

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PLAN

Proposed Filling Station and Retail Centre on Johandeo

Holding 63, Emfuleni Municipality

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Prepared for Stone Cold Enterprise 10 (Pty) Ltd



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1 Introduction

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. R 326 of 07 April 2017), an Environmental Awareness Plan is required to form part of the Environmental Management Programme.

The Environmental Awareness Plan must describe the manner in which the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risks which may result from their work and the manner in which the risks must be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or degradation of the environment.

Environmental awareness among all levels of the staff and management is viewed as essential in managing and minimizing the risks of pollution or degradation to the environment.

This section presents an Environmental Awareness Plan and Programme and includes relevant training materials to be employed on site once the construction phase commences. It is critical that environmental awareness training commences prior to any physical work being undertaken on site in order to ensure that all contractor, subcontractors and staff understand the need to comply with the Environmental Management Programme and are aware of the consequences for transgression.

2 Objectives of implementation

The objectives in implementing the Environmental Awareness Plan are outlined as follows:

- To ensure that all contractors, sub-contractors & staff, at all levels of the organisation are aware of:
 - The conditions in Environmental Management Programme
 - The conditions of the Environmental Authorisation issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs
 - The consequences for non-compliance
- To ensure that all contractors, sub-contractors & staff, at all levels of the organisation are made aware of the potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the operations which will be taking place on site. Through the associated training programme, all staff must receive the relevant training for their area of responsibility / work area to ensure compliance with the EMP.
- To ensure that all contractors, sub-contractors & staff, at all levels of the organisation, understand the specific actions that are required from them in order to prevent or minimise the risk to the environment and the corrective action which will be required should any impacts or pollution arise.
- To ensure that all contractors, sub-contractors, staff and suppliers who may present a risk to the environment through the normal course of their operations, are likewise aware of the requirements of the EMP and the consequences of non-compliance.

- To ensure that corrective action is taken after an environmental incident (e.g. oil spill, erosion, etc.) has occurred on site.

It is essential that the staff on site understand the need for the EMP and specifically the need for the actions they will be required to undertake within their work area in order to minimise the risks to the environment (including surrounding communities). The training material should therefore include a description of the environment and a motivation for why one should to protect the environmental resources. A global perspective, presented in simple terms and incorporating concepts such as sustainable development and the polluter pays principles should also be incorporated into the training materials.

3 Roles & Responsibilities

3.1 Contactor

- It is the overall responsibility of the Contractor, as the developer's agent, is to ensure that the environmental awareness training is conducted on site and that all staff are subject to the training and awareness programme.
- It is the Contractor's responsibility to make sufficient financial provision for the successful implementation of the environmental awareness programme.
- Furthermore, it is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure that all subcontractors are aware of the provisions of the EMP before commencing work on site.

3.2 Environmental Control Officer (ECO)

- It is the responsibility of the appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to develop a detailed environmental training manual and materials based on the information provided in this awareness plan.
- It is the ECO's responsibility to conduct training sessions with all management staff down to supervisory level.
- It is the ECO's responsibility to audit whether the necessary training and environmental awareness is taking place from the supervisory level downwards, and to monitor the efficacy of this.
- The ECO must report to the Department of Environmental Affairs through the environmental performance assessments, on the success of the training and awareness programme.
- The ECO will be responsible for developing "tool box talks" which relate specifically to each work area or function.

3.3 Environmental Liaison Officer (ELO)

- It is the ELO's responsibility to ensure that all staff members within their sections have been through the environmental awareness training and that they are familiar with the provisions of the EMP.
- It is the ELO's responsibility to ensure that their staff are equipped with the material means of implementing the EMP and taking the necessary corrective action for any non-compliance.

- The ELO must report to the ECO and Contractor on the number of persons inducted or re-inducted through the Environmental Awareness Programme

3.4 Staff

- It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that they have been provided with the required environmental awareness training necessary for them to undertake their work without causing undue environmental degradation.

4 Environmental Awareness Training Materials

The following items should be expanded and included in the detailed environmental awareness training manual to be developed by the ECO.

