ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED BRINE TREATMENT WORKS AT TUTUKA POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA

AUGUST 2010

Eskom aurecon

UPDATE OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR) TO FINAL EIAR

This Update Page describes the process followed since the Draft EIAR was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 30-day comment period from 6 July 2010 to 7 August 2010. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the Draft EIAR in response to the public participation process, and briefly reiterates the next steps in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Process since the lodging of the Draft EIAR

The process since the lodging of the Draft EIAR has been as follows:

- The Draft EIAR was made available to the public at the Thuthukani and Standerton Public Libraries, the security centre at Tutuka Power Station and online on Eskom's and Aurecon's websites from 6 July 2010.
- All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the Draft EIAR for public comment and invited to open house/ public meetings, by means of a letter in English and Afrikaans, which was posted and e-mailed on 6 July 2010 (see **Annexure F**).
- The availability of the Draft EIAR and an invitation to a focus group meeting was advertised in English and Afrikaans in the Standerton Advertiser and Cosmos News (previously the Highveld Tribune) on 7 and 8 July 2010, respectively (see **Annexure F**).
- A Focus Group Meeting took place on 21 July 2010 at the Thutukani Community Centre and was attended by four I&APs. Notes of the meetings are included in **Annexure F**.
- One written comment was received on the Draft EIAR and one comment previously received on the Final Scoping Report and these are contained in **Annexure G** of the Final EIAR.
- All issues raised are responded to in **Annexure G** of the Final EIAR.

Updating of the Draft EIAR to the Final EIAR

A number of changes were made to the Draft EIAR as a result of comments raised by I&APs during the comment period on the Draft EIAR. Information that has been added has been underlined, while removed/ deleted information is indicated by a 'strikethrough', i.e. '~~report~~'. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

General changes to the Final EIAR:

A number of minor changes were made to the Report that have not been highlighted in the text and include:

- The Draft EIAR has been updated and is now called: "Proposed Brine Treatment Works at the Tutuka power station, Mpumalanga: Final EIAR"; and
- Grammatical and typographic changes.

New site location alternatives for the pre-treatment (and associated pipeline) and treatment/RO component of the proposed reject concentration plant were identified and assessed. These are located in the same general vicinity as the original alternatives. The new alternative sites have been included in **Section 3.3.3**.

Annexures have been updated and include:

- The groundwater study has been updated from a draft report to the final report in **Annexure A**; and
- The I&AP database has been updated in **Annexure D** of the Final EIAR.

Additional information included in a new annexure (**Annexure F**) includes:

- Notification of the availability of the Draft EIAR and an invitation to the open house/public meeting and focus group meeting sent to all I&APs on 6 July 2010;
- 3rd round of advertisements placed in the Cosmos News (previously Highveld Tribune) and Standerton Advertiser on 7 and 8 July 2010, respectively, notifying I&APs of the availability of the Draft EIAR and inviting I&APs to attend the focus group meeting; and
- Meeting notes (including presentations) from the open house/public meeting and focus group meeting on the Draft EIAR for meetings on 21 July 2010. The meeting notes were sent to all attendees of the respective meetings.

Furthermore, the Table of Contents page that lists the annexures/ documents in the Final EIAR has also been amended.

The Draft EIAR has been updated to the Final EIAR via the inclusion of this Update Page. Annexures A and D have been updated. Two new annexures, Annexure F and H, consisting of the third round of public participation information and comments received on the Draft EIAR have also been added.

Way forward

- This Update Page has been sent to all registered I&APs on the database.
- Responses to have been sent to the two I&APs who provided comment on the Draft EIAR.
- Hard copies of the Final EIAR will be made available to the public at the same venues as the Draft EIAR, as well as on Eskom's and Aurecon's websites until 14 September 2010.
- The Final EIAR was submitted to the competent authority, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their consideration and review on 14 September 2010.
- DEA will review the Final EIAR (together with the I&AP comments) and will, within 60 days, do one of the following:
  (i) Accept the report;
  (ii) Notify the applicant that the report has been referred for specialist review;
  (iii) Request amendments to the report; or
  (iv) Reject the report if it does not materially comply with regulations,

If the report is accepted, DEA must within 45 days:

(v) Grant authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for; or

(vi) Refuse authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity.

