

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (BASIC ASSESSMENT), WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION, AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KENDAL POWER STATION CONTINUOUS ASH DISPOSAL FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEM (LPS) PIPELINE; 11KV POWERLINE) IN MPUMALANGA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information on the Basic Assessment (BA) process and Water Use Licence application being undertaken by Sazi Environmental Consulting cc on behalf of Eskom Holdings SOC Limited for the proposed Kendal Power Station Continuous Ash Disposal Facility and associated infrastructure (Low-Pressure System (LPS) pipeline; 11KV powerline) in Mpumalanga.

This BID also provides I&APs with the opportunity to register as stakeholders and comment on the proposed project. The purpose of a BA is to identify and evaluate potential impacts, associated with the development and to recommend measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts and to enhance positive impacts. The decision-making authority for the Environmental Authorisation is the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), and the Department of Water and Sanitation is the competent authority for issuing the Water Use Licence.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited is proposing an installation of a Low-Pressure System (LPS) pipeline and an 11KV powerline within the Kendal Power Station continuous ash disposal facility. An Integrated Environmental Authorisation (IEA) for the Kendal Continuous Ash Disposal Facility (ADF) project was received on 28 July 2015 from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The Water Use Licence (WUL) for the Kendal Continuous ADF project was received on 8 August 2015 from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The licences excluded the Low-Pressure System (LPS) and the 11KV powerline that is being applied for in this project (Kendal Power Station Continuous Ash Disposal Facility and associated infrastructure (Low-Pressure System (LPS) pipeline; 11KV powerline) in Mpumalanga).

PROJECT LOCALITY

The proposed Kendal Power Station Continuous Ash Disposal Facility and associated infrastructure (Low-Pressure System (LPS) pipeline; 11KV powerline) is situated within Ogies town under Kendal. The site is boarded by R555 and R545, the 11KV powerline is proposed within the Ash dam vicinity on the farm Schoongezicht 218 IR under eMalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga. Figure 1 demonstrates the location of the proposed development site.

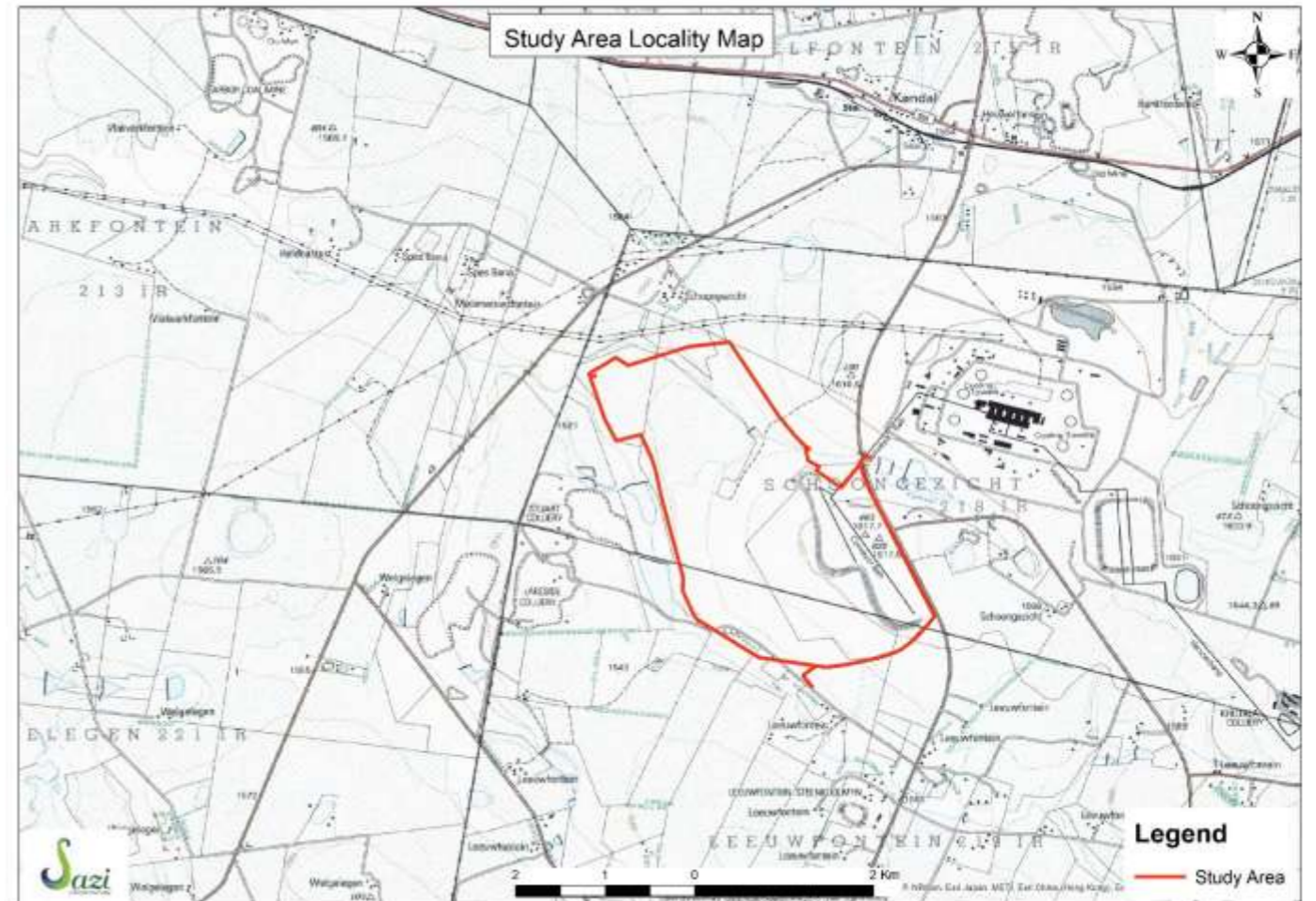


Figure 1: Locality Map of the Project area

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the EIA Regulations 2017, Eskom Holdings SOC Limited is applying for Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) for the project

through the undertaking a Basic Assessment process form as recommended in GN R.326 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2017. The development activities are listed under GN R. 327 (Activities 9 and 19) of the EIA Regulations 2017 which stipulates that a Basic Impact Assessment be undertaken, with full consultation with the stakeholders, commenting authorities, and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). In addition, in accordance with the requirements of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998), Eskom Holdings SOC Limited is applying for a Water Use Licence according to Section 21 (c) and (i).

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All documents will be available on the Sazi Environmental Consulting website at www.sazienviromental.co.za

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

The public Participation Process (PPP) is any process that involves the public in problem solving and decision-making. This process forms an integral part of the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure. The PPP provides people who may be interested in or affected by the proposed project, with an opportunity to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project. Comments and issues raised during the PPP will be captured, evaluated, and included in the Comments and Response Report (CRR), which will be incorporated in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and made available for public review.

The following processes will be followed when executing the PPP:

- Site notice placements (~4);
- Advertisement in a local newspaper;
- Public Meeting/ focus group meeting;
- Existing stakeholder database will be used to retrieve available relevant stakeholders, and registered I&APs;
- Emailing the BID report to relevant stakeholders and I&APs; and
- Hand delivers BID notification to interested parties that do not have access to the internet.

INVITATION TO REGISTER AS AN I & APS

You are invited to register as I&APs to be kept informed on the project activities and provided with further opportunities to comment on the project. More documents will become available during further phases of the Basic Assessment Process. Your comments will ensure that all issues of concern are incorporated.

Should you have any questions or suggestions or wish to raise any concerns during this stage of the Assessment Process, please complete the enclosed registration sheet, write a letter, call or email the person below.

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