

HOW TO REGISTER

To register as an interested and affected party you can do one or more of the following:

- Respond to the relevant newspaper advertisements.
- Provide us with your contact details.
- Attend the public participation events.
- Review the project documentation.

BENEFITS OF REGISTERING

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

- Project information.
- Opportunities to raise issues and concerns throughout the process.
- Notices to inform you of reports for public comment.
- Opportunity to comment on reports to find out if your issues and concerns were addressed.



BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE LINKING OF TWO EXISTING RAILWAY LINES OF OVER A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1KM IN SISHEN, NORTHERN CAPE

Date: June 2017

Transnet Group Capital ("Transnet") proposes to undertake a Basic Assessment (BA) process for the activities associated with the linking of two existing railway lines over a distance of approximately 1km in Sishen, Northern Cape Province. Because Transnet is a state-owned enterprise, it is applying for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for the proposed project. A Water Use Licence Application (WULA) may be required in terms of the National Water Act as the route alignment of the new railway line section crosses a watercourse. The BA process would also include for a heritage impact assessment for the length of the railway infrastructure in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act.

To be considered for EA, a BA process must be undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014) as amended, of the National Environmental Management Act, (Act 107 of 1998), published under Government Notice Regulations (GNR) that came into effect on 08 December 2014 and were amended 07 April 2017. The proposed activity triggers Listing Notice 1, Activity 19 and 64 of the EIA Regulations, relating to construction activities within a wetland area and for expansion of a railway line, respectively.

You are invited to participate in the BA process by submitting issues of concern and suggestions on the proposed project. Your participation will assist in identifying potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed project and ensure that these are assessed and addressed in the BA Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Please direct enquiries or comments to

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BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project entails the Basic Assessment for linking two existing railway lines of over a distance of approximately 1km in Sishen. A Water Use Licence Application (WULA) may be required in terms of the National Water Act as the route alignment of the new railway line section crosses a watercourse. The BA process would also include for a heritage impact assessment for the length of the railway infrastructure in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Basic Assessment is a process by which possible impacts of a proposed project are identified, evaluated or assessed and possible mitigation measures identified. After that, recommendations are made on whether the proposed project should continue, and if so, what aspects to consider when implementing the proposed project.

To get authorisation for the project, a comprehensive and independent BA must be undertaken under the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended. The EIA process also provides for an appropriate participation process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process provides:

- Opportunities for interested and affected parties (I&APs) and the authorities to get clear, accurate and understandable information about the proposed project and the expected social and environmental impacts it may have.
- Members of the public with the opportunity to voice their concerns and to raise questions about the project.
- Affected parties with the opportunity to suggest ways for reducing or mitigating any negative impacts of the project, and for increasing its potential benefits.
- The applicant with opportunities to consider the needs, preferences and values of affected parties in their decisions.
- Sharing information, which forms the basis of public participation and offers I&APs the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. It also plays an important role towards understanding environmental investigations, as the input from I&APs ensures potential issues are considered in the study.

