



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ms Ashley Strong
Bohlweki Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 11784
VORNA VALLEY
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Dear Ms Ashley Strong

Fax: 011 466 3849

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW COAL-FIRED POWER STATION NEAR LEPHALALE IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

The Draft Plan of Study for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed construction of the proposed new Eskom Generation power station in Lephalale in Limpopo province dated November 2005 refers.

This department has evaluated the plan of study for the environmental impact assessment and is satisfied that it adheres to the requirements as stipulated in GN No. R. 1183 section 7(1).

By virtue of the power delegated to me in terms of section 33(1) of the Environment Conservation Act, 73 of 1989, I hereby accept the plan of study for the environmental impact assessment for the proposed construction of the new Lephalale power station in the Limpopo province, dated November 2006, subject to the following conditions:

Please note that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include the following:

- A more detailed description of the process used to determine the choice of Lephalale, the alternatives studied and the assessment criteria as background to the project and explanation of the need and justification for the project.
- A visual presentation of the proposed plant and footprint of the station as this is of great importance in terms of the socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development and the final placement of the station and associated infrastructure.
- The proponent must obtain all relevant information from the DWAF for incorporation into the EIR. The water study must also include a study on the current groundwater pollution as already present in the study area, and possible future pollution of the groundwater, and recommend measures for control, mitigation and improvement of the water quality as applicable.
- All detailed specialist studies as recommended by the plan of study for EIA should be completed as part of the EIA phase for incorporation into the EIR.

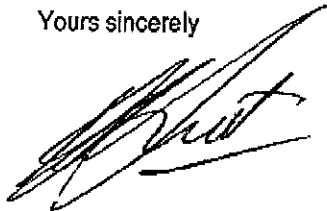
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Recommendations:

- This department is of the opinion that by limiting the study to only two alternative sites, it might have serious consequences for the project should any of the two sites be found unsuitable for development at a late stage in the EIA process. It is therefore recommended that at least one more site be added to the final assessment.
- The option of ashing back to the pit should be explored further by Eskom and the mine as an alternative option.

You are advised to continue with the prescribed EIA process in accordance with the approved plan of study for EIA.

Yours sincerely



Ms Pam Yako
Director – General
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Letter signed by: D W J Smit
Designation: Deputy Director, Env Impact Mngt
Date: 09/03/2006