

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
PROPOSED COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE
WATERBERG, LIMPOPO
MARCH 2009**

**UPDATE OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT TO THE FINAL
SCOPING REPORT**

FINAL SCOPING REPORT – UPDATE PAGE

This update page describes the process followed since the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for their comment from 5 November 2008. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the DSR 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 DSR

The process since the lodging of the DSR has been as follows:

- The DSR was made available to the public at the Agri Lephalale offices, Lephalale Local Municipality, Lephalale Public Library, Marapong Clinic, Lephalale District Agricultural Union and Theunispan Kontant Winkel, as well as on Ninham Shand and Eskom's websites from 5 November 2008.
- The availability of the DSR and an invitation to an open house and public meeting were advertised in the Beeld, Sowetan, Mogol Post, Die Kwêvoel, Limpopo Beat and Capricorn Voice between 31 October 2008 and 7 November 2008 (see **Annexure D**).
- All registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were informed of the lodging of the DSR for public comment and invited to an open house and public meeting, by means of a letter posted on 4 November 2008 (see **Annexure D**).
- The open house and public meeting took place on Wednesday, 26 November 2008 in Lephalale and was attended by 11 I&APs. Notes of the meeting are included in **Annexure D**.
- An extension of the comment period was granted until 30 January 2009 and I&APs were notified of this via mail on 3 December 2008 (see **Annexure D**).
- Landowners were invited to a focus group meeting (a replication of the 26 November 2008 public meeting) via e-mail and post on 17 December 2008 (see **Annexure D**). The landowner focus group meeting took place on Saturday, 24 January 2009 and was attended by 36 I&APs (notes of the meeting are included in **Annexure D**).
- A total of 11 written comments were received on the DSR and these are contained in **Annexure F** of the Final Scoping Report (FSR).
- All issues raised are summarised in the Issues and Response Report (IRR) Version 2 and responses to queries raised compiled by the project team (refer to **Annexure G** of the FSR).

Updating of the DSR to the FSR

A number of changes were made to the Scoping Report and the associated Plan of Study for EIA as a result of comments raised by I&APs. 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 FSR:

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

- The DSR has been updated and is now called: “Environmental Impact Assessment: Proposed coal-fired power stations and associated infrastructure in the Waterberg, Limpopo” Final Scoping Report: March 2009; and
- Grammatical and typographic changes.

A list of additional legislation, policies, plans and regulations to be examined in the EIA have been listed in Section 1.2.5

Annexures have been updated and include:

- Listed activity 1 (k) of Government Notice (GN) No. R387 namely:
“The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the landing, parking and maintenance of aircraft, excluding unpaved landing strips shorter than 1.4 kilometres in length, but including –
(i) airports;
(ii) runways;
(iii) waterways; or
(iv) structures for engine testing.”

has been included in the Application Form in **Annexure B** of the FSR. Listed activity 13 of GN No. 386, namely :

“The abstraction of groundwater at a volume where any general authorization issued in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) will be exceeded” has been removed.

- The list of directly affected landowners in the Application Form has been updated and replaces the initial list in the DSR. Landowners’ Letter of Consent have also been included in **Annexure B** of the FSR.
- An advert placed in the Rapport on 21 September 2008 advertising the initiation of the project has been included in **Annexure C**.
- The I&AP database has been updated in **Annexure E** of the FSR;
- Comments on the DSR have been included in **Annexure F**.
- Comments on the DSR have been responded to in the IRR Version 2 in **Annexure G**.

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

- Notification of the availability of the DSR and an invitation to the open house and public meeting sent to all I&APs on 4 November 2008;
- 2nd round of advertisements: Notification of the availability of the DSR and an invitation to the open house and public meeting- placed in the Beeld, Sowetan, Mogol Post, Die Kwêvoel, Limpopo Beat and Capricorn Voice between 31 October 2008 and 7 November 2008;
- Posters and meeting notes (including presentations) from the open house and public meetings on the DSR for meetings on the 26 November 2008, 28 November 2008 and 24 January 2009. The meeting notes were sent to all attendees of the respective meetings.
- Notification of the extension of the comment period; and
- Landowner letter of invitation to the focus group meeting.

