

Appendix C7:  
Minutes of Meetings

To be included in the final EIAr

# SCOPING PHASE

**SCOPING AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES  
FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF A WASTE RECOVERY PLANT AT  
HIGHVELD STEEL NEAR WITBANK, MPUMALANGA  
PROVINCE**

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**MEETING NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH VARIOUS  
STAKEHOLDERS  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2020 AT 09H30  
VENUE: MS TEAMS PLATFORM**

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**Meeting notes prepared by:**

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*Please note that these notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the comments submitted at the meeting.  
Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address*

## DEVELOPMENT OF A WASTE RECOVERY PLANT AT HIGHVELD STEEL NEAR WITBANK, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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Name	Position	Organisation
Ntombifuthi Mathebula	Manager: Town Planner	Co-operative Governance & Traditional Affairs
Mariette Liefferink	Chairperson	Federation for a Sustainable Environment
Gideon Raath	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Nicolene Venter	Public Participation and Social Consultant	

Please refer to **Appendix A** for proof of attendance.

The presentation of the Development of a Zero Waste recovery plant was made available on MS Teams for the attendees to download and was also e-mailed to the attendees after the Focus Group Meeting (FGM). The attendees were also directed to the stakeholder engagement platform where the presentation can be accessed and downloaded.

Attendees were requested to register their attendance by introducing themselves by submitting their names and roles on the chat function of MS Teams, as well as a verbal introduction to the project team. The same introductory process was followed by the team members.

Nicolene Venter welcomed all on the on-line platform and informed the attendees that comments can be submitted on the chat function and verbally during the meeting and advised that any additional comments after the meeting can be submitted via e-mail, WhatsApp or SMS to the public participation office.

Gideon Raath presented the EIA and Public Participation processes followed by a summary of the key components of the project and the environmental studies to date as documented in the draft scoping report.

Nicolene Venter opened the on-line FGM to the attendees for questions and comments.

A copy of the presentation is attached as **Appendix B**.

### DISCUSSION SESSION

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Question / Comment	Response
Mariette Liefferink asked for clarify that in terms of the public participation process, it is assumed that is one of many focus groups as the attendance seems to be poor. It is advised to note that the legal matrix allows for prior	Nicolene Venter responded that the public participation process forms part of the presentation and that this FGM has been arranged with OoS and key stakeholders.

