

ROLE ON TEAM	ORGANISATION
Applicant	Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM)
Acting on behalf of Applicant (Proxy)	Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (MDEDET)
Approving Environmental Authority	National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	AECOM SA (Pty) Ltd



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS:

FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW REGIONAL LANDFILL SITE FOR THE GOVAN MBEKI, LEKWA AND DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE (May 2013)

NEARS Reference Number: DEA/EIA/0001445/2012

DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/3/57

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The intention of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform you about the proposed establishment of the new regional landfill site. The new regional landfill site will cater for the Govan Mbeki, Lekwa and Dipaleseng Local Municipalities, all falling within the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

The **Gert Sibande District Municipality** (herein referred to as “GSDM”) is applying for Environmental Authorisation and a Waste Management Licence from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for the proposed establishment of the landfill site. Thus, an integrated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is undertaken for the Environmental Authorisation application and Waste Management Licence application.

This EIA process is undertaken in terms of Government Notice Regulations (GN R) 543 of the EIA Regulations (2010). The EIA Regulations (2010) were promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA). The activities for the proposed project are also undertaken in terms of GN R718 of July 2009, published in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008).

You are invited to engage in the EIA process by submitting your viewpoint and constructive suggestions to the project team. **By doing so, you are registering as an interested and affected party (I&AP).** Your participation will help in identifying potential environmental and social impacts to be assessed as part of the EIA process for the proposed new Regional Landfill Site.

Please forward your input to the following public participation team member:

Emmanuel Mmotong

AECOM SA (Pty) Ltd

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Email: CCRegionalLandfill@bksemd.co.za

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

It is the aim of the GSDM to develop a sustainable, state of the art, sanitary landfill site, including a recycling facility to serve the Govan Mbeki, Lekwa and Dipaleseng local municipalities. It is anticipated that the proposed new regional landfill site will be classified as a general waste landfill facility (GLB+). The facility will thus **not be used for the disposal of hazardous waste** at all.

The proposed location for the new regional landfill site is on the remaining extent of Charl Cilliers Farm No. 332, Mpumalanga. This proposed site was identified based on the Integrated Waste Management Plan of the GSDM. The proposed new regional landfill site will be located within an area of approximately **800m×500m** within the property boundary shown in green in Figure 1 (Locality Map).

The proposed construction process and activities will include:

- Cell 1 pit area, approximately 100m x 100m x 5m deep (General waste). Additional cells will be added to the landfill site in approximately 5 phases over the lifetime of the landfill site.
- A wet cell.
- Pollution control dams.
- A recycling area, with a conveyor belt, sorters and skips.
- Wheel wash bay.
- Administration and ablution buildings.
- Access control building.
- Access roads to the landfill and link roads between the landfill cells, administration buildings, leachate treatment ponds, etc.
- Weigh bridges.
- Electricity, water and sewage associated infrastructure and connections.

Details will be provided in the Scoping phase of the project.

The proposed landfill should have a maximum operating volume of more than **500 tons per day**. It is anticipated that the landfill will employ approximately **15 permanent employees** (including plant operators).

The technical aspects of the project will be confirmed in the Scoping Report and ensuing EIA report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process gives you the opportunity to:

- Get clear, accurate and comprehensible information about the proposed project and the expected social and environmental impacts it may have.
- Have the chance to voice your concerns and to raise questions about the proposed new regional landfill site and the EIA process.
- Suggest ways for reducing or mitigating any potential negative impacts of the proposed new regional landfill site, and for potentially increasing its benefits.
- Enable the *GSDM* with an opportunity to consider the needs, preferences and values of the I&APs in decision-making.
- Be involved in the sharing of information. This sharing forms a key component of public participation and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset.
- Influence the decision making process of the environmental authority, by providing your viewpoints and suggestions.

BENEFITS OF REGISTERING

As a registered I&AP, **you** are entitled to the following:

