

05 August 2015

Our Ref: J27035
Your Ref: Email received 05 August 2011

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Dear Mike and Jann Gafney

RE: ESKOM EIA CONCERNS FOR THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (DEA Ref. No: 12/12/20/944)

Comment 1:

COMMENTS REGARDING REVIEW OF REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT 5TH AUGUST 2011

We remain committed to challenging the building of a nuclear power station at Bantamsklip. In view of the recent nuclear meltdown in Japan and the horrific consequences, we cannot believe that you would even consider putting your citizens at risk. This seems to be another ideal opportunity to enrich another class of "tenderpreneurs"!

No matter what we say, or what evidence we produce there is always some specialist to counter our claims!

We have lost all faith in the integrity and honesty of Eskom and its contractors. As farmers we are struggling to survive in difficult economic times, how much more difficult will it be with contaminated product?

Do you honestly believe that this is the future solution? We live in a windy, sunny area where there are many alternatives to conventional energy sources.

Response 1:

Your comments are noted. Your concerns regarding the incident in Japan are also noted and are shared by many other Interested and Affected parties commenting on the Revised Draft EIR Version1.

The main cause of the disaster at the Fukushima Plant was caused by a tsunami triggered by a magnitude 8.9 earthquake centred offshore of the city of Sendai on the eastern coast of Honshu island. It is acknowledged that the incident at Fukushima as a result of this natural disaster has highlighted many important safety factors in terms of the future of nuclear energy and is indeed a stark reminder of the unpredictability of the natural environment. However it is also well known that South Africa is located on a vastly more stable tectonic environment than that of Japan which is situated close to a major subduction zone within the Pacific Ocean.

Eskom places high importance on the safety of people – members of the public, Eskom employees and contractors. In addition the National Nuclear Regulator will not grant a nuclear installation licence if the plant design is not safe. It is worth mentioning that the safety of the KNPS has recently been reviewed considering the events at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. These checks included beyond design basis seismic ground motion and flooding as the initiating events. The evaluation by the NNR on the safety assessment done by Eskom concluded that KNPS is able to withstand these events.

Nevertheless please note that addressing site safety issues are integral to the success of the proposed development and one of the important issues which will be placed in front of both the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) for their consideration. Site safety issues are therefore discussed on a high level in the Emergency Response and Site Control Reports (Appendix E26 and E27 of the Revised Draft EIR) and will also be dealt with during the NNR process.

Furthermore please note that the team of specialists appointed to conduct studies at the Duynefontein, Bantamsklip and Thyspunt sites are independent specialists tasked to describe the receiving environment, assess the significance of impacts related to the proposed development and propose mitigation measures. These are respected recognised professionals in their respective fields of study who have all signed a Declaration of Independence in terms of the work they have performed as part of this EIA and have no bias towards accepting or rejecting (countering) any additional information put forward in terms of the EIA process. As such the findings of their studies, methodology employed and limitations listed are accepted as scientifically sound.

Lastly the choice between Renewable Energy vs. Nuclear Energy and the weighting of each of these in terms of addressing South Africa's future energy needs are addressed by the Integrated Resource Plan 2010 which is related to strategic government decisions falling outside the ambit of the Nuclear-1 EIA process.

Yours faithfully
for GIBB (Pty) Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'S' or similar character, located below the typed name.

The Nuclear-1 EIA Team