Question / Comment	Response
<p>informed consultation, ensuring a broad based and balanced consultation process.</p>	<p>It was also mentioned that in order to address risks associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic, that the DEFF required a public participation plan to be submitted for approval prior to commencing with the EIA process. This plan includes the approach of conducting the public participation process while addressing the risks with the pandemic. The public participation plan was approved by the DEFF and is included in <b>Appendix C9</b> of the scoping report.</p> <p>In summary, the process followed is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisement placed in the Witbank News on 13 November 2020 – announcing the commencement of the EIA and public participation process and the availability of the Scoping Report;</li> <li>• Notification and consultation with the Ward Councillor, Ward Committee Members and CBOs/NGOs as identified; and</li> <li>• Notification via e-mail to all I&amp;APs as identified prior to the distribution of the BID and Scoping Report.</li> <li>• Invitation to registered parties to attend FGMs to discuss the findings of the Scoping Report.</li> </ul>
<p>Mariette Liefferink thanked the team for the response provided and requested that wider consultation, especially with those communities located close to the site be undertaken in the EIA phase as the approved public participation plan could be used for political reasons and might not reach the community on the ground.</p> <p>She informed the team that local knowledge is of great value. It is also recommended that the team build capacity especially for marginalised community members.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked Ms Liefferink for her inputs and recommendation and confirmed that the public participation team will ensure that information is disseminated to community members in the EIA phase as per the approved public participation plan.</p>
<p>Mariette Liefferink commented that it is mentioned in the presentation that chemicals will be used in order to extract i.e. titanium</p>	<p>Gideon Raath responded that there is a short description in the Scoping Report addressing this point and it was agreed that an abstract of the information will be distributed with the minutes.</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>oxides and vanadium from the waste slag material. She asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• which chemicals will be used for these extractions; and</li> <li>• was a risk assessment done of these chemicals?</li> </ul>	<p>A risk assessment has not specifically been done for the chemicals, however would be required under the health and safety controls of the plant once operational. The plant will operate under all current and applicable occupational health and safety regulations. In addition, mitigation and control measures will be recommended in the EIA study towards containment and appropriate handling of the chemicals.</p> <p>Please note: the reference to the chemicals listed is contained in Table 2.1 of the draft scoping Report, repeated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Coal is stored in bin of 3m<sup>3</sup></i></li> <li>» <i>Sodium carbonate stored in bin of 4m<sup>3</sup></i></li> <li>» <i>Ammonium sulphate stored in bin of 4m<sup>3</sup></i></li> <li>» <i>Sulphuric acid in 2 tanks of 30m<sup>3</sup> (60m<sup>3</sup>)</i></li> <li>» <i>Lime is slurried in a 6m<sup>3</sup> tank</i></li> <li>» <i>Sodium hydroxide into solution stored in tank of 20m<sup>3</sup></i></li> </ul> <p><i>All storage areas will be bunded.</i></p>
<p>Mariette Lieferink enquired whether her understanding is correct that the chemical process to extract the titanium and vanadium are confidential.</p>	<p>Gideon Raath responded that the process is very technical and there is intellectual property associated with the waste recovery process specifically. The level of detail contained in the EIA report is therefore not detailed enough to violate any intellectual property considerations, while still being detailed enough to sufficiently inform the impact assessment process and environmental process.</p> <p>In terms of the EIA, the details provided in the Scoping Report are high level details and broader categories of chemicals to be used are listed. These will be attached to the minutes (please refer to the above comment for the specific list provided).</p>
<p>Mariette Lieferink informed the project team that it is assumed that silica will be one of the residues that will be recovered and that silica is a non-hazardous product. If so, where will the silica be deposited.</p>	<p>Gideon Raath responded that the residue is silica pellets (inert), and it is envisaged that there will be little or even zero waste. The secondary products produced by the process will be resold and utilised (for example, resold for construction material elsewhere).</p>

Question / Comment	Response
<p>Mariette Liefferink enquired what rehabilitation plan is in place for the footprint of slag stockpile.</p> <p>Additional to the above, the team needs to also look at predetermined agreed upon sustainable future land-use of the slag stockpile footprint.</p>	<p>Gideon Raath responded that the site is located within an industrial zone, open area and that the property is leased from the Highveld Steel. Rehabilitation of the site is therefore in accordance with the current maintenance programme for the Highveld Steel complex.</p> <p>Given the potential long term operation of the plant envisaged (indefinite, until such time as slag resources are depleted or a technology improvement is made), the intended future land use of the site has not been determined at present.</p>
<p>Mariette Liefferink noted that in the presentation it is mentioned that a crushing plant forms part of the operation activities and enquired whether the crushing plant will be operating non-stop.</p> <p>Also, will a noise assessment be undertaken to address Section 24 of the Constitution which states everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to people's health or well-being.</p>	<p>Gideon Raath responded that the crushing plant will not be operating 24 hours but only at specific times of the day. It is also important to note that the crushing plant is located within an industrial area and a distance from any residential areas. Given the existing noise levels present within the industrial park where the project is located, and the distance from the site to sensitive noise receptors, no noise study was commissioned as negligible noise impact was anticipated to receptors in the vicinity.</p>
<p>Mariette Liefferink informed the project team that although her expertise is more applicable to mining, she would like to know more about the temporary air emissions, especially associated with dust.</p>	<p>Gideon Raath responded that an air quality assessment and Air Emissions Licence process will be undertaken during the EIA phase. It will be during this phase that comments from the Provincial Authority's air quality representatives will be received. Dust will be considered in the air quality study.</p>
<p>Mariette Liefferink commented that it seems there are more positive impacts than negative impacts associated with this project.</p>	<p>Gideon Raath confirm that looking at the process of the plant and the opportunity of employment, there appear to be more positives than negative impacts. The impact of reducing waste through recovery is also a novel approach and a beneficial process from a waste disposal and management perspective. Positive impacts will be further assessed in the EIA Phase of the process.</p>
<p>Mariette Liefferink enquired whether a Section 21 application regarding water abstraction or discharge is required.</p>	<p>Gideon Raath responded that as the process and construction water will be obtained from the Highveld Steel industrial complex, and water disposal will be through the existing Highveld complex systems, no water use under Section 21 of the National Water Act is currently envisaged.</p>



Question / Comment	Response
Ntombifutsi Mathebula enquired whether an application in terms of Spluma By-Law (land use right) has been submitted to the local municipality.	Gideon Raath responded that a change in land-use is not required as the site is registered as industrial. However, communication will be undertaken with the local municipality to confirm whether an application is required and if so, the applicable process will be followed by the applicant.

