

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE
(CCGT) POWER PLANT IN THE AMERSFOORT AREA, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE

FINAL MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING

PIXLEY KA SEME LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

HELD ON
FRIDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2008
AT 10H00
AT
PIXLEY KA SEME LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OFFICES
VOLKSRUST



ENQUIRIES

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YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Nicollette Raats or Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by no later than **13 March 2008**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FRIDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2008
PIXLEY KA SEME LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OFFICES
VOLKSRUST**

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Ms Mapaseka Madonsela, The Executive Mayor, welcomed all the councilors, municipal officials and everyone present at the meeting.

Mr Sifiso Kunene, Director of Corporate Services welcomed the municipal manager Mr. De Jager and the executive mayor Ms Mapaseka Madonsela and thanked them for being present in the meeting. He further introduced the municipal officials, councillors and the community development workers.

Ms Nicolette Raats informed the attendees that Bohlweki Environmental had been appointed as independent consultants to undertake the necessary environmental studies and public participation process (PPP) associated with the proposed project. She introduced herself as a leader of the public participation unit and also introduced the following Bohlweki team members:

- Malcolm Roods – Bohlweki
- Nicolette Raats – Bohlweki
- Sibongile Hlomuka – Bohlweki;

Eskom was represented by the following team:

- Rudi van der Wal – Eskom (Majuba PS)
- Chantelle Le Grove Smith - Eskom (UCG operation)
- Lou Duvenga – Eskom (UCG operation)
- Riana Bothma - Eskom (UCG operation)
- Nico Gewers – Eskom (Generation Environmental Management, GEM)
- Tobile Bokwe – Eskom (Generation Environmental Management, GEM)
- Morore Mashao – Eskom (Generation Divisional Client Office, DCO)

The attendance record is attached as **Appendix A**

2. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

Ms Nicolette Raats briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality with information regarding the proposed construction of a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in the Amersfoort area, Mpumalanga province;
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project;
- Provide an opportunity for the Pixley ka Seme Local Municipality to seek clarity and provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project;
- To record comments raised and include them in the Environmental Scoping Report; and
- Interaction with the project team.

3. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mr Nico Gewers presented the Rationale and Background to the proposed construction of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant. The presentation is attached in Appendix B.

4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr Morore Mashao explained the technical aspects regarding the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant and illustrated these aspects using the presentation attached in **Appendix B**.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Mr Malcolm Roods presented the Environmental Impact Assessment process that will be followed for the proposed project according to the EIA regulations. A summary of the process involves:

- Application to the relevant Authorities;
- Undertaking a Screening study/process;
- Submission of the Environmental Scoping Report;
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan; and
- Awaiting the Environmental Authorisation from the decision making authority.

The public participation process is undertaken throughout the EIA process. A screening study has been undertaken forming part of the site selection process of the proposed project. The purpose of the screening study was to identify feasible/potential sites for locating the CCGT plant and its associated infrastructure.

The Study area for site selection was a 10km radius around the existing UCG plant. The draft Scoping Report is not yet complete, however the environmental consultants are currently incorporating the findings of the specialist reports within the draft Scoping Report.

The presentation in **Appendix B** highlights the findings and feasible or preferred sites identified for the scoping study. The aims of the environmental scoping study include:

- To identify potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Evaluation of sites and issues to be investigated in the EIA phase
- Nominations of a preferred site/s for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA
- Public Participation
 - * Inform the public of the proposed project
 - * Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project

Mr Malcolm Roods further presented the following specialist studies to be studied in the EIA phase:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Groundwater and Surface Water	SRK Consulting
Biodiversity	Bathusi Environmental Consulting (BEC)
Air Quality	Bohlweki Environmental (Air Quality Unit)
Noise	Jongens Keet and Associates
Social	Master-Q Research
Visual	MetroGIS
Traffic	SSI Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Risk (MHI assessment)	Riscom
Heritage	National Cultural History Museum

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Mr Malcolm Roods gave a brief overview of the process to be followed during the Public Participation Process. It is important to indicate that no legal requirement currently exists to

undertake a Public Participation Process as part of a screening exercise. Therefore, the PPP process starts in the Environmental Scoping Phase and will be followed through to the Appeal period of the project

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

7.1 Location site comments and concerns

- *Mr de Jager, Pixley Municipality* asked whether the project will be located at Majuba.
Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom, answered that a ten kilometer radius around the current Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) plant was identified and that the ideal site will be determined through the environmental impact assessment and feasibility studies.
- *Mr. de Jager* asked if the Majuba mining site was considered an option for this project.
Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom explained that the mining site has been identified as a potential site for the location of the CCGT plant. He also explained that the coal in that area is not feasible to be mined but that the site will be considered to provide gas for the CCGT plant.
- *Mr Gift Kgoebane* wanted to know how many sites will be investigated for the project.
Mr Malcolm Roods, Bohlweki responded that normally 2-3 sites are investigated during the EIA phase. He then referred the matter to Mr Tobile Bokwe for further elaboration.
Mr Tobile Bokwe, Eskom added that ten (10) sites were identified during the screening exercise but six (6) sites have resulted from the scoping phase. This result is because the other four (4) sites may be used for extension of the UCG operations in the future. At the end of the scoping phase, three (3) sites will be taken for specialist investigations in the EIA phase. At the end of the EIA phase, the specialist EIA studies will identify and highlight the preferred site in terms of environmental assessments. Mr Bokwe further encouraged the attendants to engage the process by completing the registration form attached and sending it to Bohlweki Environmental, with their comments and concerns. All the comments regarding the project will be captured in an issues trail, and will inform the EIA process.

7.2 Timeframe issues

- *Mr. Vusi Maseko, Community Development Worker (CDW)*, enquired on when the operation will take place.
Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom answered that the plan is to have the station fully operational 36 months after receipt of the Environmental authorization.

- *Mr. Gift Kgoebane, Director Technical Services*, needed clarity on the project plan as *Mr. Morore* indicated that Eskom is still waiting for the business case to be approved and asked when will the project start being functional.

Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom, responded that the project undergoes various stages and there was a pre-feasibility phase and now the project has moved into a feasibility phase. At the moment, Eskom does not have exact details but by 2011, Eskom plans to have the first unit of the project functional. In 2009, Eskom plans to have the utilization of the gas operational within the plant. The process to get the power plant operational runs parallel to the Environmental authorization process as there is additional operating licenses that need to be obtained.

7.3 Social issues and comments

- *Ms Mapaseka Madonsela, Executive Mayor*, enquired how many job opportunities will be created by the proposed development.

Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom answered that the project has scope of work for manual workers, and the nature of the work involved does not cater for a huge number of jobs. However, there is a small number of people to be employed in the plant. In the year 2011 the numbers are anticipated to grow to 1000 as there would be higher labour requirements. The whole process of employment issues will be guided by the Accelerated Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA). The contractor will also play a role in terms of employment.

- It was asked of what will happen to gases not used, will they be dealt with under waste management or is there a alternative planned

Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom, answered that they will minimize emissions as much as possible. He further indicated that the EIA studies for the complex will look into all environmental impacts. The environmental management plan will manage the impacts and suggest mitigation measures.

- *Mr Mandla Shabangu, Community Development Worker*, wanted to know if there are certain stakeholders that have been involved in the project like the Department of Health and the Department of Labour.

Nicolette Raats, Bohlweki Environmental, answered that there is a focus group meeting for provincial authorities that has been scheduled. Relevant government officials would be invited to the meeting to obtain their comments.

- *Mr Vusi Maseko* enquired to what extent the agricultural industry has been considered.

Nico Gewers, Eskom, answered that the agricultural potential of the area will be taken into consideration and that this will be dealt with in the EIA and the details of the study will be available in the EIA reports.

- *Mr Leon Grove, MHS*, highlighted that DEAT has declared the Majuba area as the second highest polluted area in South Africa.
Nico Gewers, Eskom, responded that Eskom is in constant contact with DEAT and are aware of air quality issues in the area. Air quality issues will further be dealt with in the EIA phase, as a specialist study.

8. CLOSURE AND WAY FORWARD

The draft minutes of the meeting will be distributed to those who attended the meeting and delegates were thanked for their attendance.

The way forward after distribution and finalization of the minutes are:

- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period).
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report and EIA Process.
- Submission of Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA to DEAT for decision making.
- Comments and approval of Scoping Report and PoS for EIA.
- Commence with the EIA Phase of the project – detailed investigations.

The focus group meeting was closed by Mr. Kunene at 11h55.

APPENDIX A

ATTENDANCE RECORD

APPENDIX B

PRESENTATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE
(CCGT) POWER PLANT IN THE AMERSFOORT AREA, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE

FINAL MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING

MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND ADMINISTRATION
(MDALA)

HELD ON
THURSDAY, 06 MARCH 2008
09H00

AT
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND
ADMINISTRATION (MDALA) OFFICES
ERMELO



Linking People
Promoting Growth

ENQUIRIES

BOHLWEKI ENVIRONMENTAL

Public Participation Process

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YOUR COMMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY 06 MARCH 2008
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND ADMINISTRATION
(MDALA) OFFICES
ERMELO

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Mr. Malcolm Roods opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present at the meeting. He asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

Bohlweki Environmental was represented by the following team members:

- Malcolm Roods – Bohlweki
- Prashika Reedy-Bohlweki
- Nicolette Raats – Bohlweki
- Sibongile Hlomuka – Bohlweki;

Eskom was represented by the following team:

- Nico Gewers – Eskom (Generation Environmental Management, GEM)
- Tobile Bokwe – Eskom (Generation Environmental Management, GEM)
- Morore Mashao – Eskom (Generation Divisional Client Office, DCO)
- Mmabatho Nkwe – Eskom (Generation Community Stakeholder Division)

The attendance record is attached as **Appendix A**

2. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

Mr. Malcolm Roods briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide provincial authorities with information regarding the proposed construction of a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in the Amersfoort area, Mpumalanga province;
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project;
- Provide an opportunity for provincial authorities to seek clarity and provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project;
- To record comments raised and include them in the Environmental Scoping Report; and
- Interaction with the project team.

3. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mr Nico Gewers presented the Rationale and Background to the proposed construction of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant. The presentation is attached in Appendix B.

4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr Morore Mashao explained the technical aspects regarding the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant and illustrated these aspects using the presentation attached in **Appendix B**.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Mr. Malcolm Roods presented the Environmental Impact Assessment process that will be followed for the proposed project according to the EIA regulations. A summary of the process involves:

- Application to the relevant Authorities;
- Undertaking a Screening study/process;
- Submission of the Environmental Scoping Report;
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan; and
- Awaiting the Environmental Authorisation from the decision making authority.

The public participation process is undertaken throughout the EIA process. A screening study has been undertaken forming part of the site selection process of the proposed project. The purpose of the screening study was to identify feasible/potential sites for locating the CCGT plant and its associated infrastructure.

The Study area for site selection was a 10km radius around the existing UCG plant. The draft Scoping Report is not yet complete, however the environmental consultants are currently incorporating the findings of the specialist reports within the draft Scoping Report.

The presentation in **Appendix B** highlights the findings and feasible or preferred sites identified for the scoping study. The aims of the environmental scoping study include:

- To identify potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Evaluation of sites and issues to be investigated in the EIA phase
- Nominations of a preferred site/s for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA

- Public Participation
 - * Inform the public of the proposed project
 - * Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project

Mr. Malcolm Roods further presented the following specialist studies to be studied in the EIA phase:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Groundwater and Surface Water	SRK Consulting
Biodiversity	Bathusi Environmental Consulting (BEC)
Air Quality	Bohlweki Environmental (Air Quality Unit)
Noise	Jongens Keet and Associates
Social	Master-Q Research
Visual	MetroGIS
Traffic	SSI Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Risk (MHI assessment)	Riscom
Heritage	National Cultural History Museum

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Mr. Malcolm Roods gave a brief overview of the process to be followed during the Public Participation Process. It is important to indicate that no legal requirement currently exists to undertake a Public Participation Process as part of a screening exercise. Therefore, the PPP process starts in the Environmental Scoping Phase and will be followed through to the Appeal period of the project

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

7.1 Timeframe Issues

- *Mr Freddy Ngobe, Local Government and Housing* asked if there is any strategic planning to prevent power crises in 20 years time from now.
- *Nico Gewers, Eskom Generation* explained that the planning has been difficult and tricky for Eskom. He explained that Eskom is making electricity adjustments according

to supply and demand. Eskom has planned that in 20 years time an extra 40 000 megawatts of electricity will be generated.

Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom, further added that there are some of the quicker schemes which are in the pipeline while waiting for the bigger schemes to be constructed which are time consuming.

Mr. Freddy Ngobe, commented that Eskom has to plan for future electricity plants as their plants are reaching their mid-life's stage therefore their power plants need to be sustained.

Nico Gewers, Eskom Generation, noted the comment and added that Eskom has learned the lesson from the power cuts that have been taking place and they are concerned and doing something about that.

Nicolette Raats, Bohlweki Environmental, requested the attendees to take the comment forms and send us their comments regarding the project.

8. CLOSURE AND WAY FORWARD

The draft minutes of the meeting will be distributed to those who attended the meeting and delegates were thanked for their attendance.

The way forward after distribution and finalization of the minutes are:

- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period).
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report and EIA Process.
- Submission of Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA to DEAT for decision making.
- Comments and approval of Scoping Report and PoS for EIA.
- Commence with the EIA Phase of the project – detailed investigations.

The focus group meeting was closed by Mr. Roods at 10h15

APPENDIX A

ATTENDANCE RECORD

APPENDIX B

PRESENTATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE
(CCGT) POWER PLANT IN THE AMERSFOORT AREA, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE

FINAL MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING

HELD ON
THURSDAY, 06 MARCH 2008
12H00
AT
eZAMOKUHLE COMMUNITY HALL
AMERSFOORT



ENQUIRIES

BOHLWEKI ENVIRONMENTAL

Public Participation Process

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YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Nicolette Raats or Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by no later than **31 March 2008**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

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ATTENDANCE RECORD	Appendix A
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Thursday, 06 MARCH 2008
PUBLIC MEETING
12H00**

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Shabangu of Amersfoort officially opened the meeting with a prayer. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted to the community the purpose of the meeting. He then handed over to Ms Sibongile Hlomuka of Bohlweki Environmental to introduce the project team members and start with the meeting.

Bohlweki Environmental was represented by the following team members:

- Malcolm Roods – Bohlweki Environmental
- Nicolette Raats - Bohlweki Environmental
- Prashika Reddy - Bohlweki Environmental
- Sibongile Hlomuka – Bohlweki Environmental

Eskom was represented by the following team:

- Nico Gewers – Eskom
- Tobile Bokwe – Eskom
- Morore Mashao – Eskom
- Riana Bothma –Eskom
- Mmabatho Nkwe – Eskom

The attendance record is attached as **Appendix A**

2. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

Ms. Sibongile Hlomuka briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide interested and affected parties with information regarding the proposed construction of a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in the Amersfoort area, Mpumalanga province;
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project;
- Provide an opportunity for interested and affected parties to seek clarity and provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project;
- To record comments raised and include them in the Environmental Scoping Report; and
- Interaction with the project team.

3. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mr Nico Gewers presented the Rationale and Background to the proposed construction of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant. The presentation is attached in Appendix B.

4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr Morore Mashao explained the technical aspects regarding the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant and illustrated these aspects using the presentation attached in **Appendix B**.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Ms. Sibongile Hlomuka presented the Environmental Impact Assessment process that will be followed for the proposed project according to the EIA regulations. A summary of the process involves:

- Application to the relevant Authorities;
- Undertaking a Screening study/process;
- Submission of the Environmental Scoping Report;
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan; and
- Awaiting the Environmental Authorisation from the decision making authority.

The public participation process is undertaken throughout the EIA process. A screening study has been undertaken forming part of the site selection process of the proposed project. The purpose of the screening study was to identify feasible/potential sites for locating the CCGT plant and its associated infrastructure.

The Study area for site selection was a 10km radius around the existing UCG plant. The draft Scoping Report is not complete, and out for public review until the 2nd April 2008.

The aims of the environmental scoping study include:

- To identify potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Evaluation of sites and issues to be investigated in the EIA phase
- Nominations of a preferred site/s for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA
- Public Participation
 - * Inform the public of the proposed project
 - * Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project

Ms. Sibongile Hlomuka further presented the following specialist studies to be studied in the EIA phase

Specialist Study	Organisation
Groundwater and Surface Water	SRK Consulting
Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Aquatic Fauna & Flora)	Bathusi Environmental Consulting (BEC)
Air Quality	Bohlweki Environmental (Air Quality Unit)
Noise	Jongens Keet and Associates
Social and Micro-economic Study*	MasterQ Research
Visual	MetroGIS
Traffic	SSI Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Risk (MHI assessment)	Riscom
Heritage	National Cultural History Museum
Soil and Agricultural Potential*	Agricultural Research Council – Institute for Soil, Climate and Water
Wetland Delineation*	SIVEST

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka gave a brief overview of the process to be followed during the Public Participation Process. The PPP process starts in the Environmental Scoping Phase and will be followed through to the Appeal period of the project

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

7.1. Technical Issues

- *Dumisani, Zamokuhle*, asked why Eskom does not allow municipalities to generate their own electricity.
Nico Gewers, Eskom Generation, answered that Eskom gets the mandate from the government. Municipalities can generate their own electricity but they must still sell it to Eskom.

7.2. Socio-Economic & Social Issues

- *Dumisani, eZamokuhle*, highlighted that there used to be a mine called Red Mine in Volkrust area and asked if it can be reopened?

Sibongile Hlomuka, Bohlweki Environmental, answered that the question is not part of the scope of work and requested the community to ask questions or make comments relevant to the proposed project.

- *Jabu, eZamokuhle*, asked about the job opportunities available for the proposed project.

Morore Mashao, Eskom Generation, answered that they have not determined the skills that will be required in the area. The Environmental Impact Assessment through the Social Impact Assessment and Micro-economic study will determine such skills. Potential job opportunities that will be available will be a combination of skilled, semi skilled and unskilled labour.

