



# MOSSEL BAY OPEN CYCLE GAS TURBINE POWER PLANT: ADDITIONAL UNITS

## Focus Group meeting to discuss draft EIR

**Date**  
28 March 2007

**Time**  
15:00 – 16:30

**Venue**  
Mossel Bay Town Hall

	Action
<p>A meeting was held between 15:00 and 16:30 in the Mossel Bay Town Hall to discuss the issues raised by the Dana Bay Residents Association (DBRA) on the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Mossel Bay OCGT Additional Units. <b>An attendance register for the meeting is included at the end of these minutes.</b></p>	
<h2>1. Welcome and introduction</h2>	
<p>Brett Lawson (BL) welcomed everybody and introduced the Eskom representatives and the Ninham Shand team members. The purpose of the meeting was explained as being mainly to discuss the contents of the draft EIR recently made available for public comment.</p> <p>Deidre Herbst (DH) of Eskom was introduced and gave a strategic overview of Eskom's proposal. Johan du Preez (JdP) indicated at this point that some of the issues raised by the DBRA are strategic. BL suggested that the discussion be structured around the matters raised by the DBRA in the Scoping Report Issues Trail.</p>	
<h2>2. Issues</h2>	
<p>The following four issues were raised by JdP, as encompassing the most critical concerns on the part of the DBRA:</p> <p>Issue 1. Dana Bay residents are not happy with the lack of commitment from Eskom that no further development will take place on the identified site. DBRA objected to the fact that their initial concerns regarding this site were not taken into account and that three units were authorised. This has now doubled to six units. DBRA would like a firm commitment from Eskom that no further expansion would take place.</p> <p>Issue 2. PetroSA and Eskom are both state entities on the same site and therefore should share responsibility. Cumulative impacts have been considered in the air quality study but the noise study only considered the 6 turbines and did not consider PetroSA.</p> <p>Issue 3. Water Management. Very little pollution is generated by Eskom but Eskom and PetroSA are using the same water management system. Eskom cannot distance itself from pollution by PetroSA into a system they share. There are red data species downstream from this facility (on the beach).</p> <p>Issue 4. Operating hours are currently set at five hours per day. Will Eskom absolutely commit itself to five hours?</p>	



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<h2>3. Discussion</h2>	
<p><u>Operating hours:</u>            With reference to operating hours, BL indicated that emergency situations have been addressed in the report. JdP stated that calculations in terms of air and other emissions have only looked at five to six hours. DH stated that there are two levels of emissions, namely, source emissions and ambient air quality, and that these studies have been based on ambient. The ambient modelling carried out was based on expected source emissions. Joe van Wyk (JvW) indicated that currently the source emissions measured during operation were below specifications. Considering that Eskom may at times be required to operate for longer than 5 hours per day, DH described how the specialist had also modelled for 24 hours per day and no emission specifications were found to be exceeded. Eskom hopes to run these plants only when necessary, but anticipate that on occasion the plant may run for longer than five hours per day, although on some days the plant would not run at all. It was recognised that OCGT is very costly to run and therefore optimal use of this plant was only for supplying peaking capacity. JdP requested that operating hours be recorded and serve as a reporting indicator. BL indicated that this request would be reflected in the final EIR. He also noted that the predicted noise impact would exceed prescribed limits if operating hours were extended beyond peak periods.</p> <p><u>Number of units:</u>            H Maré (HM) queried the need for more than three units if they are not to be run for more than five hours at a time. DH replied that this was due to peaking requirements. HM queried why six units had originally not been planned for and DH indicated that growth in demand for both peaking and baseload has exceeded planning expectations (net energy sent out increased by 4.6% in 2006 and 5.4% year-to-date in 2007 compared with the long term plan of 3% in the National Integrated Resource Plan). ASGISA is anticipated to increase this growth even further in the future. HM also queried whether the aluminium smelter at Coega will influence demand. DH replied that, while demand is influenced, such industries often enter into contracts with Eskom and agree to take load losses during peak periods.</p> <p><u>Commitment to no further development:</u>            In the context of Eskom's forward planning, JdP referred to the DBRA's need for commitment to no further development on the site. They believe the determination of the operating period goes beyond immediate emissions, consumptive use, etc. and that if no commitment was forthcoming, then the impact of 24 hour operating periods must be considered. BL indicated that the air quality study had considered 24 hour operation, as an upset condition, and that specifications would still not be exceeded. JdP acknowledged that Eskom's emissions seem to be far lower than PetroSA's. DH indicated that she was not in a position to make such a commitment but would</p>	BL



