

# FINAL

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

**PROPOSED RETROFITTING OF THE EXISTING ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS (ESPs) WITH FABRIC FILTER PLANTS (FFPs) AND UPGRADING OF DUST HANDLING PLANT AT KRIEL POWER STATION IN THE EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NKANGALA DISTRICT, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT**

The objective of this report is to provide all proceedings, findings and recommendations pertaining to the Public Participation Programme undertaken for this project.

### **1. Introduction and Scope of Report**

The applicant, Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd) is a South African utility that generates, transmits and distributes electricity. Eskom supplies about 95% of the country's electricity. Kriel Power Station is a 3000MW installed capacity base load coal fired power station, consisting of 6x500MW units. Eskom proposes to retrofit the existing Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP's) with more effective particulate emission abatement Technology, Fabric Filter Plants (FFP's) and upgrade of Dust Handling Plant (DHP) at Kriel Power Station's units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. This will allow Kriel Power Station to meet the new particulate emission limits.

The new legislation (National Environmental Management-Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39/2004) Notice 248 of 31 March 2010, requires Kriel Power Station to conform to a maximum release rate of a monthly average of 125mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2015 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2020, and further to 50mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> daily by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020 for particulate emissions. All six units are currently operating with Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) technology for particulate abatement. The current design of the existing Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) at Kriel Power Station will not be able to consistently meet the more stringent particulate emission limits, and the need exists to replace the installed particulate capturing systems with more efficient and effective particulate control systems.

The current DHP will not be able to effectively remove all the ash collected in the hoppers which will result in ash backlogs, possible load losses, high emissions and damage to the FFP. Hence there is a need to upgrade the DHP in order to meet the anticipated increase in total ash collected into the hoppers and the change in ash distribution across the FFP hoppers to ensure a reliable and an effective ash removal system.

*Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)* appointed *Wandima Environmental Services* to undertake a basic environmental assessment for project authorisation purposes.

As part of the BA process, this report (i.e. Public Participation Report) is attached to the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR). *Wandima Environmental Services* has taken cognisance of the requirements for public participation in terms of the EIA Regulations (2014), and has ensured that the public participation principles are upheld. A successful Public Participation Programme (PPP) is one that is inclusive, actively engages the public and provides ample opportunity for the public to participate in the process. This document provides an overview of the PPP undertaken as part of the BA process for the proposed project.

The purpose of the PPP is to ensure that the issues, inputs and concerns of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are taken into account during the decision-making process. This requires the identification of I&APs (including authorities, technical specialists and the public), communication of the process and findings to these I&APs and the facilitation of their input and comment on the process and environmental impacts, including issues and alternatives that are to be investigated. The steps taken during the execution of the PPP undertaken for this project are detailed in the section that follows.

## 2. Project Initiation

### 2.1 Identification of Interested and Affected Parties

The PPP for the project was initiated with the development of a comprehensive I&AP database. The list of I&APs is updated on a regular basis during the course of the project as additional I&APs are still being identified. Refer to **Appendix E1: Register of Interested and Affected Parties**.

## 3. Public Notification

A consultation process was undertaken with intent of informing key community stakeholders, and the local communities (directly affected people) about the proposed development and the Basic Assessment process underway.

Key community stakeholders were informed by means of newspaper advert, Public Notice (Poster) and Background Information Document (BID). The Background Information Document (BID), together with Notification & Invitation to Participate and Comments & Response Sheet were also uploaded into the Wandima Consulting Website.

### 3.1 Public Notice (Poster)

Two A2 laminated on-site notices/posters in English (**See Appendix E2: Word Copy of Site Notice**), informing I&APs about the project were placed at key points along the site on February 10, 2016.

(Refer to **Appendix E3: Proof of Site Notices**)

**Photo #1** – Site Notice#1 placed at Kriel Power Station notice board at GPS Co-ordinates: 26° 15' 04.979"S, 29° 10' 47.725"E.