- *Councillor Shabangu, Amersfoort*, asked on how people will benefit from the proposed project?
- *Morore Mashao*, explained that Eskom will establish community liaison forums. These forums will then, through discussion, suggest how best Eskom can involve the community taking into consideration the need for labour and other services. The whole process of employment issues will be guided by the principles of Accelerated Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA). Local people will be trained and equipped with relevant skills. The contractors will also play a role in terms of employment being monitored by Eskom.

8. CLOSURE AND WAY FORWARD

The draft minutes of the meeting will be distributed to those who attended the meeting and delegates were thanked for their attendance.

The way forward after distribution and finalization of the minutes are:

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- Submission of Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA to DEAT for decision making.
- Comments and approval of Scoping Report and PoS for EIA.
- Commence with the EIA Phase of the project – detailed investigations.

The public meeting was closed by the Councillor Shabangu at 13h50.

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PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE
(CCGT) POWER PLANT IN THE AMERSFOORT AREA, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE

FINAL MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING

HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 06 MARCH 2008
15H00
AT
DAGGAKRAAL COMMUNITY HALL
DAGGAKRAAL



ENQUIRIES

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YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Nicollette Raats or Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by no later than **31 March 2008**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 06 MARCH 2008
PUBLIC MEETING
15H00**

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Ngwenya welcomed everyone in the meeting and highlighted the purpose of the meeting and then handed over to the project team. Ms Sibongile Hlomuka opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present at the meeting and introduced the project team.

Bohlweki Environmental was represented by the following team members:

- Malcolm Roods – Bohlweki
- Nicolette Raats –Bohlweki
- Prashika Reedy-Bohlweki
- Sibongile Hlomuka – Bohlweki;

Eskom was represented by the following team:

- Nico Gewers – Eskom (Generation Environmental Management, GEM)
- Tobile Bokwe – Eskom (Generation Environmental Management, GEM)
- Morore Mashao – Eskom (Generation Divisional Client Office, DCO)
- Riaan Bothman –Eskom (Corporate Services Impact Management, ERID)
- Mmabatho Nkwe –Eskom (Generation Community Stakeholder Division)

The attendance record is attached as **Appendix A**

2. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

Ms. Sibongile Hlomuka briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide interested and affected parties with information regarding the proposed construction of a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in the Amersfoort area, Mpumalanga province;
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project;
- Provide an opportunity for interested and affected parties to seek clarity and provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project;
- To record comments raised and include them in the Environmental Scoping Report; and
- Interaction with the project team.

3. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mr Nico Gewers presented the Rationale and Background to the proposed construction of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant. The presentation is attached in Appendix B.

4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr Morore Mashao explained the technical aspects regarding the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant and illustrated these aspects using the presentation attached in **Appendix B**.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Ms. Sibongile Hlomuka presented the Environmental Impact Assessment process that will be followed for the proposed project according to the EIA regulations. A summary of the process involves:

- Application to the relevant Authorities;
- Undertaking a Screening study/process;
- Submission of the Environmental Scoping Report;
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan; and
- Awaiting the Environmental Authorisation from the decision making authority.

The public participation process is undertaken throughout the EIA process. A screening study has been undertaken forming part of the site selection process of the proposed project. The purpose of the screening study was to identify feasible/potential sites for locating the CCGT plant and its associated infrastructure.

The Study area for site selection was a 10km radius around the existing UCG plant. The draft Scoping Report is complete and available for comments until the 2nd of April 2008.

The aims of the environmental scoping study include:

- To identify potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Evaluation of sites and issues to be investigated in the EIA phase
- Nominations of a preferred site/s for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA
- Public Participation
 - * Inform the public of the proposed project

Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project

Ms. Sibongile further presented the following specialist studies to be studied in the EIA phase:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Groundwater and Surface Water	SRK Consulting
Biodiversity	Bathusi Environmental Consulting (BEC)
Air Quality	Bohlweki Environmental (Air Quality Unit)
Noise	Jongens Keet and Associates
Social	Master-Q Research
Visual	MetroGIS
Traffic	SSI Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Risk (MHI assessment)	Riscom
Heritage	National Cultural History Museum
Wetland Delineation*	SiVEST

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka gave a brief overview of the process to be followed during the Public Participation Process. It is important to indicate that no legal requirement currently exists to undertake a Public Participation Process as part of a screening exercise. Therefore, the PPP process starts in the Environmental Scoping Phase and will be followed through to the Appeal period of the project

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

7.1. Socio Economic & Social Issues

- *Mr. Mhlalele Mosotho Motaung, Daggakraal*, Complained that tenders are being awarded to other people and when they submit tenders their tenders are not considered. He wanted to know if the community is going to have opportunities for submitting tenders related to transport in Majuba,
- He further explained that some people in the area have registered business registered as closed corporations. Currently there are trucks from other areas which are used to transport coals in Majuba. Some people are willing to offer such services. He also

- mentioned that they would also like to tender for work related to cleaners because there are lots of people who are interested in offering that kind of services.
- *Morore Mosotho Mashao, Eskom Generation*, answered that the question was a tricky one because Eskom generation is not involved in the Majuba procurement team issues. The proposed project is a new project and cannot not answer on the issue of tenders but urged that people can either fax or e-mail such concerns to Eskom generation and they will try to forward their concerns to the relevant people at the Majuba.
 - *Mr. Mhlalele Motaung*, highlighted that some people have taxis and ventures and would like to transport people from Majuba Power Station and Volksrust.
 - *Morore Mashao*, explained that the project is still in its early stages Eskom is still trying to find out the need for services to be provided in the area. Eskom will work through the Environmental Impact Assessment studies to identify the opportunities available for the people in the area. There will be Eskom supplier forums and together with the community liason forums to be established these groups and councilors will work together. Eskom suppliers will work through the database of registered people. People who would like to offer certain services would have to prepare documents such as company profiles that will be given to these forums. These documents will be evaluated and considered accordingly by Eskom.
 - *Mr. Mhlalele Motaung*, needed clarity on how Eskom will handle the issue of some matriculants that do not have relevant experience and skills needed.
 - *Morore Mashao*, explained that Eskom will ensure that in their contracts with the suppliers it is stipulated that they need to demonstrate on how they plan to hire local people and the number of people they anticipate to hire and skills required. He further explained that for the operation of the plant certain skills will be required but people will be trained. Towards the operation of the plant information will be liaised through the community liaison forums.
 - *Mr. Morore Mashao*, also urged that people with children should look out for opportunities that have been made at Eskom in Witbank. There have been some operator's positions available in Witbank and people should look out for such opportunities in the newspapers. He made a call to the community to bare with Eskom and give them a chance to train operators because it does not take a day to train them but it takes some time.
 - *Councillor Motho, Daggakraal*, reported that there is a contractor in the CCGT area that refused to hire people. The councillor wanted to know on how Eskom addresses those kind of problematic people. He further explained that the contractor decided to call the securities for the people without any clarification on what was happening.
-