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<p>consult with her principals regarding what level of commitment could be made. [Post-meeting note ~ the following statement has been received from the proponent in this regard: <i>Eskom management stated that the planning of electricity is a long term process, based on different growth and development scenarios. It is thus not possible to categorically state that additional capacity would not be required at this site in the future. However, based on current knowledge, it is unlikely that the Gourikwa power station (i.e. Mossel Bay OCGT plant) would be expanded. Should this position change in the longer term, Eskom would be required to follow all regulatory requirements and obtain the necessary approvals to build additional capacity.</i>]</p> <p><u>Regional electricity supply:</u></p> <p>JdP queried the situation at Coega regarding the implications for electricity supply in the Southern Cape and Morore Mashao (MM) described how the location of the Mossel Bay plant was determined by constraints in the network. The transmission network in the Southern Cape is reaching capacity so it is unlikely that Eskom would increase generation capacity in the region but would rather consider other areas where capacity could be expanded. For information, DH indicated that the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine at Coega may be built by an Independent Power Producer. MM reiterated the importance of efficient use of electricity to reduce the need for more power stations and DH made reference to Eskom's success with demand side management.</p> <p><u>Shared responsibility:</u></p> <p>JdP raised serious concern regarding the pollution of the Blinde River by PetroSA and indicated that Eskom should not consider putting stormwater runoff into a pollution management system that does not function satisfactorily. BL confirmed that the principle of <i>chain of custody</i> in formal environmental management systems means that there is a shared responsibility. JdP offered the opinion that the present EIA process is thorough but that other factors associated with the site are influencing sound environmental decisions. PetroSA and Eskom are both state entities and cannot separate responsibilities. Beryl Blaeser (BB) indicated that being on the PetroSA site forces Eskom to abide by PetroSA's water licence. She asked whether there is any other way that Eskom could manage runoff from the site without having to put it into PetroSA's system? BL indicated that this would be unlikely at this stage in the EIA process, since significant design revisions would be necessary. H Nieuwenhuizen (HN) referred to the two million litres of flammable fuel due to be stored at the head of the Blinde River and queried what protection is in place? In response, BB described the concrete bunds around the tanks that can hold 110% of the tanks' volume, followed by two containment dams which hold 130% of the total storage volume, and with another dam downstream of that as well. Additions to the site will require expansion of these storage and containment capacities. These dams are monitored for the presence of hydrocarbons. BL noted that a Risk Assessment</p>	<p>DH</p>



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<p>had been undertaken as one of the specialist studies for this EIA, which concluded that there is no significant risk to human health.</p> <p><u>Community cooperation and reporting:</u>            JdP called for close co-operation between the community and the operating plant and indicated that the DBRA would want input into what is to be reported on. He referred to PetroSA having a poor track record with reporting to the public but noted that JvW's reporting is excellent and must be expanded for operating conditions. There needs to be verification of environmental performance, both internally and externally, and control over such verification. JvW indicated that an external independent environmental audit had taken place on 22 March 2007 and agreed that continuity must be maintained between the construction and operation phases of the project. With reference to time-saving being a motive for not considering Greenfield sites, JdP called for Eskom to demonstrate proactive, responsible environmental management and not just compliance.</p> <p><u>Environmental Management Plan:</u>            JdP indicated a concern that the draft EMP contained in the draft EIR does not address every issue identified. BL responded by referring to the new NEMA Regulations addressing a different set of EMP documentation and indicated that Ninham Shand will be seeking clarity on this requirement from DEA&amp;DP before the EIR is finalised. JvW indicated that DWAF is involved with monitoring at the PetroSA plant. DH requested that the DBRA provide the team with any ideas they may have on the EMP.</p> <p><u>Summary and closing comments:</u>            BL summarised the issues discussed as relating to commitment on the part of the proponent, recognising a shared responsibility, adherence to prescribed operating hours and proper management of runoff. He confirmed that the DBRA has a delegate representing their concerns on the ELC. JdP noted that there are different levels of I&amp;APs and that the proponent should distinguish between those more or less impacted on. HM referred to promises regarding pollution control made by PetroSA in the past that have been broken. DH noted that times have changed since the authorisation of the PetroSA plant and that new regulations have been implemented, although policing these is not always effective. JdP offered the opinion that the oil industry is still operating as if in the old regime. DH noted that Eskom was striving to meet all of the legal requirements put in place by DEAT. The additional three turbine units are expected to be commissioned in September 2008. BB reported that the commissioning of the first of the units presently being installed had been slightly delayed by a malfunction but that the third unit should be on line in mid-May 2007. JvW reported on noise readings taken, which indicate: 76.9dB downwind; 64.2dB at 250m from the station; ambient being 56.5dB; and +-90dB at the machine. Auxiliary pumps etc. are no louder than the turbines. JdP referred to visual impact</p>	



