

**PROPOSED NEW RAW WATER RESERVOIR & ASSOCIATED WATER  
PIPELINES FOR THE MEDUPI POWER STATION  
FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF THE LEPHALALE LOCAL  
MUNICIPALITY  
TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2008  
14:00  
LEPHALALE MUNICIPAL OFFICES**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

**Ms Ingrid Snyman** of MasterQ Research opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. She introduced **Ms Nonka Byker**, also of MasterQ Research. By way of introduction, Ms Snyman stated that MasterQ Research was appointed to conduct the public involvement process for the proposed project, as well as the baseline social and land-use assessment, as sub-consultants to Savannah Environmental who was the lead consultants on the project.

The attendees introduced themselves as:

- **Mr Masindi Mapholi**, Head of Division: Water;
- **Mr April Shiko**, Engineering Technician: Water;
- **Mr Nditshemi Sikhauli**, PMU Manager; and
- **Mr Leonard Sole**, Manager: Development Planning and Acting Manager: Infrastructure Development Services.

**2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT**

**Ms Nonka Byker** briefly outlined the background to the proposed project. Eskom proposed to relocate the proposed Medupi raw water reservoir from the east of the Medupi power station terrace to approximately 1.6km southwest of the power station on the farm Kuipersbult. The reservoir will have a capacity of 400 000m<sup>3</sup> and will supply raw water to the Medupi power station. Raw water to the reservoir will be sourced from the existing pipeline from Wolvenfontein, which in turn is supplied from the Mokolo dam. The proposed new raw water reservoir will be elevated at 915m amsl and therefore pump stations would not be required.

Three pipeline alignment alternatives to the proposed water reservoir have been investigated during the baseline assessment, and one pipeline alignment from the reservoir to the Medupi power station. The pipelines will be buried underground within a permanent servitude of 6m. In order to provide for a possible future supply of raw water from Crocodile west, it is proposed to construct two pipelines

in parallel in a permanent servitude of 12m. The construction servitude will be approximately 45m wide.

An environmental basic assessment process will be conducted in terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) read with Government Notices R385 (regulations 22-26) and R386. An application for authorisation has been lodged with the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in consultation with Limpopo DEDET, for the following activities:

- Construction of a 400 000m<sup>3</sup> capacity water reservoir;
- Construction and operation of an underground pipeline from the water source to the new water reservoir, including a pressure-reducing station and a flow meter house; and
- Construction and operation of an underground pipeline from the water reservoir to the Medupi power station.

The attendees were also informed of the public involvement process that was followed to date, which included the placement of on-site notices, a newspaper advertisement in the local newspaper at the beginning of March 2008, notification of the project through the dissemination of the Background Information Document (BID) and consultation with key stakeholders (such as the Lephalale Local Municipality).

### **3. DISCUSSION**

**Mr Leonard Sole** (Manager Development Planning and Acting Manager Infrastructure Development Services) stated that the municipality was currently in the process of updating the water network system. He added that, as a Water Services Authority (WSA), the municipality would prefer to enter into direct consultations with Eskom as opposed to discussions via consultants, as they want to impose certain legalities on Eskom that does not form part of the public participation process. As such, they would also like the technical questions that they might have on the proposed project, to be answered by Eskom directly. The representatives of the Lephalale Local Municipality therefore did not want to formally comment on the proposed project.

**Mr Sole** further stated that future water users and future water needs should be taken into account in the planning and development of the proposed water reservoir.

In terms of a preferred alignment for the underground pipelines, **the attendees** mentioned that there were developments taking place on the farms Altoostyd and Paarl, which might also further impact on the water services network.

**Mr Sole** stressed the fact that the private sector should not try and overrule the municipality's authority as a local government institution. He therefore requested that Eskom engage with the municipality directly and that the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) might also have to form part of such discussions as it might influence re-negotiating the current quota allocated to the local municipal area.

#### **4. CLOSURE**

**Ms Snyman** thanked the attendees for their time and comments and closed the meeting at 15:00.

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**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

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