**Photo #2** - Site Notice #2 fixed at Kriel Power Station Community Hall at GPS Co-ordinates: 26° 15' 02.814"S, 29° 10' 55.290"E

### 3.2 Background Information Document (BID)

A Background Information Document (BID) was compiled in, which provided a description of the proposed project and information on the BA process to be followed. The purpose of this document was to inform all I&APs about the project and afford them an opportunity to comment. The BID was uploaded on the Wandima Website.

Copies of the notification letters to I&APs are included in Appendix E4.

### 3.3 Advertisement

In fulfilment of the EIA Regulations, GNR 982 Section 42, a newspaper advertisements (Appendix E5: Word Copy and proof of the Newspaper Advert), notifying and inviting I&APs to participate in the proposed project was placed in the *Witbank News* on Friday, February 12, 2016. Another newspaper advert was published in the *Witbank News*, dated Friday June 17, 2016, informing the public about the availability of Draft BAR for public review. (Refer to Appendix E6: word copy and proof of Newspaper Adverts).

#### **4. Comments Received, Site Visits and Public Meetings**

The Public Participation Programme allowed for informed and responsible decision-making by all interested and affected parties.

##### **4.1 Comments Received in the Notification Phase**

This section of the report synthesizes the issues and concerns identified by interested and affected parties and various stakeholders during the public participation process and can be summarised as follows:

###### **4.1.1 Written/Verbal Comments Received**

No comments were received during the notification phase of the PPP. An e-mail from an I&AP was however received for the purpose of registering. (See Appendix E7)

##### **4.2 Site Visit**

A site visit with State Officials will be arranged in future once the application has been submitted and a reference number obtained. The aim of the site inspection will be to familiarise the departmental officials with the site and also obtain views regarding the proposed project.

##### **4.3 Public Meetings**

A public participation meeting was arranged for June 21, 2016 at Thubelihle Hall (Kriel). Invitations to the public participation meeting were sent to all registered I&APs and was also advertised in the Witbank News dated June 17, 2016. None of the invited I&APs was able to participate in the public meeting. See attached Appendix E8 for proof of invitations sent to I&APs. Only the project managers from Eskom Holdings SOC (Pty) Ltd and Wandima Environmental Services availed themselves for the public participation meeting, see attached Appendix E9 for the attendance register.

#### **5. Distribution of Draft Basic Assessment Report for Comment**

Copies of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) were distributed to the following relevant authorities and key IA&Ps for review and comment. Notification letters and proof of submission to the relevant authorities is attached in Appendix E10

- Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (EIA Section)
- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Department of Health
- eMalahleni Local Municipality
- Nkangala District Municipality

The draft BAR was also made available at the following places for public review:

- Wandima website: [www.wandima.co.za](http://www.wandima.co.za)
- Wandima Office (Suite 603B, The Pinnacle, 1 Parkin Street, Nelspruit 1200)
- Kriel Public Library (Cnr Quentin and Henrich Street, Kriel)
- Eskom Offices (Kriel Power Station)

## **6. Distribution of Final Basic Assessment Report for Comment**

The Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR), inclusive of the executive summary, is submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration and decision making.

## **7. Conclusion of Public Participation Programme for the Basic Assessment Report**

The Environmental Impact Assessment included a first phase Public Participation Process. The project was advertised with **onsite notices, newspaper notices and notification letters** to facilitate informed decision. Adjacent landowners were notified of the project. In addition, **an information meeting** was conducted on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2016 to furnish the adjacent landowners and other interested parties with information regarding the project. The consultants endeavoured to facilitate a transparent and accommodating Public Participation Process.

A draft Basic Assessment Report was compiled with the main aim to identify issues, and potential impacts in this project. It included proceedings of the PPP and communication with registered Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs). No comments were received on the draft BAR and the final Basic Assessment Report is submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs for consideration. The environmental consultant (EAP) will notify I&APs on the decision to be taken by the department of Environmental Affairs.