- The councillor wanted to know that as Eskom speaks of job opportunities in the area which contractors they are going to use.
- *Morore Mashao*, he thanked the Councillor for the concerns raised and asked the councillor to give clarify on what structures have they being using for employment because contractors have a certain way of hiring. He emphasized that there is a need for an organized structure which will be used for the CCGT project to look into employment issues. He further asked the councillor to send all their queries to in writing and they will investigate all those problems.
- *Councillor Motho*, thanked Morore for the clarity and further explained that the consultants should ensure that the matters raised are considered because consultants use councilors in everything they do and when they don't deliver what they have promised the problems lies with the councilors.
- The councillor indicated that he will write to Eskom as requested because if Eskom plan to use the current contractor in Majuba CCGT plant there is no hope that people will ever get employed. Eskom will have to put a proper agreement in terms of hiring people. Any agreement reached with either the consultants or Eskom will also have to be in writing so the councilors and communities will know the plan of action.
- *Councillor Ngwenya, Daggakraal*, highlighted that if there are certain skills required and cannot not be found in the surrounding communities. The municipality is prepared to give Eskom venues for training. If there is a need for some urgent training libraries could be used for such events. He indicated that most people are unemployed and could benefit form the training. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

8. CLOSURE AND WAY FORWARD

The draft minutes of the meeting will be distributed to those who attended the meeting and delegates were thanked for their attendance.

The way forward after distribution and finalization of the minutes are:

- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period).
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report and EIA Process.
- Submission of Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA to DEAT for decision making.
- Comments and approval of Scoping Report and PoS for EIA.
- Commence with the EIA Phase of the project – detailed investigations.

The public meeting was closed by the councillor Motho at 17h00

APPENDIX A

ATTENDANCE RECORD

APPENDIX B

PRESENTATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE
(CCGT) POWER PLANT IN THE AMERSFOORT AREA, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE

FINAL MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING

LANDOWNERS AND FARMERS UNIONS

HELD ON
THURSDAY, 06 MARCH 2008
AT 18H00
AT
MAHAWANE COUNTY RESORT
VOLKSRUST



ENQUIRIES

BOHLWEKI ENVIRONMENTAL

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YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Nicollette Raats or Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by no later than **19 May 2008**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

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PRESENTATIONS	Appendix B
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THURSDAY 06 MARCH 2008
MAHAWANE LODGE, VOLKSRUST

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Mr Malcolm Roods, Bohlweki, welcomed all the landowners and interested parties and everyone present at the meeting. He informed the attendees that Bohlweki Environmental had been appointed as independent consultants to undertake the necessary environmental studies and public participation process (PPP) associated with the proposed project. He introduced himself as the project manager from Bohlweki and also introduced the following Bohlweki team members:

- Prashika Reddy
- Nicolette Raats
- Sibongile Hlomuka

Eskom was represented by the following team:

- Rudi van der Walt –Eskom
- Riana Bothma –Eskom
- Nico Gewers - Eskom
- Tobile Bokwe – Eskom
- Morore Mashao –Eskom
- Mike Beeslaar –Eskom
- Lou Duvenhage –Eskom

The attendance record is attached as **Appendix A**

2. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

Mr Malcolm Roods briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide the interested and affected parties with information regarding the proposed construction of a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in the Amersfoort area, Mpumalanga province;
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project;
- Provide an opportunity for the interested and affected parties to seek clarity and provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project;
- To record comments raised and include them in the Environmental Scoping Report; and
- Interaction with the project team.

3. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mr Nico Gewers presented the Rationale and Background to the proposed construction of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant. The presentation is attached in **Appendix B**.

4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr Rudi van der Walt explained the technical aspects regarding the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant and illustrated these aspects using the presentation attached in **Appendix B**.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Mr Malcolm Roods presented the EIA process that will be followed for the proposed project according to the EIA regulations. A summary of the process involves:

- Application to the relevant Authorities;
- Undertaking a Screening study/process;
- Submission of the Environmental Scoping Report;
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan; and
- Awaiting the Environmental Authorisation from the decision making authority.

The public participation process is undertaken throughout the EIA process. A screening study has been undertaken forming part of the site selection process of the proposed project. The purpose of the screening study was to identify feasible/potential sites for locating the CCGT plant and its associated infrastructure.

The Study area for site selection was a 10km radius around the existing UCG plant. The draft Scoping Report was compiled and is available for comments until the 1st of April 2008.