## **CLOSURE**

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Nicolene Venter thanked the attendees for their valuable inputs into the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The meeting was closed at 10h25.

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

CBO	Community Bases Organisations	DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	FGM	Focus Group Meeting
NGO	Non-Government Organisations	OoS	Organs of State

# Appendix A

## Attendance Register

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>User Action</b>	<b>Timestamp</b>
Nicolene Venter	Joined	12/11/2020, 9:20:27 AM
Ntombifutsi Mathebula(Guest)	Joined	12/11/2020, 9:31:04 AM
Gideon Raath	Joined	12/11/2020, 9:31:31 AM
Mariette Liefferink	Joined	12/11/2020, 9:34:20 AM

# Appendix B Presentation

# Zero Waste Recovery Solution and associated infrastructure near Kwa-Guqa, Mpumalanga Province

Public Participation Presentation  
October 2020




## AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Meeting Conduct
- Introduction and Project Overview
- Environmental Studies & Findings
- Discussion
- Way Forward

1

2

## CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

- Please stay on mute during the presentation 
- Register attendance on Chat  function (name, surname & affiliation)
- Please raise your hand  to indicate comment/question to raise
- Questions submitted in Chat function will be responded to after the presentation
- Equal opportunity
- Recording of meeting
- Attendees welcome to switch video on

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide stakeholder & IAPs with an overview of the Fodere ZeroWaste Project
- Summary of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation** being undertaken
- Present summary of key environmental findings as documented in the **Scoping Report**
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarity regarding the project and environmental studies
- Opportunity to provide valuable input into/to inform the EIA process
- Obtain and record comments for inclusion in the **Final Scoping Report** to be submitted to the DEFF

3

4

# PROJECT BACKGROUND & INFORMATION

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

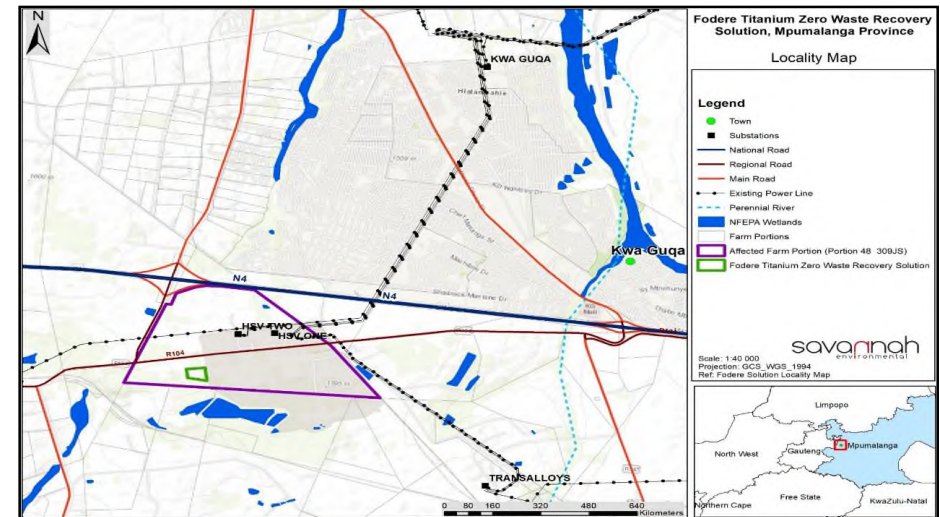
- **Applicant – Anglo African Metals (PTY) LTD**
- **Location** – Portion 48 of Farm No. 309, approximately 17 km west of eMalaheni town in the eMalaheni Local Municipality (LM) within the Nkangala District Municipality (DM) in Mpumalanga
- **Project proposal – 1)** development of a waste recover plant extracting both vanadium and titanium oxides from slag materials.
- **Need and desirability** – The presence of waste slag material and slag resources generated by the steel industry has various environmental impacts on water resources, soils, air quality and general aesthetic of an area. It is estimated that 52% of unclassified waste generated in South Africa during 2017 consisted of slag (DEA, 2018). Waste recovery from slag materials has however become an economically viable option for the re-use of by-products from the steel industry. The re-use options for recovered slag materials range from building and road construction, cement manufacturing, aggregates, and as liming agent in agricultural soils (IISI and UNEP, 1997). The Fodere Zero Waste Recovery Solution project aims to develop a saleable product (i.e. vanadium and titanium oxides) from a waste source (i.e. slag materials). The waste recovery solution process of the project will deliver maximum benefits from waste slag materials, which aids in the reduction of slag waste disposed of at slag waste disposal areas by Highveld Steel. This process contributes towards achieving the objectives of the NEM: WA and the NWMS through implementation of the waste management hierarchy by reducing waste material for disposal and recovering materials from waste. In addition, given that the proposed project consists of a zero-waste recovery solution, no process waste will be generated which is also in line with the objectives of the NEM: WA and NWMS.