4.1 Definition of the Environment

The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) definition for the environment should be provided and explained so that everyone is aware that the term “environment” includes the natural as well as the social and cultural aspects. NEMA defines the “Environment” as:

The surroundings in which humans exist and that are made up of –

- The land water and atmosphere of the earth;*
- Micro-organisms, plant and animal life;*
- Any part or combination of (i) and (ii) and the interrelationship among and between them;*
- The physical, chemical, aesthetic and cultural properties and conditions of the foregoing that influence human health and well-being.*

These components of the environment and their interrelationship should be discussed with participants.

Estimated presentation time: 5 minutes

4.2 The Importance of Environmental Management

The importance of sound environmental management should be conveyed to the participants. The potential consequences of their actions should be explained with the use of examples. It is important for them to understand that it is everyone’s responsibility to protect the environment not just for our own quality of life, but for the quality of life of future generations.

Section 24 of the Bill of Rights embodied in the Constitution of South Africa which states that: *“Everyone has a right (a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being, and (b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative measures that*

- Prevent pollution and ecological degradation;*

- vi. Promote conservation; and*
- vii. Secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.”*

Estimated presentation time: 5 minutes.

4.3 Legal Framework

A very brief introduction to environmental legislation in South Africa should be presented. The purpose of this will be to provide some background to the legal framework in which the proposed development will be operating.

The following legislation should be covered:

- Constitution of South Africa and Bill of Rights
- National Environmental Management Act
- National Environmental Management Amendment Act
- NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act
- KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Ordinance 15 of 1974
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
- National Water Act
- National Forests Act
- National Heritage Resources Act
- National Heritage Resources Act Regulations

Estimated presentation time: 5 minutes

4.4 Environmental Management Objectives and Goals

4.4.1 Site Construction

The overall Environmental Objective for site construction is as follows:

To manage waste in a safe and environmentally acceptable condition and not cause undue harm to the environment during construction.

Specific Environmental Goals include:

- To manage the construction camps and laydown areas in a manner that shall minimise the impact that construction activity shall have on the surrounding environment outside of the demarcated construction boundaries.
- To prevent pollution of the surrounding rivers/watercourses and to maintain their ecological functions
- To avoid disturbance or loss of any fauna that may be present on site.
- To minimise the amount of vegetation that is to be cleared.
- To minimise the amount of topsoil lost during the construction phase and to ensure that what shall be removed is stockpiled correctly.
- To ensure that no erosion takes place on site that shall impact on the surrounding environment.
- To introduce an indigenous mixed grass cover to the areas disturbed by construction activities.
- To ensure that sound housekeeping practices are enforced.
- To minimise the amount of water used during construction.
- To ensure correct separation and disposal of different waste streams to prevent possible contamination of ambient soil, water and air quality.
- To minimise pollution of ambient soil, water and air quality in the event of a spillage or contamination.
- To control the pollution aspects of any wastewater.
- To ensure the correct procedures are followed wherever cement/concrete is mixed/used to avoid contamination of the environment.
- To ensure that construction activities do not impact negatively on the ambient air quality.
- To minimise the amount of noise pollution.
- To minimise the visual impacts of the construction site on the surrounding communities.
- To ensure that the health and safety of all contractors, employees and the general public is not compromised.
- To ensure that there is minimal risk of fire on the construction site.
- To ensure that any heritage, archaeological, or palaeontological artefacts that may be found are protected as per SAHRA's requirements.
- To ensure that the general public is not affected in a negative manner by the contractor or his employees.
- To ensure that strict controls are imposed on construction traffic to ensure minimal disturbance to neighbours and fellow road-users.

Estimated presentation time: 15 minutes.

4.4.2 Site Closure

The overall Environmental Objective for site closure is as follows:

To render the impacted area in a safe and environmentally acceptable condition on completion of the construction, rehabilitation and closure activities.