The presentation in **Appendix B** highlights the findings and feasible or preferred sites identified for the scoping study. The aims of the environmental scoping study include:

- To identify potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Evaluation of sites and issues to be investigated in the EIA phase
- Nominations of a preferred site/s for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA

- Public Participation
 - * Inform the public of the proposed project
 - * Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project

Mr Malcolm Roods further presented the following specialist studies to be undertaken during the EIA phase:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Groundwater and Surface Water	SRK Consulting
Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Aquatic Fauna & Flora)	Bathusi Environmental Consulting (BEC)
Air Quality	Bohlweki Environmental (Air Quality Unit)
Noise	Jongens Keet and Associates
Social and Micro-economic Study	MasterQ Research
Visual	MetroGIS
Traffic	SSI Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Risk (MHI assessment)	Riscom
Heritage	National Cultural History Museum
Soil and Agricultural Potential	Agricultural Research Council – Institute for Soil, Climate and Water
Wetland Delineation	SIVEST

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Mr Malcolm Roods gave a brief overview of the process to be followed during the Public Participation Process. The Public Participation process starts in the Environmental Scoping Phase and will be followed through to the Appeal period of the project

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

7.1 Location site comments and concerns

- *Mr Charles Hodsdon, Landowner*, enquired what the impact would be on the surrounding land and how this land will be affected if not used for the project.
Mr Malcolm Roods, Bohlweki, indicated that the specialists will identify and study the total impact of the project and this will feed into the Environmental Impact Report to identify the preferred area. This research is undertaken according to legislation.
Mr Nico Gewers, Eskom, indicated that the studies will be conducted in detail.

7.2 Operational and functioning issues

- *Mr Eddie Deacon, landowner*, enquired why a gas turbine can not work throughout the night.

Mr Rudi van der Wal, Eskom, indicated that this was determined by the pricing of fuel. Gas was operated at R250 per Megawatt.

Mr Nico Gewers, Eskom, however indicated that gas-fired turbines are less expensive to operate than diesel - or kerosene-fired turbines.

Mr Mike Beeslaar, Eskom, indicated that gas is a more affordable fuel.

- *Mr Johan Deacon, landowner*, wanted to know whether energy saving light globes were used by Eskom at the power station.

Mr Rudi van der Walt, Eskom, indicated that Eskom has currently embarked on an efficient lighting project to address this concern.

- *Mr Charles Hodsdon, landowner*, remarked that the original gas project made use of coal and with regards to the timeframe why propose this new project.

Mr Rudi van der Walt, Eskom, indicated that the original gas project will not be able supply additional power but that with the Majuba Combined Coal Gasification Project additional power will be supplied.

Mr Malcolm Roods, indicated the timeframe for implementation of the CCGT will be 36 months.

- *Mr Johan Deacon, landowner*, enquired if the turbines will be located together or far apart.

Mr Rudi van der Wal, Eskom, indicated that the turbines will be located close together.

Mr Mike Beeslaar, Eskom, reminded the interested and affected party that this meeting is only looking at the placement of the Power Station.

Mr Malcolm Roods, Bohlweki, indicated that sites 3a & b and site 1 is intended for the EIA and that the station requires a 100ha site for location.

7.3 Biophysical concerns and issues

- *Mr Eddie Deacon, landowner*, was concerned that this proposed project could possibly cause acid rain.

Mr Mike Beeslaar, Eskom, indicated that the Combined Noxion Emission is less than 100 with the utilization of gas and this is much lower as for the current power station.

Mr Nico Gewers, Eskom, further indicated that an air specialist will look at these concerns during the EIA and comment on it.

- *Mr Johan Deacon, landowner* indicated that there are blue cranes in the area that should be taken into consideration.
- *Mr Nico Gewers, Eskom,* indicated that this will be taken up together with graves sites etc. He referred the attendees back to the list of specialist being used.

8. CLOSURE AND WAY FORWARD

The draft minutes of the meeting will be distributed to those who attended the meeting and delegates were thanked for their attendance.

The way forward after distribution and finalization of the minutes are:

- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period).
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report and EIA Process.
- Submission of Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA to DEAT for decision making.
- Comments and approval of Scoping Report and PoS for EIA.
- Commence with the EIA Phase of the project – detailed investigations.

The focus group meeting was closed by Mr. Malcolm Roods at 19h30.

APPENDIX A

ATTENDANCE RECORD

APPENDIX B

PRESENTATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE
(CCGT) POWER PLANT IN THE AMERSFOORT AREA, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE

FINAL MINUTES OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

**HELD ON
FRIDAY, 07 MARCH 2008
11H00
AT
ESKOM CONVENTION CENTRE
HALFWAY HOUSE (MIDRAND)**



ENQUIRIES

BOHLWEKI ENVIRONMENTAL

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YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Nicolette Raats or Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by no later than **31 March 2008**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FRIDAY 07 MARCH 2008
KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**

11H00

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Mr. Malcolm Roods opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present at the meeting.

Bohlweki-SSI Environmental was represented by the following team members:

- Mr Malcolm Roods
- Ms Prashika Reedy
- Ms Nicolette Raats
- Ms Sibongile Hlomuka

Eskom was represented by the following team:

- Nico Gewers – Eskom
- Tobile Bokwe – Eskom
- Morore Mashao – Eskom
- Mark van der Riet – Eskom
- Riana Bothma – Eskom

The attendance record is attached as **Appendix A**

2. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

Mr. Malcolm Roods briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide key stakeholders with information regarding the proposed construction of a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in the Amersfoort area, Mpumalanga province;
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project;
- Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to seek clarity and provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project;
- To record comments raised and include them in the Environmental Scoping Report; and
- Interaction with the project team.

3. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mr Nico Gewers presented the Rationale and Background to the proposed construction of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant. The presentation is attached in Appendix B.

4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr Morore Mashao explained the technical aspects regarding the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant and illustrated these aspects using the presentation attached in **Appendix B**.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Mr Malcolm Roods presented the EIA process that will be followed for the proposed project according to the EIA regulations. A summary of the process involves:

- Application to the relevant Authorities;
- Undertaking a Screening study/process;
- Submission of the Environmental Scoping Report;
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan; and
- Awaiting the Environmental Authorisation from the decision making authority.

The public participation process is undertaken throughout the EIA process. A screening study has been undertaken forming part of the site selection process of the proposed project. The purpose of the screening study was to identify feasible/potential sites for locating the CCGT plant and its associated infrastructure.

The Study area for site selection was a 10km radius around the existing UCG plant. The draft Scoping Report was compiled and is available for comments until the 2nd of April 2008.