- Following the issuing of the Environmental Authorisation, DEA's decision will be communicated by means of a letter to all registered I&APs and the appeal process will commence, during which any party concerned will have the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Minister of Environmental Affairs in terms of the National Environmental Management Act and National Environmental Management Waste Act.

Aurecon would like to thank all those who have participated in this EIA process thus far.

OMGEWINGSINVLOEDBEPALING: BEOOGDE PEKEL-BEHANDELINGSAANLEG BY TUTUKA KRAGSENTRALE, MPUMALANGA

AUGUSTUS 2010

OPDATERING VAN DIE KONSEP OMGEWINGSINVLOEDBEPALINGSVERSLAG (OIBV) NA FINALE OIBV

Hierdie Opdateringsblad beskryf die proses wat gevolg is sedert die Konsep OIBV van 6 Julie 2010 tot 7 Augustus 2010 aan belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GPe) vir 'n 30-dae kommentaartydperk beskikbaar gestel is. Dit dui die veranderinge aan wat op die Konsep OIBV aangebring is na afloop van die proses van openbare deelname, en gee kortliks weer 'n oorsig oor die volgende stappe in die Omgewingsinvloedbepalingsproses.

Proses sedert die indiening van die Konsep OIBV

Die volgende proses is sedert die indiening van die Konsep OIBV gevolg:

- Die Konsep OIBV was vanaf 6 Julie 2010 beskikbaar by die Openbare Biblioteke te Thuthukani en Standerton, die sekuriteitsentrum by die Tutuka Kragsentrale, en aanlyn op Eskom en Aurecon se webblaaie.
- Alle geregistreerde B&GPe is skriftelik in kennis gestel van die beskikbaarstelling van die Konsep OIBV vir openbare kommentaar. 'n Brief waarin hulle uitgenooi is na 'n ope dag/ openbare vergaderings is op 6 Julie 2010 in Engels en Afrikaans aan almal gepos of per e-pos gestuur (sien **Bylae F**).
- Die beskikbaarheid van die Konsep OIBV en 'n uitnodiging na 'n fokusgroepvergadering is op 7 en 8 Julie 2010 in Engels en Afrikaans in onderskeidelik die Standerton Advertiser en Cosmos News (voorheen Highveld Tribune) geplaas (sien **Bylae F**).
- 'n Fokusgroepvergadering is op 21 Julie 2010 by die Thutukani Gemeenskapsentrum gehou en deur vier B&GPe bygewoon. Die notule van die vergadering is ingesluit by **Bylae F**.
- Een skriftelike kommentaar is op die Konsep OIBV ontvang, asook een kommentaar op die vroeëre Finale Omvangbepalingsverslag. Dit is ingesluit by **Bylae G** van die Finale OIBV.
- Alle kwessies is in **Bylae G** van die Finale OIBV aangespreek.

Opdatering van die Konsep OIBV na die Finale OIBV

Na aanleiding van die kommentaar wat vanaf B&GPe ontvang is, is 'n paar veranderinge aan die Konsep OIBV aangebring. Die inligting wat bygevoeg is, is <u>onderstreep</u>, en inligting wat verwyder is, is in die dokument deurgehaal, bv. ~~verslag~~. Om sake te vergemaklik, is die mees belangrike veranderinge hieronder aangedui.

<u>Algemene veranderinge aan die Finale OIBV:</u>

'n Aantal minder belangrike veranderinge is aan die verslag aangebring wat nie in die teks aangedui is nie. Dit sluit in:

- Die Konsep OIBV is opgedateer en staan nou bekend as die "Beoogde Pekel-behandelingsaanleg by die Tutuka Kragsentrale, Mpumalanga: Finale OIBV"; en
- Grammatika en tipografiese veranderinge.

