

BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL 500M³ BULK FUEL OIL STORAGE TANK AT THE GROOTVLEI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

DEA EIA Ref. No: 12/12/20/2358
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PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) about the Basic Assessment (BA) process that is being conducted for the proposed installation of an additional 500m³ fuel oil storage tank, at Eskom's Grootvlei Power Station near Balfour, Mpumalanga Province. Details regarding the installation of the fuel oil tank being proposed are detailed below.

In addition to supplying information about the proposed project and the BA process, this BID will also provide I&APs with the opportunity to:

- Better understand the project in order to be able to provide comment and also raise issues of concern;
- Understand the environmental authorisation process so that you are able to participate effectively;
- Submit suggestions for enhanced benefits for the proposed project;



- Contribute their local knowledge; and
 - Comment on the proposed specialist studies that will be conducted and presented in the draft Basic Assessment Report.
- In terms of Chapter 3 Section 16 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), Eskom Holdings has appointed SiVEST, as the independent environmental consultants, to undertake the required Basic Assessment process for the above-mentioned proposed project.



BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Grootvlei Power Station is a coal-fired power station (approximately 538.9 hectares in size), which was commissioned in 1969. It has six (6) 200MW units with a total installed capacity of 1 200MW (200MW per unit), these are fired with pulverised fuel (PF) via individual coal milling plants. Three of the units at Grootvlei Power Station were moth balled in 1989 and the remaining three units were moth balled in 1990.

The fuel oil is used to start up and shut down these boilers. The fuel oil plant supplies oil to the burners of all six (6) boiler units. The fuel oil is delivered to the power station on a daily basis by oil tankers. The fuel oil is predominantly supplied by Sasol from any of their two supply depots, namely Sasol refinery and Sasol depot.

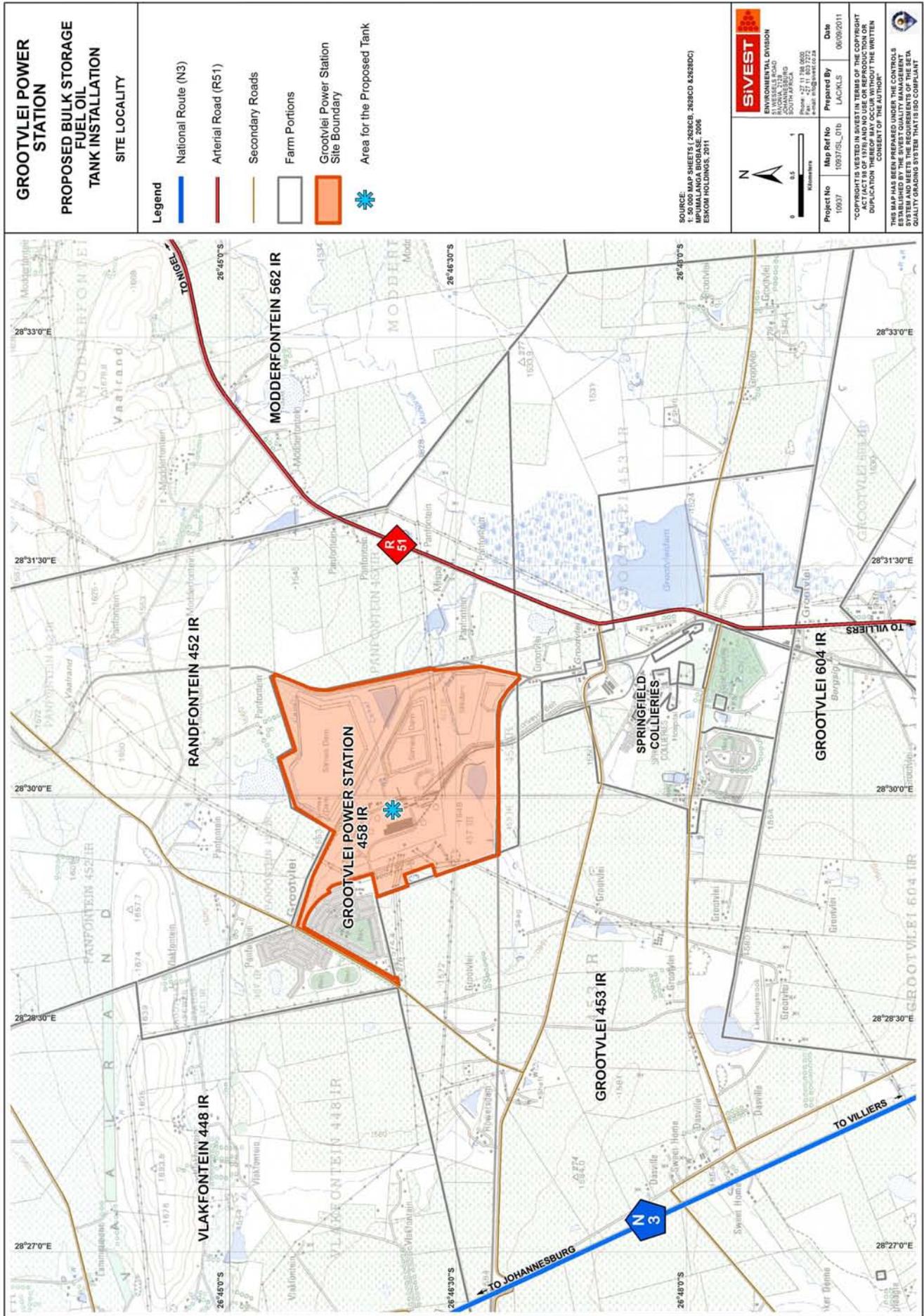
The fuel oil for the Grootvlei Power Station is currently stored in six (6) storage tanks. Five (5) tanks have a capacity of 97m³ each and one has a capacity of 75m³. Therefore, the total existing ca-