The presentation in **Appendix B** highlights the findings as well as feasible or preferred sites identified for the scoping study. The aims of the environmental scoping study include:

- To identify potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Evaluation of sites and issues to be investigated in the EIA phase
- Nominations of a preferred site/s for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA
- Public Participation
 - * Inform the public of the proposed project

- * Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project

Mr. Malcolm Roods further presented the following specialist studies to be undertaken in the EIA phase.

Specialist Study	Organisation
Groundwater and Surface Water	SRK Consulting
Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Aquatic Fauna & Flora)	Bathusi Environmental Consulting (BEC)
Air Quality	Bohlweki Environmental (Air Quality Unit)
Noise	Jongens Keet and Associates
Social and Micro-economic Study*	MasterQ Research
Visual	MetroGIS
Traffic	SSI Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Risk (MHI assessment)	Riscom
Heritage	National Cultural History Museum
Soil and Agricultural Potential*	Agricultural Research Council – Institute for Soil, Climate and Water
Wetland Delineation*	SIVEST

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Mr. Malcolm Roods gave a brief overview of the process to be followed during the Public Participation Process. The PPP process starts in the Environmental Scoping Phase and will be followed through to the Appeal period of the project.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

7.1 Technical Issues

- *Mr. Johan van Niekerk*, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), asked if the proposed plant was an additional plant to the existing Majuba or a new plant?
Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom Generation, explained that the CCGT is a new plant and does not replace the Majuba Power Station. A different technology will be used which is the use of coal gasification process to generate gas which will be used as fuel in the CCGT plant in order to generate electricity.
Mr. Nico Gewers, Eskom Generation, added that the gas will be initially fired into Majuba Station boilers for testing purposes

- *Mr. Johan van Niekerk, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)* asked how the underground combustion and burning will be controlled.
Mr. Mark van der Riet, Eskom Generation indicated that for the proposed project to operate effectively it will require heat, water, air for the chemical process to take place. Air is added additionally to the process. If the air is not available to support the process the combustion function would end.

7.2. Water Related Issues

- *Mr. Johan van Niekerk, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)* asked about the percentage water that will be consumed by the project and where the water supply will come from.
Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom Generation, answered that 10% of the water of allocation for Majuba power station will be used. Some of the water may come from Palmietspruit. He further added that (290 cm³) of water would be used per week and the water will be used for the generation of steam for the project.
Mr. Nico Gewers, added that the water is available from the Majuba Power Station but would not rely completely on this water supply and that Eskom Generation Primary Energy: Water department would investigate the availability of water for this plant.
- *Mr. Johan van Niekerk, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)*, raised his concern about where water will come from as DWAF will have to supply water for the project. He explained that there is a pipeline that crosses the Rietpoort reservoir junction, DWAF provides water that passes through the area which drains towards the Vaal river.
Comment noted
- *Mr. Neels du Toit, Department of Economic Development*, asked if wetlands studies will be applicable to this project
Mr Malcolm Roods, Bohlweki answered that the location of the CCGT on the sites identified is not yet finalized and that will be determined by the site selected. He further indicated that a wetland study will be undertaken during the EIA phase.
Mr. Johan van Niekerk, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), indicated that there are not any other wetlands in the area and that the one wetland that was situated next to Majuba has been drained years ago.

7.3. Transport Related Issues

- *Mr. Johan van Niekerk, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), enquired whether it will be easy to transport coal for the project*
Mr. Nico Gewers, indicated that there is no coal that will be transported for this project .

7.4. Technical Issues

- *Mr. Johan van Niekerk, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), asked what the lifespan of the proposed plant would be and if it is dependant on the coal availability.*
Mr. Morore Mashao, Eskom Generation replied that the design of the plant will be for 25 years. Currently Eskom could look at possibilities to extend the lifespan of the plant but the economic factors are also taken into consideration. He confirmed that the lifespan of the project is dependant on the coal availability.
- *Mr. Johan van Niekerk, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), enquired if the lifespan is completed, will the CCGT then be move to another site.*
Mr Mark van der Riet, Eskom, indicated that the site identified will be used for the power plant only.
- *Mr. Neels du Toit, Department of Economic Development, asked if site one is owned by Eskom?*
Ms Prashika Reddy, Bohlweki Environmental, answered that Site 1 is the farm Palmietspruit and owned by a private land owner, but that sites 3a & b is owned by Eskom.
- *Mr. Neels du Toit, Department of Economic Development, asked if the proposed plant will be running peak hours only.*
Mr Nico Gewers, Eskom, answered that the proposed power plant will be flexible to run 24hrs if needed.

8. CLOSURE AND WAY FORWARD

The draft minutes of the meeting will be distributed to those who attended the meeting and delegates were thanked for their attendance.

The way forward after distribution and finalization of the minutes are:

- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period).
-

- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report and EIA Process.
- Submission of Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA to DEAT for decision making.
- Comments and approval of Scoping Report and PoS for EIA.
- Commence with the EIA Phase of the project – detailed investigations.

The focus group meeting was closed by Mr. Roods at 12h15

APPENDIX A

ATTENDANCE RECORD

APPENDIX B

PRESENTATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE
(CCGT) POWER PLANT IN THE AMERSFOORT AREA, MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE

FINAL MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING

HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2008
16H00-18H00
AT
VOLKSRUST TOWN HALL
VOLKSRUST



ENQUIRIES

BOHLWEKI ENVIRONMENTAL

Public Participation Process

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YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Nicolette Raats or Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by no later than **19 May 2008**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FRIDAY 12 MARCH 2008
PUBLIC MEETING
18H00-20H00**

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present at the meeting. She introduced the project team members.

Bohlweki Environmental was represented by the following team members:

- Malcolm Roods – Bohlweki
- Prashika Reedy-Bohlweki
- Sibongile Hlomuka – Bohlweki;

Eskom was represented by the following team:

- Nico Gewers – Eskom
- Tobile Bokwe – Eskom
- Morore Mashao – Eskom

The attendance record is attached as **Appendix A**

2. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

Ms. Sibongile Hlomuka briefly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- Provide interested and affected parties with information regarding the proposed construction of a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in the Amersfoort area, Mpumalanga province;
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project;
- Provide an opportunity for provincial authorities to seek clarity and provide input into the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project;
- To record comments raised and include them in the Environmental Scoping Report; and
- Interaction with the project team.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

Ms. Sibongile Hlomuka presented the Environmental Impact Assessment process that will be followed for the proposed project according to the EIA regulations. A summary of the process involves:

- Application to the relevant Authorities;
- Undertaking a Screening study/process;
- Submission of the Environmental Scoping Report;
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan; and
- Awaiting the Environmental Authorisation from the decision making authority.