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<p>being reduced through mitigation, which is important since the Garden Route is dependent on tourism. A tree screen along the road would help to reduce the visual impact to low. JdP also queried the impact on socio-economics reducing to a medium positive impact from a medium negative impact and BL described the method of arriving at such ratings. JdP noted that residential areas expanding around the site (20 000 – 25 000 people) should be borne in mind.</p> <p>Noting JdP's acknowledgement of the opportunity to express their concerns, BL indicated the importance of the proponent demonstrating that such concerns are responded to. The meeting was then closed.</p>	

## ATTENDANCE REGISTER

### FOCUS GROUP MEETING: 28 March 2007

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B Blaeser	Eskom
R Chippe	Eskom
NE Crisp	Dana Bay Residents Association (DBRA)
J du Preez	DBRA
D Herbst	Eskom
HN Kheswa	Eskom
B Lawson	Ninham Shand
HAD Maré	DBRA
M Mashao	Eskom
CC Meyer	DBRA
S Meyer	DBRA
H Nieuwenhuizen	DBRA
C Norman	Ninham Shand
J van Wyk	Nature Conservation Corporation

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# MOSSEL BAY OPEN CYCLE GAS TURBINE POWER PLANT: EIA FOR ADDITIONAL UNITS

## Public meeting to discuss draft EIR

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
28 March 2007	18:00 – 19:50	Mossel Bay Town Hall

	<b>Action</b>
A public meeting was held on Wednesday 28 March 2007 between 18:00 and 19:50 in the Mossel Bay Town Hall, to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed additional units at the Mossel Bay OCGT plant. <b>An attendance register for the meeting is included at the end of these minutes.</b>	
<h2>1. Welcome and introduction</h2>	
Brett Lawson (BL) of Ninham Shand welcomed everyone and introduced the Eskom representatives and the Ninham Shand team members. He apologised for the absence of their interpreter, Zanele Guqaza, but this was due to road works and transportation problems beyond her control. Mr B Swartbooi (BSw) of KWARA agreed to interpret should the need arise. The purpose of the meeting was explained as being mainly to discuss the draft EIR and to provide an opportunity for the sharing of information and the capture of issues of concern related to the draft EIR. The meeting's attention was brought to the fact that the period for comment on the draft EIR would end on 23 April 2007, and a request was made that everyone present should sign the attendance register.	
<h2>2. Presentations</h2>	
As per the agenda, BL gave a presentation on the EIA process to date, after which Deidre Herbst (DH) and Morore Mashao (MMa) from Eskom's Generation Division presented strategic and technical overviews respectively. These were followed by BL presenting the findings of the draft EIR.	
<h2>3. Discussion</h2>	
The discussion opened with BSw querying the forums mentioned in the presentation of the findings of the draft EIR and BL confirmed that these were the same forums that were discussed at the previous meeting by Musa Langa of Eskom. BSw further indicated that although there are improvements, concerns persist about the forums and that parts of the community feel that they are being excluded. BL offered the opinion that these concerns can be addressed by implementing the recommendations of the specialist social study, as reflected in the draft EIR.	
Mr J van Wyk (JrvW) asked if these reports are available and indicated a specific concern about heritage issues. BL advised that the reports are available and that heritage impact was dealt with specifically.	
Mr S Stimela (SS) referred to attending a site meeting, during which they had sight of	