Nuwe alternatiewe terreine vir die vooraf-behandeling en TO-behandelingskomponent van die beoogde pekel-behandelingsaanleg is geïdentifiseer en beoordeel. Hierdie terreine is in dieselfde omgewing as die oorspronklike terreine en is ingesluit in **Afdeling 3.3.3**.

Bylaes is opgedateer en sluit in:

- Die grondwaterstudie is vanaf 'n konsep- na 'n finale verslag opgedateer (**Bylae A**); en
- Die databasis van B&GPe is in **Bylae D** van die Finale OIBV opgedateer.

Bykomende inligting is in 'n nuwe bylae (**Bylae F**) vervat en sluit in:

- Kennisgewings oor die beskikbaarheid van die Konsep OIBV en die uitnodiging aan alle B&GPe om die ope dag/ openbare vergadering en fokusgroepvergadering wat op 6 Julie 2010 uitgestuur is;
- 3de rondte advertensies in die Standerton Advertiser en Cosmos News (voorheen Highveld Tribune) op onderskeidelik 8 Julie 2010 en 7 Julie 2010 waarin B&GPe in kennis gestel is van die beskikbaarheid van die Konsep OIBV en hulle uitgenooi is om die fokusgroepvergadering by te woon; en
- Notules (aanbiedings ingesluit) van die ope dag/ openbare vergaderings en fokusgroepvergaderings op 21 Julie 2010 waartydens die Konsep OIBV bespreek is. Die notules is gestuur aan elkeen wat die onderskeie vergaderings bygewoon het.

Die inhoudsopgawe wat die bylaes/ dokumente van die Finale OIBV aandui, is ook aangepas.

Die Konsep OIBV is met die insluiting van hierdie Opdateringsbladsy na die Finale OIBV opgedateer. Bylaes A en D is opgedateer. Twee nuwe bylaes, Bylae F en H, is bygevoeg. Hierdie bylaes bevat die inligting en kommentaar op die Konsep OIBV tydens die derde rondte van openbare deelname.

Pad Vorentoe

- Hierdie Opdateringsblad is aan alle geregistreerde B&GPe op die databasis gestuur.
- Antwoorde is gestuur aan die twee B&GPe wat op die Konsep OIBV kommentaar gelewer het.
- Afskrifte van die Finale OIBV sal tot 14 September 2010 op dieselfde plekke as die Konsep OIBV beskikbaar wees, sowel as op Eskom en Aurecon se webtuistes.
- Die Finale OIBV is op 14 September 2010 vir oorweging en besluitneming by die bevoegde owerheid, naamlik die Departement van Omgewingsake (DOS), ingedien.
- DOS sal die Finale OIBV (saam met B&GPe kommentaar) deurgaan en binne 60 dae een van die volgende doen:
  - (i) Die verslag aanvaar;
  - (ii) Die applikant in kennis stel dat die verslag deurgestuur is vir 'n deskundige oorsig;
  - (iii) Versoek dat veranderinge aan die Verslag aangebring word; of
  - (iv) Die verslag verwerp indien dit nie aan die regulasies voldoen nie.

Indien die verslag aanvaar word, sal die DOS binne 45 dae:

(v) ŉ Magtiging verleen aan die hele of ŉ gedeelte van die beoogde bedrywighede; of

(vi) ŉ Magtiging vir die hele of gedeelte van die bedrywigheid weier.

- Nadat die DOS die Omgewingsmagtiging uitgereik het, sal die besluit per brief aan alle B&GPe oorgedra word. Hierna begin die appèltydperk waartydens enige party die geleentheid het om in terme van die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur en die Wet op Nasionale Omgewing: Afvalbestuur by die Minister van Omgewingsake teen die besluit te appelleer.

Aurecon wil graag almal bedank wat tot op hede by die OIB-proses betrokke was.