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## AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE ASH DUMP FACILITY AT KENDAL POWER STATION

### MINUTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

DATE: & TIME: 28 November 2019 at 09h00- 10:30

VENUE: Emalahleni Local Municipality Boardroom, Emalahleni

#### 1. ATTENDANCE

##### Present

NAME	COMPANY	ROLE
Thabile Mzobe	Kendal Power Station	Client
FJB Kleynhans	Emalahleni Local Municipality (ELM)	Waste Management
Shereen Shabangu	ELM	Environmental Management Compliance
Emeldah Madike	Kendal Power Station	Client – Environmental Manager
Vusi Mlandu	Kendal Power Station	Project Management
Delisiwe Sereme	Kendal Power Station	Officer Environmental Management
Busisiwe Mashiane	EML	Environmental Waste Management
Nkululeko Gumede	EML	Spatial Planning
Lwando Simunea	ELM	Environmental Compliance
Erald John Nkabinde	ELM	Environmental Manager
Lebohang Moiloa	Green Gold Group	EAP
Marike Landman	Eskom: GCD, Kendal	SHE Manager

##### Apologies

Emmy Molepo: Eskom Environmental Officer

**Remarks:** All attendees were requested to sign the register circulated during the meeting.

## 2. OPENING & WELCOME REMARKS

Mr. Nkabinde welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the objectives of the meeting as follows:

- To decode the technical information in the report to ensure that all participants understand what the project is all about and how they are affected as I&APs.
- Green Gold Group opened the meeting by introducing the team from Green Gold Group and asked all representatives from Eskom to introduce themselves.

Ms Lebohang Moiloa (LM) welcomed all the attendees to the meeting.

## 3. Presentation

Ms Lebohang Moiloa (LM) began the presentation by giving the background of the project as follow:

- Kendal Power Station (Kendal) was designed to have operating life of 40 years.
- Ash Disposal Facility (ADF) was designed to accommodate ash for 40 years plus eight years contingency period.
- Kendal operating life was extended to 60 years plus five (5) years contingency period up until 2058.
- ADF lifespan had to be extended according; 60 years operating life plus five (5) years contingency period.
- One of the conditions of Integrated Environmental Authorisation (IEA) was that the new ADF should have Class C lining.
- Eskom applied for a transition period exemption to dispose on a portion of the approved area without lining, while the construction of the lined ADF is under way.
- The exemption application was approved in May 2016, granting Eskom permission to dispose ash without lining until May 2020.
- Construction of the lined ADF hasn't commenced, and hence Eskom is applying for extension of the exemption.

LM explained that there are two permits granted Eskom by Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) at the moment, the Integrated Environmental Authorisation granted on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and Exemption authorisation granted on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016. LM further indicated that the proposed application will follow Part 2 amendment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014. LM also

explained that Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations states that application should be accompanied by Amendment Report that has been subjected to Public Participation Process (PPP).

LM further explained all PPP activities that has been conducted up to date is as follows:

- I&AP database compiled (previous EIA process was utilised, engagements with community leaders, site visits, calls and internet research).
- Invitation emails sent to stakeholders on 23/08/2019.
- BID was distributed to I&APs on 23/08/2019 (electronically).
- Hand-delivery of BID on 23/11/2019
- Newspaper advert published on 23/08/2019 in Witbank News.
- Site adverts placed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2019, at the Kendal Power Station and three other locations:

	GPS Coordinates		Location Description
1	26° 05' 0.62" S	28° 58' 28.62" E	Kendal Power Station, main gate
2	26° 07' 28" S	28° 57' 36" E	Leeuwfontein Farm at the community spaza shop
3	26° 06' 04" S	28° 58' 02" E	Community- south-west of the existing ADF.
4	26° 03' 31" S	28° 58' 04" E	Community- north-east of the Kendal PS

- Public meeting was held at Kendal on 19/11/2019.

LM further indicated that comments received from Victor Khanye Ward Councillor were about job opportunities and skills development. The communities on the south-eastern border of the ADF are concerned about impacts of dust from the ash on their health.

#### Discussion Session:

*Please note: These minutes are not a verbatim recording of what was said by the commentator. This is a summary of our understanding of what the speaker was highlighting. However, it must be noted that this is a true reflection of the issues in a sense that questions were verified with the person asking the question.*

Question/Comment	Commentator	Response
The Consultant should capture the minutes as the final comment from ELM, there won't be any written submission from ELM.	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	<b>Lebohang Moiloa:</b> Comment acknowledged.
The minutes of the meeting should be sent to ELM for approval.	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	<b>Lebohang Moiloa:</b> Comment acknowledged. Minutes to be sent to

