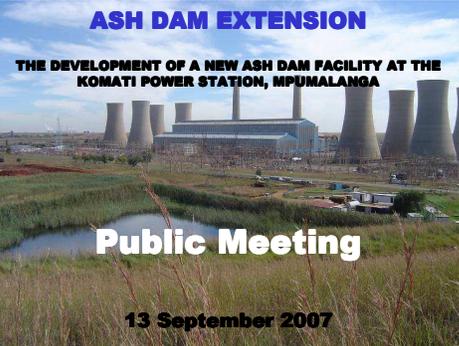


**ESKOM HOLDINGS LIMITED**

**ASH DAM EXTENSION**

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW ASH DAM FACILITY AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA**



**Public Meeting**

**13 September 2007**

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**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Purpose of the Meeting
3. Background
4. Project Overview - Eskom
5. Enviro-Legal Requirements
6. Environmental Impact Studies
7. The Way Forward
8. Questions and Discussion

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**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

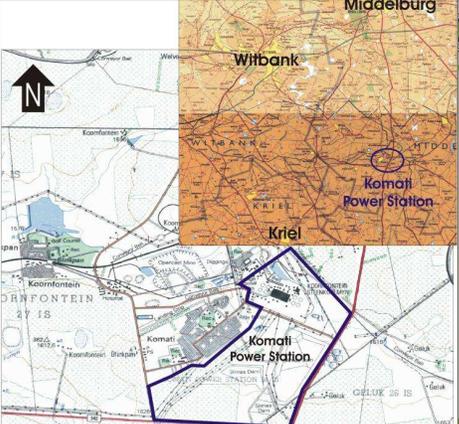
- Explain the scope of the proposed Ash Dam Extension Project at Komati Power Station
- Provide information to enable people to participate meaningfully in the scoping process
- Provide an opportunity to comment on, and raise questions about the project
- Document all comments and questions
- Discuss how these comments and questions will be considered
- Inform people about further opportunities to participate in the planning process

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**BACKGROUND**

- Eskom Holdings Limited is currently re-commissioning the Komati Power Station.
- Re-commissioning of Komati Power Station is motivated by South Africa's demand for additional base-load electricity generation capacity.
- The decision was informed through planning carried out by the Department of Minerals and Energy, The National Energy Regulator of South Africa and Eskom.

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**BACKGROUND**

- Existing ash dam facilities at Komati only have capacity for 18 months of ash deposition and thus a new facility is required.
- The development of an ash dam facility requires environmental authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.
- Synergistics Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as independent environmental consultants responsible for the environmental impact assessment.

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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

**Conrad Hlangwini**

**Common Plant Manager,  
Eskom Holdings Limited**

→

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## SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

### New Ash Dam Facility

- New ash dam to replace existing dams
- Operate in the same manner as existing dams
- Capacity for 13.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of ash.
- Cover an area of 42 ha and rise to a height of 47 m.
- Two powerlines, a 275 kv and a 88kv, must be realigned to accommodate the ash dam →

The scope of this environmental assessment is to investigate the direct and cumulative impacts of the ash dam project.

Existing impacts/concerns will be documented and the effects of the project on these investigated.

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## POWERLINE RE-ALIGNMENT

→

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## ENVIRO-LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- **National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)**

Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)

**The deposition of ash is a listed activity in terms of the EIA regulations (GN R 385 & 387, 2006).**

**Require: Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment**

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## ENVIRO-LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- **National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998)**

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)

**Water uses defined in Section 21 require a licence.**

**Require: Water Use Licence**

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## EIA PROCESS

### Scoping

Submit Application to DEAT

↓

Scoping Assessment  
- notify land owners  
- identify IAPs (adverts and posters)  
- authority consultation  
- public consultation - meeting  
- identify environmental issues  
- identify nature and extent of specialist studies (plan of study)

↓

Public Review

↓

Authority Decision

### EIA

Possible Specialist Studies  
Archaeology  
Ecology  
Groundwater  
Air Quality  
Surface Water

↓

Public Feedback Meeting

↓

Compile EIA and EMP

↓

Public Review

↓

Authority Decision

↓

Notify IAPs of Decision

↓

Appeal Period

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- **SCOPING**
  - Project planning / Site selection →
  - Public participation
  - Identification of all environmental issues and impacts
  - Plan of study for EIA
- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**
  - Carry out specialist studies
  - Assess the significance of impacts
- **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**
  - Determine management and mitigation measures to be implemented