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

Updating of the Plan of Study for EIA

A specific inclusion into the aquatic ecology study is:

- Comment on the source of water supply to the wetlands and identify potential impacts to any wetlands downstream to the development;

A specific inclusion into the air quality specialist study, at the request of DEAT, is the inclusion of the following in the worst case operating scenario: Mmamabula Power Station in Botswana operating at 2 400 MW capacity, Morupule Power Station in Botswana, the proposed Morupule B Power Station and a Exxaro Coke Plant.

The two operating scenarios for a power station on any one site alternative and for two power stations on any two site alternatives with FGD now also includes the scenario of operating with FGD at 60% efficiency. The air quality study's Terms of Reference have been updated to include this.

At the request of Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) a peer review of the air quality specialist study has been proposed. Terms of Reference for this review have been included, and are given below:

- Assess whether the study has met the specified terms of reference.
- Appraise whether the methodology/modelling was adequately described and appropriate to the study. Note whether the technical information used in the study was relevant and appropriately detailed. Evaluate whether the model was suitably validated. This review is to include not only the written report but all input files, data files and output files of the dispersion model.
- Note whether assumptions were explicitly stated and uncertainties and limitations noted.
- Comment on whether all the issues and topics have been covered in an appropriate manner, and at an appropriate level of detail.
- Note whether there were any obvious information gaps, omissions, or inaccuracies that may need to be addressed.
- Comment on whether the recommendations of the study were practicable reflected the best options.

Two specialist air quality companies were identified that could potentially undertake the review. These are TRC, a United States based company, and uMoya-NILU, a Durban based company.

TRC has been involved in air quality for 40 years and is one of the leading and largest providers of emission measurement services throughout the world. TRC is the home of CALPUFF, an air quality dispersion model, which is being used for the air quality study. TRC is involved in, *inter alia*, annual compliance testing, mercury sampling, emissions mapping and ambient air monitoring. Mr Joe Scire, who would be undertaking the review should TRC be appointed, is the Vice President of the Atmospheric Studies Group of TRC and is the chief programmer of the Calpuff dispersion model. He has a wealth of experience and regularly consults for various industries.

uMoya-NILU is an air quality consulting company that combines South African expertise and experience with resources offered by the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU). uMoya-NILU has developed experience through operational air quality management, consulting and research projects over more than 25 years. Dr Mark Zunckel, who would be undertaking the review should uMoya-NILU be appointed, is a meteorologist with 28 years in air pollution and meteorological research. His experience includes air quality specialist studies for industrial developments, the Dynamic Air Pollution Prediction System and leading the development of the National Framework for Air Quality Management. Dr Zunckel has conducted courses in Air Quality Management and dispersion modelling, and is an Honorary Professor at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

A specific inclusion into the land use planning study:

- Obtain title deeds for the candidate sites and comment on the zoning of farms and any restrictive title deed conditions.

A specific inclusion into the social impact assessment is:

- Comment on the implications on communities that might be relocated and/or farm workers where farms will be purchased for the proposed development.
- Comment on the indirect impacts on the town of Lephalale as a result of the proposed project, with respect to access to resources and services, impacts on social fabric and changes in sense of place of the town.

The DSR has been updated to the FSR via the inclusion of this Update Page. Additional information has been included in Annexures A – C and F - G. A new annexure, Annexure D, consisting of the second round of public participation information, has been added.

The Way Forward

- This update page has been sent to all registered I&APs on the database.
- Hard copies of the IRR Version 2 have been sent to all I&APs who provided comment on the DSR.
- Hard copies of the FSR will be made available to the public at the same venues as the DSR, as well as on Ninham Shand's and Eskom's websites from 9 April 2009.
- The FSR was submitted to the competent authority, namely DEAT for their consideration and review on and to the Limpopo Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism for comment 9 April 2009.
- DEAT will review the FSR including the Plan of Study for EIA (together with the IRR Version 2) and issue a letter, either:
 - (i) Accepting the FSR including Plan of Study for EIA and advise the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA, or
 - (ii) Request the EAP to make such amendments to the Report or the Plan of Study for EIA as the component authority may require.

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