

## NOTICE OF A BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### PROPOSED BIOMASS CO-FIRING DEMONSTRATION FACILITY AT ARNOT POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE DEA Ref Number: 12/12/20/2380

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**Applicant:** Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd

**Proposed Activity:** Eskom is proposing the substitution of a limited amount (between 10% and 15%) of coal with biomass (wood pellets) as a co-firing fuel source at the existing Arnot Power Station. This project is considered a pilot exercise which forms part of Eskom's initiatives towards the reduction of their carbon footprint.

**Location:** The infrastructure associated with the project is proposed on Portion 24 of the farm Rietkuil 491, within the boundaries of the existing Arnot Power Station. This site is located approximately 50 km east of Middleburg in the Mpumalanga Province.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations published in Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, No 107 of 1998), it is a legal requirement that environmental impacts be investigated and assessed for any activity which may have a potentially detrimental impact on the environment. The proposed project is listed as such an activity (as a result of the associated air emissions and development footprint), and therefore Eskom requires environmental authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), as the **competent authority** (in consultation with the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism as the commenting authority) for the undertaking of the proposed project. In terms of Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations (as published in GN 543 and 544), a Basic Assessment Process is required to be undertaken in support of this application for authorisation. This project has been registered with the National DEA under application reference number **12/12/20/2380**.

#### ***Draft Environmental Basic Assessment Report (BAR) available for review***

A draft BAR has been prepared by Savannah Environmental and is now available for public review. The period of review is between **05 December 2011 to 23 January 2012**. You are invited to review the report at one of the following locations:

- Middelburg Library
- Hendrina Library
- Rietkuil Library
- [www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)

In this regard, **Savannah Environmental** has been appointed as the independent environmental consulting company responsible for undertaking the required environmental assessment and public participation process. Please submit written comment on or before the **23 January 2012**. To comment, or obtain further information and register as an interested and or affected party on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest / concerns to:

#### **Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**

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