5

6

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- **The plant will comprise the following key infrastructure assessed in this EIA process:**
  - Chemical plant area, where all process chemicals including acid are produced, stored and handled as required by the waste recovery process.
  - Substation and plant utility unit as interface and controlling unit for the electricity utilised by the plant during operation.
  - Slag stockpile.
  - Crushing plant.
  - Mill.
  - Product area for storage of the various products produced through the recovery process.
  - Reagent area, for the storage and handling of reactants utilised in the waste recovery process.
  - A security area.
  - Parking lot.
  - Admin and control room including offices and ablutions for staff.
- The plant will be developed to process 2000 tonnes of tailings/slag per month, approximately 3 tons per day and will be primarily fuelled by LPG and Sasol gas brought into site by dedicated transport truck deliveries.
- Operation of the plant is anticipated for 24 hours per day, 365 per year (i.e. non-stop operation) and will utilise the slag produced by the Highveld Steel operations.

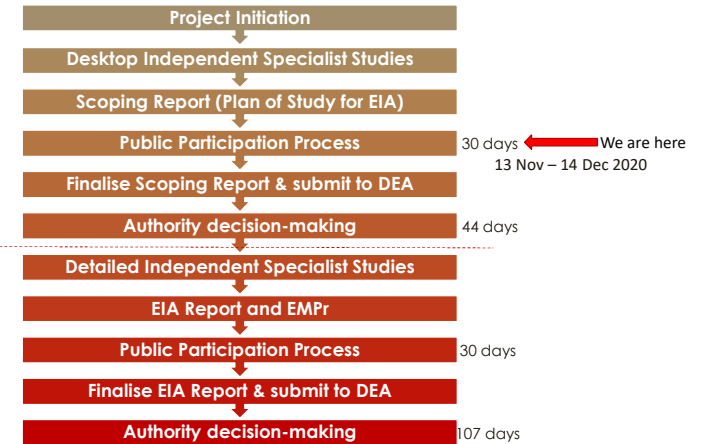


7

8

# EIA & Public Participation Process and Summary of environmental studies

## EIA PROCESS



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

- Understanding the nature of the proposed development and the impacts associated with the project (as identified in the Scoping phase), the following has been considered and assessed within the Scoping phase:
  - Construction phase impacts, such as temporary air emissions (dust and vehicle emissions), noise, solid waste and wastewater generation, and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issues such as the risk of preventable accidents leading to injuries and/or fatalities.
  - Impacts on heritage sites, such as direct impacts on below-ground archaeological or palaeontological deposits as a result of ground disturbance during construction.
  - Impacts on air quality associated with the operation of the waste recovery process.
  - Impacts on the socio-economic environment, including positive impacts associated with job creation and potential negative intrusion impacts during construction.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

