapers in English and isiZulu on the 21st and 23rd September 2020, respectively.

Flyers

In an effort to notify I&APs in the surrounding community, A5 flyers in English and isiZulu were placed at the following locations:

- Seafarers Mission near the port entrance, Richards Bay;
- Bayside Alusaf Aluminium front desk, Richards Bay;
- Bayside Alusaf Aluminium dedicated place at turnstile entrance, Richards Bay

I&AP Communication

Refer to Issues trail within Public Participation Process section (Appendix D8) for further detail. Requests to be included on the database were received and the BID and notice was further distributed via email.

I&APs Comments

As a result of the advertisement, BID's and site notices; correspondence was received from I&APs listed below:

- Mr Tony Carnie - Freelance Environment Journalist;
- Mr John Geeringh - Eskom Transmission Division;
- Mr Darryl Hunt - Dynamic Energy Consultants (Pty) Ltd;
- Mr Dominic Wieners – Emzemvelo KZN Wildlife;
- Thembalakhe Sibozana - Dept. Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries
- Mr Dave Savides – Zululand Observer - Editor in Chief;
- Mr Omar Parak - Dept. of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs - Coastal Management
- Mr Pieter Burger – WESSA KZN
- Mr Edward Reed - Energy Voice - Africa & LNG Editor.
- Mr Frans van der Walt – QS 2000 Plus
- Mr Morgan Smit - Zululand Yacht Club
- Mr Eugene de Beer - Urban Econ
- Sandy Camminga – Richards Bay Clean Air Association
- Mr Funanani Ditini – Oceans and Coasts
- Mr Willie Vogel - Phangela Holdings (Pty) Ltd
- Elizabeth Balcomb – I&AP
- Tania Jarvis – Eskom
- Lianne Muller - Eskom
- Khumo Lesele – Centre for Environmental Rights
- Karen Low

Draft Scoping Report Review

The draft Scoping Report is made available for review for a period of 30 days (**06 October 2020 – 04 November 2020**) and hard copies will be placed at the following venues, as advertised:

- Richards Bay Public Library (2 Krugerrand Grove, Richards Bay)
- Triplo4 Offices (Suite 5, The Circle, Douglas Crowe Drive, Ballito); and
- Triplo4 Website: www.triplo4.com

No comments on the Draft Scoping Report were left at the Richards Bay library during the Scoping phase. In addition, no requests were made to view the copy of the report at Triplo4 office.

Public Meetings

Phelamanga, an independent public participation specialist has been appointed to facilitate the public participation process. The following initiatives are planned to ensure that all I&APs and Stakeholders are provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate.

An 'Online Open Week' allowed for active sharing of information with I&APs through the following activities:

The draft Scoping Report has been made available before the Webinar dates.

All presentations that would normally be done at a public meeting was sent to registered I&APs in the week of 6 October 2020.

All I&APs were encouraged to send through any questions for the EAP and specialists in advance of the webinar dates.

In terms of a public meeting, an online Q&A webinar was hosted with the EAP and key specialists. The aim was to encourage questions, comments and engagement instead of passive presentations. The format of the webinars were as follows on 14th October 2020:

Two sessions were scheduled (morning: 10h00-11h30 and evening: 18h00-19h30) in order to allow for all I&APs to participate.

It must be noted that the evening meeting was not held as no attendees were present – the Secretariat (PPP facilitator), as well as the professional team and presenters, waited 45 minutes before closing off the meeting due to no attendees.

Minutes of the morning public meeting are attached as Appendix D12.

Ongoing I&AP / Stakeholder communication

All concerns, comments, viewpoints and questions (collectively referred to as 'issues') from the Scoping Phase (as well as after submission and acceptance of the Final Scoping Report) have been documented and responded to in the Comment and Responses Trail Report (Appendix D9).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING EIA PHASE

Maintenance of I&AP Database

A database of I&APs (refer to Appendix D7), which includes authorities, different spheres of government (national, provincial and local), stakeholders, landowners, interest groups and members of the general public, was maintained during the EIA phase.

Since the submission of the Final Scoping Report was submitted to DEFF on 18 November 2020, Triplo4 continued to receive requests to be added to the database or to be provided with the associated project information.