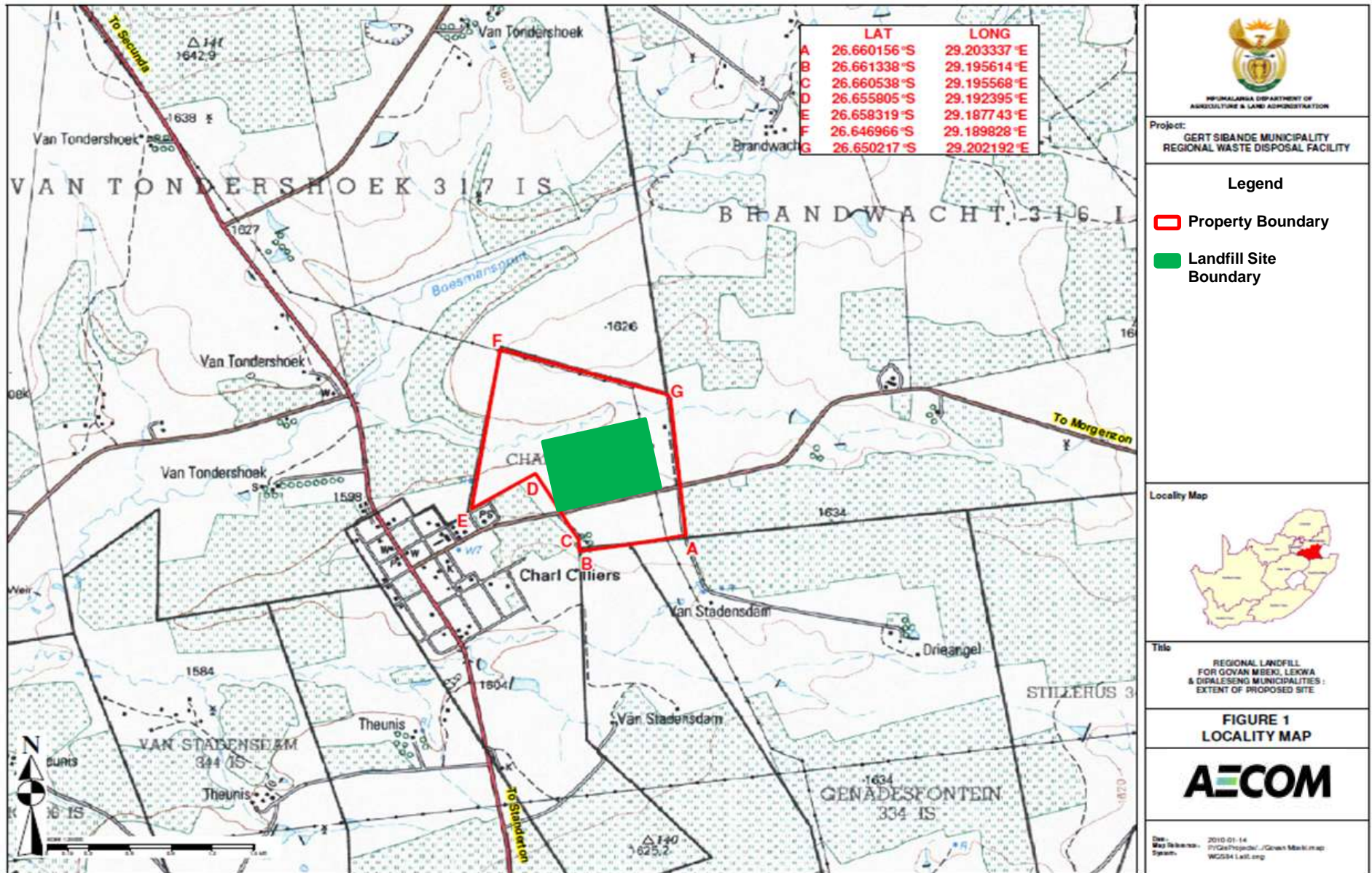
- Invitations to public events.
- An opportunity to participate in the EIA process.
- Access to reports and the opportunity to review and comment on these.

HOW TO REGISTER

To register and be involved you should do the following:

- **Keep a look out for** the newspaper advertisements relevant to this project.
- **Complete** and **submit** the comment sheet included in this BID.
- Provide us with your **contact details**.
- **Attend** the public participation events.

FIGURE 1: LOCALITY MAP FOR PROPOSED NEW REGIONAL LANDFILL SITE



EIA PROCESS

An independent EIA process (in terms of Sections 26-35 of GN R543) identifies and assesses potential impacts of the new regional landfill site. Possible mitigation measures are also provided to reduce the anticipated impacts of the proposed new regional landfill site on the receiving environment. The EIA process requires a comprehensive public participation process. Finally, the EIA process would recommend whether the DEA should grant or refuse environmental authorisation to the proposed new regional landfill site and if granted, what the conditions would be.

A typical EIA process includes these tasks:

1. The project team submits a formal application to the relevant environmental authority (the DEA) for this project – **Completed**.
2. Public participation starts (including registration of IA's, that is, you).
3. The scoping phase starts.

The scoping phase identifies the potential issues related to the proposed development and its alternatives.

4. A Draft Scoping Report will be submitted for comment to all I&APs (i.e. you) for a period of **60 calendar days** (for waste activities). Once your comments have been considered, the Final Scoping Report will be submitted to the DEA, for their consideration.
5. EIA process starts.

The EIA process evaluates and assesses the potential issues identified during the scoping phase. Possible mitigation measures for the proposed new landfill are then recommended.

6. The EIA process is captured in a comprehensive EIA Report, including an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
7. You will be given an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIA Report, which will be made available to all I&APs for a period of **60 calendar days**.
8. The Final EIA Report is then submitted to the DEA, for its consideration.
9. The DEA reviews the documents and makes a decision on the proposed project. The DEA's decision will be to grant or refuse environmental authorisation, and provide specific conditions.
10. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation document will be made available to you to consider, with the reasons for the decision made. If you disagree with the decision, you are provided with information on how to lodge an appeal.

PICTURES OF THE SITE



Photograph taken from the centre of the proposed new regional landfill site, looking east at Charl Cilliers town



Photograph taken on the northern bank and within the property boundary facing south and overlooking the proposed new regional landfill site



Facing the western boundary (by the power lines) of the proposed new regional landfill site