capacity at the Grootvlei Power Station is 560m³.

Grootvlei Power Station is proposing the installation of an additional 7th bulk fuel oil storage tank with a capacity of 500m³ which will bring the total capacity of fuel oil stored at the Power Station to 1 060m³. The proposed additional 7th fuel oil tank is proposed to be installed in close proximity to the existing six (6) tanks.

The proposed study area is shown in the locality map in Figure 1.

Figure I: Locality Map - Grootvlei Power Station Site



BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The site that has been proposed for the additional 7th fuel oil tank is located within Eskom existing Grootvlei Power Station property which is situated on the farm Grootvlei Power Station 458 IR, within the boundaries of the Grootvlei Power Station. The proposed site has been identified based on the proximity to the existing tanks and infrastructure.

The proposed site falls within the boundaries of the Dipaleseng Local Municipality in the greater Gert Sibande District Municipality. The site is approximately 19km away from the nearest town of Balfour via the R51 arterial road.

THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL FUEL OIL STORAGE TANK

The purpose for the installation of the proposed storage tank is to avert the risk of interrupted fuel supply that may be as a result of service delivery and worker strikes. This assurance of supply will assist the Power Station in sustaining its generation capacity. The proposed additional 7th fuel oil tank will therefore secure the fuel demands of the Power Station.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND LEGISLATION

What is a Basic Assessment?

A Basic Assessment (BA) is a process of collecting, organising, analysing, interpreting and communicating information that is relevant to the consideration for a particular application.

BAs are undertaken where smaller scale activities are proposed and where the impacts are less likely to have significant impacts on the receiving environment. Environmental management and mitigation measures are also identified through the Basic Assessment process.

The Basic Assessment, as presented in Figure 2, will be conducted in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2010 promulgated in terms of Sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, in Government Notice (GN) No. R543. The proposed project triggers an activity listed in GN No. 544:

- Listing 1 Activity 42

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

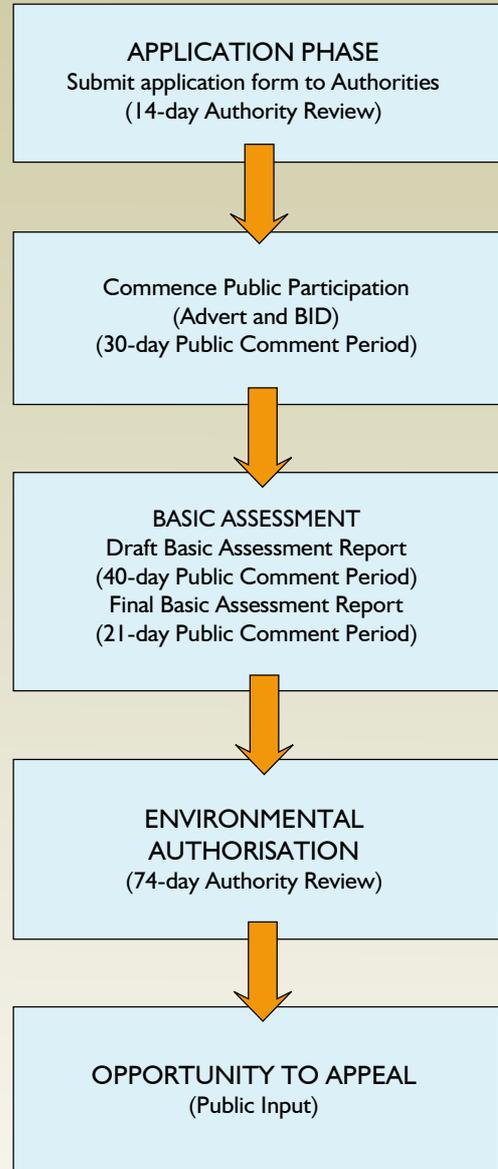


Figure 2. Showing the BA process being followed.



Competent Authority

The Competent Authority, as described according to the EIA Regulations, for this proposed project is the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

Environmental issues to be investigated during the BA

SPECIALIST UNDERTAKING THE STUDY	SPECIALIST STUDY
Liesl Koch, SiVEST	Desktop Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)
Shaun Taylor, SiVEST	Surface water
Paul da Cruz SiVEST	Visual impact
Kurt Barichiev, SiVEST	Agriculture and soils
Kerry Schwartz and Lucy Chimoyi, SiVEST	GIS and Mapping
Nicolene Venter, SiVEST	Public participation
Mornè de Jager, M ² Environmental Connections	Noise
Nonka Byker and Raoul de Villiers, MasterQ	Socio-economic
Cecelia Canahai, Jeffares & Green	Geotechnical
Kobus Troskie, Groundwater Consulting Services	Groundwater
Johnny van Schalkwyk	Heritage

The Public Participation Process

Public participation is the cornerstone of any BA, as it will be for this proposed project. The key objective of public participation during this BA will be to provide I&APs with sufficient and relevant information and to conduct a transparent consultation process to ensure effective participation throughout the BA process. As part of this public participation process you will also be provided with the opportunity to comment on the findings of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) and the Final BAR (FBAR), which will be made available on:

- Eskom's website (www.eskom.co.za/eia)
- SiVEST website (www.sivest.co.za/Downloads.aspx).

In terms of the EIA Regulations, our responsibilities in the public consultation process include:

- Ensuring that sufficient information regarding this proposed project is made available to you, either through the BID or providing information as and when requested.

- Ensuring that you have an understanding of the proposed project to be able to comment informatively, and to enable you to submit any concern in an informed manner.

- Ensuring that the following actions are taken upon receiving any comments/queries/issues:

1. the contact details provided by you will be entered into the project database and that you will be sent all further information releases;
2. if you send us queries or comments, we will respond in writing; and
3. if you call us, your details and queries / comments will be recorded. Should we not be able to answer your question immediately, your call will be returned as soon as possible with a response.

It is important that relevant I&APs and Stakeholders are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the proposed project.





How to become involved

- Respond (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your participation, which has been advertised in the printed media.
- Attend the meetings to be held during the course of the project. Should you register as an I&AP you will automatically be invited to attend these meetings. The public meeting / public open day date will also be advertised in the print media. Please be on the lookout for these advertisements.
- Contact us telephonically should you have a query, comment or require further project information.
- Review the draft Basic Assessment Report within the review periods that will be stipulated in the advertisement and as well as in a personalised letter to be sent to you.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, you are urged to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become actively involved in the process

and provide comment or concerns about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key part of the Environmental Studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying Registration and Comment Form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this proposed project, ensuring that your comments and/or concerns raised regarding the proposed project will be noted. The public participation consultants will respond to all comments and queries received during the course of the BA process.

Please be informed that all relevant public documents can be downloaded from:

- SiVEST's website (www.sivest.co.za/Downloads.aspx)

And/or

- Eskom website (www.eskom.co.za/eia).

We look forward to your contributions.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Contact: Nicolene Venter or Mabel Qinisile,

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