Notifications to I&APs

I&APs and stakeholders were notified on the 22nd February 2021 of the availability of the Draft EIA Report, inclusive of specialist reports and EMPr for comment and the date of the public and stakeholders meeting.

The notification was emailed to all registered I&APs, as captured in the I&APs database.

Additional communication method to notify the public was used by placing notification flyers / put them on public notice boards, containing the commenting period on the draft EIA Report and the date of the public and stakeholders meeting, on the 22nd February 2021 at Seafarers Mission, located near the entrance to the port. Additional notification flyers were also placed at Bayside Alusaf Aluminium entrance – on their front desk and at the turnstiles (designated place for flyers).

The content of the notification email and flyer included the below:

Comment on the draft EIA report:

*The Draft EIA Report (inclusive of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and specialist reports) will be available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), including State Departments as well as DEFF for comment for 30 days within the period 26th February – 31st March 2021 at the Richards Bay public library, Triplo4's Ballito office, on Triplo4's website: www.triplo4.com, as well as an online platform to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). **Please contact the Triplo4 office if you experience any difficulty in accessing these reports.***

Public and Stakeholder Meetings:

As part of the public participation process, meetings will be independently facilitated, using online meeting platforms to allow for participation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two meeting time options are offered - a morning session and an evening session. The same information will be provided at both sessions and registered I&APs will receive the minutes of both sessions. Questions or comments may be submitted in advance of the online meetings.

The meetings will be conducted on Thursday, 11th March 2021 at 10:00 and at 18:00.

The links to enable to join the online meetings will be provided to registered I&APs approximately a week in advance.

For I&APs who are unable to participate on such platforms, please contact the Triplo4 in advance so that additional assistance or alternative arrangements to participate can be made.

Please submit all comments and requests for registration as an I&AP (if not already registered) and/or further information to (EAP contact detailed).

Refer to Appendices D3 and D4 for copies of the notification flyers and photographic evidence of the placement notification flyers (no pictures were allowed to be taken at the Bayside Alusaf facility).

Public Meeting

The primary aims of the public meeting are to:

- provide I&APs and stakeholders with detailed information regarding the impacts of the proposed project and associated infrastructure;
- provide an opportunity for I&APs and stakeholders to seek clarity on the impacts and mitigations measures identified;
- record issues and concerns raised; and
- provide a forum for interaction with the project team.

Phelamanga, an independent public participation facilitation company, has again been appointed to facilitate the public participation process.

Recognising that not all stakeholders and I&APs are available at certain times of the day, the online meeting platform will be used to allow for participation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The online platform enables Phelamanga to provide a morning and evening meeting options for the relevant Stakeholders and registered I&APs to interact. The same information will be provided at both sessions and registered I&APs will receive the minutes of both sessions and the comments and issues trail. The meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams and the link will be shared to relevant stakeholders and Registered I&APs.

Date: 11th March 2021

Time: 10am and/or 6pm

Online Platform: Microsoft Teams

As included in the notification circulated, for I&APs who are unable to participate on such platforms, they were invited to contact Triplo4 in advance so that additional assistance or alternative arrangements to participate can be made.

The draft EIA Report (this document) will be made available before the Webinar date, and Stakeholders and registered I&APs are encouraged to submit questions or comments in advance of the online meeting so that feedback can be provided.

Minutes of the public meetings will be attached to the final EIA report.

I&AP Review of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report, inclusive of specialist reports and EMPr, has been made available to I&APs, including organs of state for comment for 30 days within the period **26 February 2021 to 31 March 2021** during which I&APs are afforded the opportunity to raise any further issues and concerns, to be considered and incorporated into the final EIA Report for submission to DEFF.

A hard copy of the report has been made available at the Richards Bay public library.

The report is also available at Triplo4 Ballito Offices (Suite 5, The Circle, Douglas Crowe Drive, Ballito) and electronically on Triplo4's Website www.triplo4.com as well as an online platform to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). In addition, I&APs were invited to contact the Triplo4 office if they experience any difficulty in accessing these reports.

As included in the notification circulated, I&APs were invited to contact Triplo4 should they experience any difficulty in accessing these reports.

Comments and Response Trail Report

Once the comment period for the draft EIA Report has concluded, the Comments and Response Trail Report will be updated to record all the comments received and responses provided during the EIA process, and submitted to DEFF with the final EIA Report.