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<p>the plant, but indicated an assumption that public participation had not taken place during the first EIA and therefore that local people were not employed. He is a community leader and hasn't always been informed.</p> <p>Mr B Skotsho (BSk) asked whether Environmental Management Plan (EMP) programmes will give benefit to the communities. BL indicated that EMPs are not intended for direct community benefit but that this doesn't mean that the community cannot be involved. An example of community involvement is the Environmental Liaison Committee (ELC), in which management actions are defined. BSk was unaware of the ELC and Ninham Shand would provide him with contact details. [Post-meeting note: ELC contact details were passed on to BSk on 17 April 2007.] JrvW asked how ELC meetings are advertised and BL referred him to the conditions of the Record of Decision (RoD) for the approved OCGT plant and the terms of reference of the ELC. These would probably be revised in the RoD for the additional capacity and different bodies may be represented.</p> <p>With reference to the growing demand for electricity, Mr T Ndose (TN) queried whether the plant would operate for extended hours and expressed concern about continuing air pollution problems at PetroSA that impact on human health. In response, BL noted that the specialist study included baseline information on air quality and not just on the proposed additional three units, and that predicted emissions fell within the standards prescribed in the Air Quality Management Act.</p> <p>Ms I Birch (IB) expressed concern about the pollution of the Blinde River by oil and acid that had occurred twice in two months. Accountability is lacking and undertakings have not been met. BL agreed that a collective approach should be adopted between PetroSA and Eskom to determine where the pollution originated and the polluter should be made responsible for clean up and preventing any future occurrences. JR Shaw (JS) confirmed that the pollution in the Blinde River is disastrous.</p> <p>DH indicated Eskom's intent not to run the plant for extended periods, although it is recognised that the next four years would see considerable pressure on electricity supply. Once new base-load stations are in place, this demand will diminish. She indicated that Eskom, PetroSA and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) should work together to solve the current problems and noted that recommendations made in the EIR can become legally binding in the RoD. Eskom has external auditors to give an independent view on whether they are complying and the prescribed EMP is monitored by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&amp;DP).</p> <p>BL noted that pollution of the Blinde River is clearly a major issue and that as the practitioners for the present EIA process, Ninham Shand would present relevant information to the authorities in an independent manner. JS re-iterated that the river</p>	BL



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<p>has been severely impacted on, even after a number of promises were made in the past. BL noted that there is new and more stringent environmental legislation now in place.</p> <p>Carel Steyn (CS) of PetroSA indicated that some discussions regarding the status of the Blinde River have taken place, notwithstanding IB's opinion that environmentalists are being fobbed off by PetroSA. CS undertook to attend to the matter and would follow up with the complainants outside of the present meeting and EIA process. Contact details were exchanged.</p> <p>Joe van Wyk (JvW) indicated that he is appointed to ensure that Eskom complies with the EMP and that he has the authority to issue, for example, a R10 000 fine for a 100l diesel spill.</p> <p>Mr B Stuurman (BSt) asked who will be responsible to ensure that the recommendations from the socio-economic study are complied with? Will these recommendations impact on decisions made by DEA&amp;DP? Eskom got away with murder during the first EIA - even drivers were brought in from outside. Other companies from outside had their camp on Diaz Beach. In season, this camp was moved to Kwanongqaba. They are now stored on site - this implies that they are just waiting for the next phase. BL indicated that it is impossible to second guess what decision DEA&amp;DP will make in terms of past process. Monde Mpumela (MMp) referred to a document forwarded by Roderick Beckman (RB) that prescribes local involvement in construction activities. With reference to DH mentioning ASGISA, RB noted that a lot of learning has taken place with the OCGT project. Eskom policies recommend local content and in some places these policies have been successful, but not in others. Eskom is working closely with MMp, with Musa Langa's involvement. MMp noted that for years they have been excluded but in terms of legislation they can now challenge these companies.</p> <p>It was queried whether the terminology "Social Impact Assessment" is not limiting? Should it not be broader and can we not make recommendation to DEA&amp;DP to change the terminology? BL noted a limitation to what can be recommended in the EIR as it is limited to the project. In this regard, DH also made the point that modifying legislation has to be done through the correct channels. It was noted that the time period to change legislation is too long, i.e. 3 years, and that opportunities would be missed. The Provincial MEC, Tasneem Essop, had stated that government is providing funds, some of which must be used to support local people and local development. They are just looking for a commitment from Eskom - can they not go the extra mile to assist local people?</p> <p>Mr V Oliphant (VO) asked about the already completed turbines and the time frame for the additional construction? MMA provided an explanation and VO requested Eskom to meet them half way so that local workers can benefit from the next phase?</p>	