The public participation process is undertaken throughout the EIA process. A screening study has been undertaken forming part of the site selection process of the proposed project. The purpose of the screening study was to identify feasible/potential sites for locating the CCGT plant and its associated infrastructure.

The Study area for site selection was a 10km radius around the existing UCG plant. The draft Scoping Report is not yet complete, however the environmental consultants are currently incorporating the findings of the specialist reports within the draft Scoping Report.

The aims of the environmental scoping study include:

- To identify potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Evaluation of sites and issues to be investigated in the EIA phase
- Nominations of a preferred site/s for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA
- Public Participation
 - * Inform the public of the proposed project
 - * Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project

Ms. Sibongile further presented the following specialist studies to be studied in the EIA phase:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Groundwater and Surface Water	SRK Consulting
Biodiversity	Bathusi Environmental Consulting (BEC)
Air Quality	Bohlweki Environmental (Air Quality Unit)
Noise	Jongens Keet and Associates
Social	Master-Q Research
Visual	MetroGIS
Traffic	SSI Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Risk (MHI assessment)	Riscom
Heritage	National Cultural History Museum

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka gave a brief overview of the process to be followed during the Public Participation Process. It is important to indicate that no legal requirement currently exists to undertake a Public Participation Process as part of a screening exercise. Therefore, the PPP process starts in the Environmental Scoping Phase and will be followed through to the Appeal period of the project

5. DISCUSSION SESSION

5.1. Socio Economic Issues

- *Mandla Dlamini, Daggakraal*, asked the following, what is the benefit of the community for attending this meeting. He furthered wanted to know if the meeting was some kind of training and will they be awarded certificates of attendance.
- *Sibongile Hlomuka, Bohlweki Environmental*, explained that the purpose of public meeting is to inform the interested and affected parties about the proposed CCGT project in Amersfoort. The public consultation process is part of the EIA studies and is required by the law governing the management of the environment to be conducted. Its main purpose being to inform the I&AP's of the developments taking place, register and obtain their comments.

- She further explained that it is a public meeting is not a training session and there are no certificates to be awarded for attending the meeting.
- *Mandla Dlamini*, highlighted that the community is worried because in the presentation there are no job opportunities mentioned.
- *Morore Mashao, Eskom* explained that currently the project is divided into two phases the construction phase and the operation phase. As the project is still in the Construction phase, Eskom is still in the process of identifying contractors and suppliers. There would be socio economic studies conducted to identify issues in the community e.g. skills available for job creation.
- The information that will be used to negotiate with the suppliers and contractors will be given back to the communities. He further explained that Eskom is governed by certain rules to hire people. There is a process that needs to be followed in terms of informing communities of jobs available and skills required. Morore urged the communities to be patient with Eskom and explained that during the EIA process the communities will be informed of the process to be followed which will be fair and urged the communities to submit their CV's when required.
- *Morero Mashao*, further explained that as the process its still in its early stage and predicted that the maximum of 1000 jobs could be created during construction, Different categories of skills will be required namely the highly skilled i.e. the specialized jobs, there would be some of the jobs for semi and unskilled labour.
- During the commercial operation of the project 250 job opportunities will be created both temporarily and permanent and that will include highly, semi and unskilled labour. The recruitment process will be made known through the community forums.

5.2 Technical Issue

- *Alfred, Daggakraal*, asked on how long it will take to construct the plant.
- *Morore Mashao*, answered that Eskom is still under the planning phase, the EIA is looking at the feasibility of the project. The process can take up to 12 to 18 months for the Record of decision to be issued. Once the approval has been obtained from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism a parallel process to identify contractors and suppliers will run. The whole process can take up to 2 years before the site clearance. During 2010 or 2011 people should look out for the adverts for job opportunities.
- *Philemon Ngobeza*, raised his concerns about the dangers of gas that will be used in the project as this was not covered in the presentation.
- *Sibongile Hlomuka*, answered that the Environmental Impact Assessments studies are looking into the issue of risk; a specialist has been appointed to look into such matters

as they may have the impact on the environment and people. During the scoping phase no major risk issues were raised. Risk studies will further be conducted during the EIA phase.

5.3 Social Issues

- *Philemon Ngobeza, Daggakraal* , complained that at the Majuba Power Station people from Amersfoort send in their CV's and some have relevant qualifications they are not being considered but jobs are given to people from the Limpopo Province.
- *Sibongile Hlomuka*, answered that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues relating to CCGT and not Majuba Power Station. None of the team members are in the position to answer any of the questions regarding the Majuba Power Station because is not part of our scope of study. She suggested that they should direct their written queries to Majuba Power Station.
- *Philemon Ngobeza*, asked if there will be any training given to the youth regarding the proposed project?
- *Morore Mashao* explained that Eskom is a public entity and adheres to Black Economic Empowerment and employ according to affirmative action. Eskom also follows the principles of Accelerated Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) which stipulates that local people should get the training and be equipped with necessary skills. Contractors should be in the position of transferring skills to the communities.
- *Councillor Motho*, clarified during the meeting that when the announcement was made it was misinterpreted by certain individuals that the purpose of the meeting was to hire people. He clarified that the statement was untrue.

6. CLOSURE AND WAY FORWARD

The draft minutes of the meeting will be distributed to those who attended the meeting and delegates were thanked for their attendance.

The way forward after distribution and finalization of the minutes are:

- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period).
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report and EIA Process.
- Submission of Final Scoping Report and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA to DEAT for decision making.
- Comments and approval of Scoping Report and PoS for EIA.
- Commence with the EIA Phase of the project – detailed investigations.

The public meeting was closed by Ms. Sibongile Hlomuka at 17h50

APPENDIX A

ATTENDANCE RECORD

APPENDIX B

PRESENTATIONS