		EML for approval before being incorporated into the final report to DEFF.
How much ash will be disposed to the remaining exempted area?	<b>Shereen Shabangu</b>	<b>Vusi Mlandu:</b> According to the estimates, there is enough space (in terms of the remaining footprint) to dispose ash until 2022.
Is the land-use in line with current zoning?	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	<b>Vusi Mlandu:</b> There is re-zoning certificate that was issued on the 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2016, but Eskom officials will confirm.
As far as EML is concerned, Eskom submitted rezoning application but it lapsed before Eskom could submit the supporting documents. Even the power station itself is not properly zoned.	<b>Nkululeko Gumede</b>	<b>Delisiwe Nkosi:</b> Re-zoning certificate is available and it will be made available to ELM. <b>Post meeting note:</b> Rezoning certificate was submitted to ELM on 01 Dec 2019
What are the health impacts the project will have on the surrounding communities?	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	<b>Lebohang Moiloa:</b> During the public meeting, some community members alleged that they suffer from dust-related ailments.
What is being done to mitigate?	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	<b>Lebohang Moiloa:</b> Eskom acknowledged that dust-suppression sprinklers were not adequate and they are in the process of installing more sprinklers.
What is being done to mitigate the impacts on the existing unlined ADF?	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	<b>Marika Landman:</b> Trenches (berms) have been dug around the ADF to contain run-off, runoff is diverted into pollution control dam. <b>Lebohang Moiloa:</b> As far as seepage into the groundwater is concerned, there is very little that can be done. We should

		also remember that the old ADF was established before there were requirements for environmental authorisation.
The reports for dust-fallout monitoring should be submitted to the municipality. You should send the worst recorded results.	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	<b>Delisiwe Nkosi</b> will send reports to <b>Lebohang Moiloa</b> who will submit them to ELM.  <b>Post meeting note:</b> Report was submitted to ELM on 02 December 2019.
Is there any research been done to investigate uses for coal ash?	<b>Nkululeko Gumede</b>	<b>Vusi Mlandu:</b> Fly ash is used in cement-making, road surfacing, brick-making, etc.
If that is the case, why do we have such large quantities being disposed of?	<b>Nkululeko Gumede</b>	<b>Lebohang Moiloa:</b> The ash that gets disposed is of a poor quality that cannot be used in any of the uses mentioned above. Ash gets separated from generation point into two grades; fly ash with finer particles (good for other uses) and coarse ash, bigger particle ash which is not good quality. The better the quality of coal, the better grade ash gets produced.
Mr. Nkabinde asked about the quantities of fly ash being re-used.	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	<b>Vusi Mlandu:</b> We do not have quantities but can find out.  <b>Post meeting note:</b> Kendal PS produces 300,000 tons a month, of which 50,000 tons is taken for re-use per month.
The municipality supports the project subject to the following conditions: • Eskom should provide proof of re-zoning certificate.	<b>Erald Nkabinde</b>	The support was acknowledged and appreciated by <b>Lebohang Moiloa</b> .  <b>Marike Landman</b> and <b>Delisiwe Nkosi</b> undertook to gather the documents

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worst dust-fallout report should be submitted to ELM.</li> <li>• Dust Management Plan must be submitted to ELM.</li> </ul>		<p>requested by Mr. Nkabinde and submit as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note:</b> Re-zoning certificate, dust fallout report and dust management plan were submitted to ELM on 02 December 2019.</p>
<p>Are there any suggestions on how the public participation process can be improved to optimise participation by the municipality?</p>	<p><b>Lebohang Moiloa</b></p>	<p><b>Erald Nkabinde:</b> You should accommodate the illiterate and disadvantaged members of the community who do not have access to newspapers, libraries, internet and all these other sources that are being used to disseminate information. It is important to engage Community Representatives and Ward Councillors.</p> <p><b>Lebohang Moiloa</b> acknowledged the suggestion and outlined to Mr. Nkabinde, the engagements Green Gold and Eskom had with members of the community; including Focus Group Meeting with Ward Councillors from Victor Khanye Ward 4 and ELM Ward 30 as well as community representatives.</p>
<p>Though we support the application, I have reservations on the exemption. What will happen if Eskom does not develop the lined ADF and keeps applying for exemptions?</p>	<p><b>Erald Nkabinde</b></p>	<p><b>Marike Landman:</b> Construction of the lined ADF is going to start in 2020. The Lined ADF will be developed in phases.</p>
<p>What is the allowed height for the ADF?</p>	<p><b>Nkululeko Gumede</b></p>	<p><b>Vusi Mlandu</b> to find out.</p>

	<b>Post meeting note:</b> The height is about 70m
<b>The way forward was explained as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to all attendees before including them in the final Amendment.</li> </ul>	

**1. Closure**

- Mr. Nkabinde thanked everyone who attended the meeting and wished the Eskom Team and Consultant a safe trip.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30

**Minutes Approval:**

Chairperson:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Erald Nkabinde, Emalahleni Local Municipality

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



06/12/2019

Scriber

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Ms Lebohang Moiloa: Green Gold

Date: 02 December 2019