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<p>RB indicated that 18 months is required for construction and that Eskom will develop strategies to engage with them, but that they must assist Eskom by informing them what skills they have available in the community.</p> <p>Reggie Chippe (RC) reported that 14 operational staff would be required. Eskom had conducted interviews with locals but there was a very poor response to the advertisements. MMp noted that the advert was not correct - only a fax number was given, no Eskom logo appeared and in his opinion, the advert was not professional. The advert gave the impression that the work was based in Cape Town. In response, RB noted that Eskom uses consultants to procure staff.</p> <p>RB noted that Annexure 5 of the Social Study indicates the local employment contract. It was stated that the information is incorrect. People identified as local are not local. The information provided in the report regarding the contractor MCC's employment figures is incorrect and he knew this because he had worked with these people for a month.</p> <p>BSt asked about water, sewage and stormwater management and BL noted that the Blinde River pollution event was not normal. JvW referred to his monitoring and protecting sensitive flora and fauna but noted that the site is mostly on old agricultural lands.</p> <p>It was noted that things have gone wrong in the past and it is high time we address these things. People want empowerment and they want to see it happening here in Mossel Bay. If people don't have the skills then Eskom must give them the skills. It was requested that RB widens his scope of acquaintances and makes use of the lists of I&amp;APs.</p>	
<b>4. Closure</b>	
<p>With no more issues being raised, BL thanked all the participants and indicated that the meeting minutes would be distributed and that the public comment period closes on 23 April 2007. The meeting was closed at 19:50.</p>	



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### ATTENDANCE REGISTER - Draft EIR PUBLIC MEETING: 28 March 2007, Mossel Bay Town Hall

Name	Institution	Address			Telephone	Fax	Cell	Email
Beryl Blaeser	Eskom							<a href="mailto:beryl.blaeser@eskom.co.za">beryl.blaeser@eskom.co.za</a>
B Swartbooi (BSw)	KWARA	22 Cedile Street	Kwanonqaba	6506			078-262-3835	<a href="mailto:info@edentourism.com">info@edentourism.com</a>
B Stuurman (BSt)	Committee Ward Member	29 Bietou Street	Kwanonqaba	6506			083-769-8923	
B Skotsho (BSk)	Environment	93 Scholtz Street			044-691-2939	044-691-1617	076-894-9279	
Brett Lawson (BL)	Ninham Shand				044-874-2165			<a href="mailto:brett.lawson@shands.co.za">brett.lawson@shands.co.za</a>
C Birch	Dana Bay Resident	P O Box 10473	Dana Bay	6510	044-698-1880			<a href="mailto:celestebirch@yahoo.com">celestebirch@yahoo.com</a>
C. Steyn (CS)	PetroSA						084-690-4356	
Charles Norman	Ninham Shand				044-874-2165			<a href="mailto:charles.norman@shands.co.za">charles.norman@shands.co.za</a>
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H A Schonken	Mossel Bay Environmental Partnership	P O Box 491	Hartenbos		044-695-0647			<a href="mailto:tonia@absamail.co.za">tonia@absamail.co.za</a>
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I Birch (IB)	Dana Bay Conservancy	P O Box 10473	Dana Bay	6510	044-698-1880			<a href="mailto:bircha@absamail.co.za">bircha@absamail.co.za</a>
J R Shaw (JS)	Dana Bay Resident	P.O. Box 10614	Dana Bay	6510	044-698-1146			
J Van Wyk (JrvW)	St. Blaire Conservancy	PO Box 31	Pacaltsdorp		044-878-2305			
Joe van Wyk (JvW)	Nature Conservation Corporation/ Eskom							<a href="mailto:yWykJAL@eskom.co.za">yWykJAL@eskom.co.za</a>



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N E Gouws	KWARA	89 January street	Kwanonqaba			044-6933765	078-2623-835	
Ntobeko Qumpula	KWARA	5431 Dadoo Street	Kwanonqaba	6506			082-470-4412	<a href="mailto:admin@isalathiso.wcape.school.za">admin@isalathiso.wcape.school.za</a>
P C Gouws	KWARA	123 Bokwe Street	Kwanonqaba	6506			073-357-5427	
R Chippe (RC)	Eskom							<a href="mailto:chippem@eskom.co.za">chippem@eskom.co.za</a>
Roderick Beckman (RB)	Eskom							<a href="mailto:roderick.beckman@eskom.co.za">roderick.beckman@eskom.co.za</a>
S B Beyi	KWARA	67 Gentswana Drive	Kwanonqaba				074-2542-315	
S Dunjwa	KWARA	5197 Sekukuni Street	Kwanonqaba	6506		044-690-3100	078-400-5526	
S Stimela (SS)	SANCO	39 Munyu Street	Kwanonqaba	6506	044-693-1049			
Thamsanqa Ndose [Dous?] (TN)	Local	93 Scholtz Street					078-291-5129	
V A Oliphant (VO)	KWARA	48 Kunana Street	Kwanonqaba	6506			084-207-5420	<a href="mailto:VOliphant@pgw.gov.za">VOliphant@pgw.gov.za</a>