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## SITE SELECTION

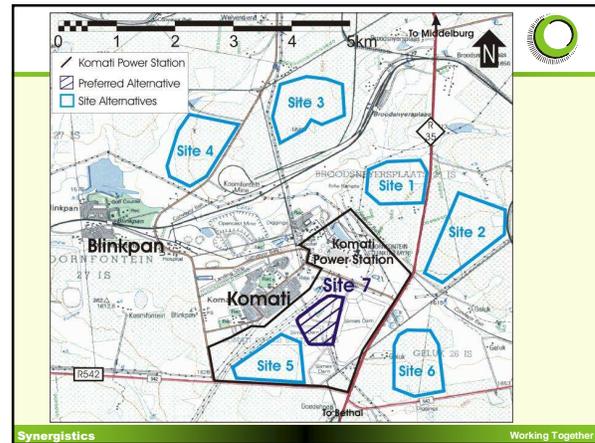
- 7 alternative sites were considered.
- Site screening workshop was held
- Objective, independent assessment of each site
- Input from:
  - engineers,
  - environmental consultants,
  - air quality and groundwater specialist,
  - Eskom
- Preferred site will be subjected to detailed impact investigations during EIA

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## SITE SELECTION

- Each site was assessed in terms of these criteria:
  - Biophysical – biodiversity, ground, surface water, heritage, river crossing, land use and capability.
  - Technical – Mineral resource, undermining, geology, topography, size, distance and infrastructure
  - Social – Proximity and number of receptors, health risks, ownership, neighbouring activities, noise and visibility.
- Sites were scored and ranked
- As a result of the site screening an application for exemption from the assessment of alternatives has been submitted to DEAT

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- **SCOPING**
  - Project planning / Site selection
  - Public participation →
  - Identification of all environmental issues and impacts
  - Plan of study for EIA
- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**
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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- Identify Interested or Affected Parties
  - Existing Komati Power Station database
  - Relevant Authorities
  - Advertisements
  - Posters
- Distribute Background Information Document
- Public Information Meeting
- Collate your issues and concerns
- Public review of Scoping Report

Interested and Affected parties are requested to provide their feedback in writing and within the given time periods.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- **SCOPING**
  - Project planning / Site selection
  - Public participation
  - Identification of all environmental issues and impacts
  - **Plan of study for EIA** →
- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**
  - Carry out specialist studies
  - Assess the significance of impacts
- **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**
  - Determine management and mitigation measures to be implemented

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## Potential Impacts and Studies

Impact of Ash Dam	Planned Assessment
Reduced Air Quality	Air Quality Study <i>Airshed Planning Professionals</i>
Reduced Groundwater Quality	Groundwater Assessment <i>Rison Consulting</i>
Loss of Heritage Resources	Heritage Assessment <i>Dr van Schalkwyk</i>
Reduced Runoff in Catchment	Surface Water Assessment <i>Jones &amp; Wagener</i>
Loss of biodiversity/ habitat of conservation importance	Ecological Assessment <i>Synergistics Environmental Services</i>

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- **SCOPING**
  - Project planning / Site selection
  - Public participation
  - Identification of all environmental issues and impacts
  - Plan of study for EIA
- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**
  - Carry out specialist studies
  - Assess the significance of impacts
- **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**
  - Determine management and mitigation measures to be implemented

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## WAY FORWARD

▪ Gather issues and concerns	Current
▪ Scoping Report	Sept 2007
▪ <b>Public Review of Scoping</b>	<b>Oct 2007</b>
▪ Submission of Scoping Report	November 2007
▪ Specialist Studies	Sept - Dec 2007
▪ <b>Public Feedback Meeting</b>	<b>January 2008</b>
▪ EIA / EMP Report	January 2008
▪ <b>Public Review of EIA / EMP</b>	<b>Feb 2008</b>
▪ Submission of EIA/EMP	March 2008

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## PUBLIC LIAISON CONTACT

- **Synergistics will be responsible for:**
  - Collating all questions, issues and concerns.
  - Responding to all questions.
  - Documenting all communications.
  - Writing Scoping and EIA reports

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