

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MEDUPI WATER RESERVOIR AND ASSOCIATED PIPELINES

COMMENTS & RESPONSE REPORT

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
<p>We would be interested to assist Eskom on the project by means of civil works that must done and providing plant hire equipment for all the ground works.</p> <p>1. We would want to know if there is a specified contractor going to be appointed out of the Lephalale area or do you prefer a local company to assist with the works?</p> <p>2. When appointing a company, what will be your minimum specifications?</p> <p>3. When do you foresee to start with the project?</p>	<p>Mr Frik Bronkhorst Rakobo Civils and Plant Hire</p>	<p>Comment sheet received 27 March 2008</p>	<p>Eskom Holdings have a requirement that all parties who can potentially provide services to Eskom are registered with the Procurement Department and have a Vendor number. The process for this registration is provided on the Eskom website.</p>
<p>The Lephalale municipality is currently in the process of updating the water network system.</p>	<p>Mr Leonard Sole Lephalale Local Municipality</p>	<p>Focus group meeting 1 April 2008</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>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. The representatives of the Lephalale Local Municipality therefore</p>	<p>Mr Leonard Sole Lephalale Local Municipality</p>	<p>Focus group meeting 1 April 2008</p>	<p>It is supported that Eskom and the Lephalale Local Municipality engage on issues which fall outside of the Basic Assessment public participation process as part of a separate process. Eskom will contact the municipality directly to address the concerns that they have raised.</p>

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
did not want to formally comment on the proposed project.			
Future water users and future water needs should be taken into account in the planning and development of the proposed water reservoir.	Mr Leonard Sole Lephalale Local Municipality	Focus group meeting 1 April 2008	Comment noted. Future water users and future water needs have been taken into account in the planning and development of the Medupi Power Station, and water has been allocated for use at the station. Eskom will endeavour to meet with the Municipality to undertake such discussions.
In terms of a preferred alignment for the underground pipelines, there were developments taking place on the farms Altoostyd and Paarl, which might also further impact on the water services network.	Lephalale Local Municipality representatives	Focus group meeting 1 April 2008	Comment noted. The proposed alignments do not affect the farms Altoostyd and Paarl.
The private sector should not try and overrule the municipality's authority as a local government institution. Eskom should 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.	Mr Leonard Sole Lephalale Local Municipality	Focus group meeting 1 April 2008	Comment noted. It must be noted that Eskom is a State-Owned Enterprise. Like any other person or organisation it is similarly subject to the laws of the Republic of South Africa. It will ensure that all requirements with respect to water and pertaining to both DWAF and the Municipality are met.
The capacity of the reservoir would require a safety risk assessment from DWAF.	Mr Ben Sengani Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)	Public Meeting 26 June 2008	The reservoir has been designed to meet the safety criteria set by DWAF.

COMMENT	RAISED BY	DATE	RESPONSE
Eskom must comply with DWAF criteria on the safety of water resources.	Mr Ben Sengani Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)	Public Meeting 26 June 2008	Eskom are required to apply for an integrated water use license from DWAF.
The current water resources in the Lephalale area had to support all the various developments that were taking place in the area. He is of the opinion that the amount of water that would be stored by the reservoir would impact on other stakeholders, and the size of the reservoir should consider the water balance in the area as a whole.	Mr Ben Sengani Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)	Public Meeting 26 June 2008	Eskom was in regular contact with these and other stakeholders on this very issue. The issue of water allocations and availability has been raised in previous EIAs undertaken by Eskom for development in the area, and had been considered as part of the EIA process for the Medupi Power Station. This particular project (i.e. the raw water reservoir) is part of the greater power station project that was initially applied for - it is only the position of the reservoir that is changing.
Disadvantaged rural communities are often not represented and that such communities had to have access to water resources.	Mr Ben Sengani Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF)	Public Meeting 26 June 2008	DWAF had their own separate public participation process to discuss water issues with these communities and Eskom had used the information stemming from the DWAF processes to feed into their (Eskom's) own processes.
The municipality supported development in the area, but certain issues have to be considered within the ambit of the environment. Eskom and the Municipality still had to engage on such issues and suggests that ward councillors should be involved in the process as the representatives of the community.	Mr Masindi Mapholi Lephalale Local Municipality	Public Meeting 26 June 2008	The ward councillors are registered on the project database and they were invited to attend the public meeting, and were advised of the availability of reports for review. In addition, Eskom has been trying to engage with the Municipality since April 2008 in response to a request from the Municipality in this regard. Eskom would be one of the stakeholders that would be involved in the Municipality's water summit which was to commence on 9 July 2008.