Specific Environmental Goals include:

- To return the impacted area, as closely as possible, to its original condition and land use through the shaping and landscaping of the surface and through the establishment of an indigenous grass cover emulating the surrounding environment.
- To minimize the residual impacts through ensuring that erosion is controlled, the slopes are stable, the vegetation cover is established satisfactory and that the area is left in a condition which does not pose a safety hazard to humans, livestock and indigenous fauna.
- To minimize the visual impacts of the impacted area on closure by way of landscaping and the establishment of an indigenous grass cover emulating the surrounding environment.

Estimated presentation time: 5 minutes.

4.4.3 Socio-Economic Aspects

The specific objective related to the Socio-Economic aspects is as follows:

To contribute significantly and meaningfully towards the economic and social development of the local community within the local municipality.

Specific goals include:

- To maximize the benefits to the local economy through the provision of employment opportunities and support of local service providers and suppliers wherever possible.
- To institute a training programme for all staff members in order to improve skills development in the area.
- To encourage further economic development through exploring partnerships with local individuals and groups in the establishment of further beneficiation businesses.

Estimated presentation time: 5 Minutes

4.4.4 Archaeological, Palaeontological & Heritage Aspects

The specific objective related to the Archaeological, Palaeontological & Heritage Aspects is as follows:

To identify, protect and preserve any sites of cultural, religious, palaeontological or archaeological significance.

Specific goals include:

- To ensure that any identified sites are properly protected in accordance to the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999.

- To ensure that any unidentified sites that may be discovered during construction are protected in accordance to the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999.
- To ensure that the correct procedures are followed in the event of a site discovery

Estimated presentation time: 5 Minutes

4.5 Overview of Environmental Impacts

This section should highlight the primary potential impacts which were identified during the environmental impact assessment (EIA). This presentation should be broken down into impacts which are anticipated during the construction, operation and closure phases, as well as residual impacts. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts should also be discussed. Positive impacts (if any) should be highlighted.

Estimated presentation time: 15 Minutes

4.6 Environmental Management and Mitigation

A detailed presentation of the management of impacts likely to arise on site should be provided. Examples should be presented for clarification.

The following topics must be covered:

- Water conservation.
- Protection of the soil & surface water and groundwater.
- Waste Management and Waste Minimization.
- Preservation of flora and fauna
- Fire Risk & Burning
- Occupational Health
- Cultural Heritage Aspects
- Visual and Aesthetic Impacts; and
- Emergency Situations and Procedures.

The mitigatory measures provided in EMP should be used as a basis for this discussion.

Estimated presentation time: 10 Minutes.

4.7 Monitoring and Auditing

Procedures for the monitoring of impacts and for auditing the successful implementation of the EMP should be discussed. It must be highlighted that external independent audits and reporting to the Department of Environmental Affairs will be undertaken and that they may initiate criminal proceedings against the Consulting Engineer, contractor and/or any sub-contractors in the event of non-compliance.

Estimated presentation time: 5 Minutes.

4.8 General Notes

- The total length of the sessions will be approximately 1.5hrs.
- The Awareness Course should be presented in English unless participants are unable to understand English in which case it should be translated into their first language.
- The Contractors will be responsible for providing a translator if the ECO cannot speak their first language
- Training materials in the form of a booklet (English or the local language) must be provided.
- This must be available for the participants to take home with them in order for them to study it further and to be able to highlight any aspects they don't understand.
- The training material should include short "tool box talks" about the Do's and Don'ts in certain situations.
- All participants must sign the Contractor's Training Record contained in the EMP in order to confirm that they have attended the course.
- Training should preferably occur in the morning prior to staff commencing with work on site.
- Educational posters could be erected around the site, particularly at assembly areas, offices, notice boards and eating areas.

Estimated presentation time: 10 Minutes.

5 Programme

Environmental awareness training should be conducted for all new staff as part of the initial induction ensuring that no person is allowed to commence with work on site without having been through the training session.

Re-induction should occur under the following circumstances:

- After staff return from annual leave;
- Following repeated incidents or accidents on site which has resulted in (or could have potentially resulted in) environmental pollution or degradation; or
- In the event of any changes to the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation or any significant changes to environmental legislation.

Appendix A: Environmental training register

Company	Name	Date	Signature

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