Scoping Report Specialist Studies	Scoping of issues
Impacts on Ambient Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Particulate and Gaseous pollutant emissions</li> <li><b>Low –Medium Significance</b></li> <li><b>High cumulative contribution</b></li> </ul>
Impacts on Heritage Resources (Archaeology and Palaeontology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct impact to archaeological sites, historical sites and burial sites</li> <li>Damage or destruction of unmarked graves</li> <li>Damage or destruction of fossil materials</li> <li><b>Low negative significance</b></li> <li><b>High palaeontological sensitivity</b></li> </ul>

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

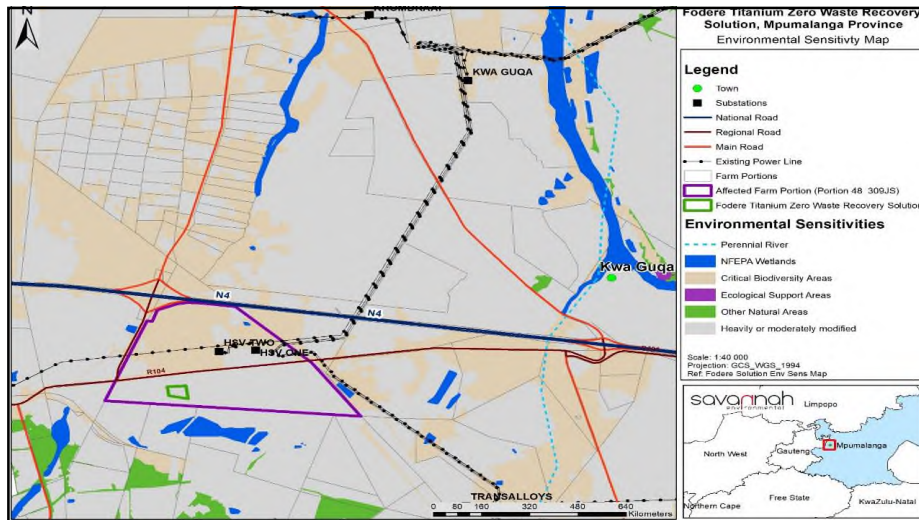
Scoping Report Specialist Studies	Scoping of issues
Social Impacts (construction and operational phase impacts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in Production and GDP-R (locally and nationally) (<b>medium significance (positive)</b>)</li> <li>Temporary employment creation in local communities (<b>medium significance (positive)</b>)</li> <li>Skills development due to new employment opportunities (<b>medium significance (positive)</b>)</li> <li>Improved standard of living due to employment opportunities (<b>medium significance (positive)</b>)</li> <li>Sustainable increase in production and GDP-R of the national and local economies due to operations expenditure (<b>High significance (positive)</b>)</li> <li>Long-term employment creation in local communities (<b>medium significance (positive)</b>)</li> <li>Increase in government revenue stream due to payroll taxes and income taxes (<b>medium significance (positive)</b>)</li> </ul>

13

## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS/SENSITIVITIES IDENTIFIED

Scoping Report Specialist Studies	Scoping of issues
Impacts on ambient air quality:	There are a large number of operations within a 50km radius that are sources of major emissions, including seven power stations and numerous mines. Given that the project is located within the Highveld Priority Area (HPA), all contributing sources in the area must be assessed to determine the emission reduction targets to be achieved over the following few years.
Impacts on heritage resources:	Impacts on heritage resources as a result of the proposed project are expected to be of low significance and therefore the potential for cumulative impacts is expected to be low.
Impacts on the social environment:	<p>Potential positive impacts are expected, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed project will contribute to the improved efficiency of resource usage related to slag material</li> <li>The manufacturing sector in the local municipalities have been shrinking resulting in job shedding. A holistic approach to the revitalisation of the manufacturing activities along its value chain is required to assist in a sector-wide turnaround.</li> </ul>

14



15

## PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA PHASE ASSESSMENTS

- » Based on the findings of the Scoping assessment, the following further investigation within the EIA phase are required:
- » Air Quality Impact Assessment
- » Heritage Impact Assessment
- » Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

16



## DISCUSSIONS

## WAY FORWARD

- » Meeting notes will be distributed for verification
- » Presentation will be distributed
- » Review and comment period ending **14 December 2020**
- » Final Scoping Report submission to DEFF envisaged 8 January 2021 (subject to change)
- » Notification of commencement of impact phase

## WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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