



ESKOM

POLICY

TITLE: **WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

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1 Preamble

Effective waste management is pivotal to the well being of industry, society and the environment. An integrated approach is required to minimize and manage waste and associated risks in a cost effective manner.

2 Definition

(a) **waste:** For the purposes of the definition of "waste" in section 1 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989), the Minister of Environment Affairs identify as an undesirable or superfluous by-product, emission, residue or remainder of any process or activity, any matter, gaseous, liquid or solid or any combination thereof, originating from any residential, commercial or industrial area, which -

- a) is discarded by any person; or
- b) is accumulated and stored by any person with the purpose of eventually discarding it with or without prior treatment connected with the discarding thereof; or
- c) is stored by any person with the purpose of recycling, re-using or extracting a usable product from such matter, excluding -
 - (i) water used for industrial purposes or any effluent produced by or resulting from such use which is discharged in compliance with the provisions of section 21 (1) of the Water Act, 1956 (Act No 54 of 1956) or on the authority of an exemption granted under section 21 (4) of the said Act;
 - (ii) any matter discharged into a septic tank or french drain sewerage system and any water or effluent contemplated by section 21 (2) of the Water Act, 1956;
 - (iii) building rubble used for filling or levelling purposes;
 - (iv) any radio-active substance discarded in compliance with the provisions of the Nuclear Energy Act, 1982 (Act No. 92 of 1982);
 - (v) any minerals, tailings, waste-rock or slimes produced by or resulting from activities at a mine or works as defined in section 1 of the Mines and Works Act, 1956 (Act No. 27 of 1956); and
 - (vi) ash produced by or resulting from activities at an undertaking for the generation of electricity under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 1987 (Act No 41 of 1987).

(Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989), GN. 1986, GG12703, 24 August 1990)

- (b) **waste:** An undesirable or superfluous by-product, emission, or residue of any process or activity which has been discarded, accumulated or been stored for the purpose of discarding or processing. It may be gaseous, liquid or solid or any combination thereof and may originate from a residential, commercial or industrial area. This definition includes industrial waste water, sewage, radioactive substances, mining, metallurgical and power generation waste. (GN 227, GG20978, 17 March 2000, **WHITE PAPER ON INTEGRATED POLLUTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA**)

PLEASE NOTE: Definition (a) is currently law. Definition (b) will take precedence once the White Paper is formally passed as a law.

2.1 Waste generated within Eskom primarily includes:

2.1.1 Unusable Eskom coal stocks and mill rejects.

2.1.2 Domestic/office refuse including mill "Food waste"

2.1.3 Medical waste.

2.1.4 Hazardous waste as defined in the Hazardous Substances Act (No 15 of 1973) including but not limited to oils (mineral, lubricating etc.), greases, asbestos, mercury bearing fluorescent tubes, chemical waste and solvents.

2.1.5 Sewage waste and sludge from water treatment plants.

2.1.6 Building rubble.

2.1.7 Discarded equipment.

2.1.8 Liquid effluents (including cooling water blowdowns, spent regenerants and desalination brines).

Nuclear waste is addressed under Nuclear Legislation. Please refer to the following Eskom documents:

- a) Directive – Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources (ESKADAAB4).
- b) Policy – Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources (ESKPBAAU6 – DRAFT).
- c) Standard – Radiation Protection Requirements for Non-Nuclear installations (ESKASAAG1).
- d) Standard – The Radiation Protection Standard (OPS 7000).

3 Policy

Eskom will manage waste responsibly through the identification and pro-active management of waste. Reduction of waste generation and the conservation of resources shall be promoted through judicious resource utilization, recycling, re-use of waste and by resource recovery.

4 Strategy

Eskom shall apply the following strategy in terms of waste management throughout the utility:

4.1 All legislation shall be adhered to as a minimum requirement, including but not limited to:

4.1.1 All Eskom waste disposal sites shall be licensed by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

4.1.2 Environmental Impact Assessments shall be undertaken prior to establishing waste disposal sites.

4.1.3 Permitted /licensed waste disposal facilities shall be used.

4.2 Where economically feasible and viable, Eskom will:

4.2.1 Use technology that supports waste reduction.

4.2.2 Give preference to recycled products and materials and promote waste recycling programmes.

4.2.3 Maximize the use of ash as a resource.

4.3 Standards, Operating Procedures and Guides as well as Emergency Preparedness/ Contingency plans for waste management shall be implemented at all Eskom facilities as part of their EMS.

4.4 Co-operation with national and international centres of expertise in terms of economically viable research and technology transfer shall be supported.

4.5 Staff involved with waste management shall be appropriately trained in all aspects of waste management including the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 85 of 1993.

4.6 Appropriate information systems shall be implemented to monitor performance. This shall include a register of waste types, volumes, legal contraventions and disposal destinations.

4.7 Internal or, as prescribed, external audits shall be conducted at appropriate intervals. These shall include suppliers of goods and services, contractors, and commercial waste facilities embracing the lifecycle of the process.

4.8 All waste contractors will be required to provide Eskom with a waste manifest document detailing the type of waste disposed of, the quantities disposed of and how and where the waste was disposed of. The transport of waste shall be in accordance with National legislation.

4.9 Resources shall be provided to support this policy.

4.10 Littering shall be discouraged and facilities for litter disposal shall be provided.

5 Responsibility and accountability

5.1 This policy shall apply throughout Eskom.

5.2 Suitable targets shall be established by all Business Unit Managers to support this policy and strategy.

5.3 The Waste Management Forum (WMF) will co-ordinate waste related issues within Eskom and develop appropriate guidelines for the management of these wastes.

5.4 The Environmental Liaison Committee (ELC) will consider and approve, as appropriate, all recommendations/guidelines made by the Waste Management Forum (WMF).

6 References

The National Waste Management Strategy Action Plans

ESKPBAAD6:Rev.6, *Environmental management policy*.

ESKADAAO3,Rev.1, *Corporate directive for the management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)*.

ESKASAAC2:Rev.1, *Management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)*.

ESKASAAE1:Rev.2, *The safe handling of sulphur hexafluoride gas and its by-products (SF₆)*.

ESKAGAAD7:Rev.0, *Oil spill clean-up and rehabilitation*.

ESKPBAAA4:Rev.1, *Ozone depleting compounds (ODC) management and phase-out*.

ESKPBAAD4:Rev.0, *Herbicide management*.

EVP-076:Rev.0, *The safe processing, storing, removing and handling of asbestos or asbestos containing material.*

ESKADAAB4:Rev.0, *Eskom corporate radiation protection directive (Draft).*

ESKPBAAU6:Rev.5, *Radiation protection and the safety of radiation sources.*

ESKASAAG1:Rev.2, *Radiation protection requirements for non-industrial installations.*

OPS 7000:Rev.6, *The radiation protection standard.*

Guide for the disposal and handling of solvents (incl. safety, disposal & purchasing) (Draft).

White Paper on Integrated Pollution and Waste Management.

Guide for the correct handling and disposal of fluorescent tubes (Draft).

ESKADAAQ9:Rev.1, *Eskom Occupational Health and Safety Directive*

ESKADABJ3:Rev.0, *Waste Reporting Directive*

7 Compilers

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