

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED RETROFITTING OF THE EXISTING ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS WITH FABRIC FILTER BAGS AT GROOTVLEI POWER STATION UNITS 2, 3 AND 4, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE (DEA Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/600)

Lidwala Consulting Engineers (SA) (Pty) Ltd (Lidwala SA) has been appointed by Eskom Holdings (SOC) Limited (Eskom) to conduct a Basic Assessment (BA) in terms of Government Notices GNR 543 and 544 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, (NEMA). The proposed project is registered with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) under reference number DEA 14/12/16/3/3/1/600.

The proposed project involves the retrofitting of the existing Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) with Fabric Filter Bags on Units 2, 3, and 4 at the Grootvlei Power Station in the Mpumalanga Province. The inclusion of the new air quality abatement technology will allow the power station to consistently meet the particulate license limit as set out by the Department of Environmental Affairs. The appended Background Information Document (BID) contains more information on the proposed project.

Eskom must obtain an environmental authorisation before commencing with the proposed project as required in terms of the provisions of the NEMA and other legislation, such as the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004). In order to obtain the authorisation a Basic Assessment (BA) needs to be undertaken. The Basic Assessment Process is expected to be complete by end November 2012. The public participation process will be conducted by Lidwala SA.

The project team would like to invite you, as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP), to become part of the BA and public participation (PP) processes for the proposed project. The aim of this BA process is to ensure that the environmental impacts associated with the project are taken into consideration and mitigated, and to ensure public input in the process to provide the decision-makers (i.e. DEA) with sufficient information to make an informed decision on the authorisation of the proposed activities associated with the project.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT

You are invited to formally register as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP) and to participate in the BA process by completing the registration and comment form enclosed with the BID. You are welcome to comment on the BID in any of the following ways:

- Submitting your completed registration and comment form to us
- Writing a letter to be received by us, or
- By e-mail, fax or phoning the public participation office.

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You are requested to use the registration and comment form to indicate your preferred method of notification and any direct business or other interest you may have in the environmental authorisation process. Several opportunities will be provided to your disposal to make contributions during the BA process within set timeframes, and you will receive advance notification of these once you have registered.

We would like to thank you, in advance, for becoming part of the BA and PP processes and are looking forward to receiving your comments relating to the proposed project.

Yours sincerely

Bongi Mhlanga
Public Participation Practitioner

Documents included: Background Information Document (BID)
Registration and Comment Form