INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ASH DISPOSAL FACILITY, KRIEL POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA

Summary Document for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom) is proposing to expand the existing Ash Disposal Facility at the Kriel Power Station, Mpumalanga, for the disposal of coarse and fine ash produced by the burning of coal for the generation of electricity, for the remaining operational life of the power station.

HOW DOES THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS WORK?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that is undertaken in terms of the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, and its associated regulations (i.e. Government Notice Regulation (GN R.) 982, 983, 984 and 985). The purpose of the EIA process is to evaluate the environmental and socio-economic characteristics of the proposed project and the consequences of the project on the environment and the people living in the area that would be affected by the proposed project activities. Where negative impacts are likely to result from the project, measures can be recommended to avoid or reduce these impacts to a level where the impacts are considered acceptable from an environmental and social perspective. Where positive impacts are likely to result from the project, measures can be recommended to enhance these impacts. The EIA process also provides Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with an opportunity to comment on the proposed project and to be kept informed about decisions that may impact on them or the environment. The various stages of the process are shown in Figure 1 below.

It is important to note that the Kriel Power Station will continue to operate as per the original technical plan and therefore the current expansion is applied for based on the understanding that the facility will be in operation until end 2039 with a five year contingency closure period until 2045.

This Summary Document includes the following information:

- An introduction to the proposed project and an overview of the environmental legislative requirements;
- A concise description of the Ash Disposal Facility expansion being proposed, and the preferred alternatives assessed during the EIA process;
- A description of the receiving (existing) environment;
- A summary of the findings of the impacts identified and assessed by the specialists;
- An overview of the approach followed during the EIA, describing the public participation process; and
- The way forward.

This Summary Document cannot replace the comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) and it is recommended that the EIR is consulted for more detailed information.

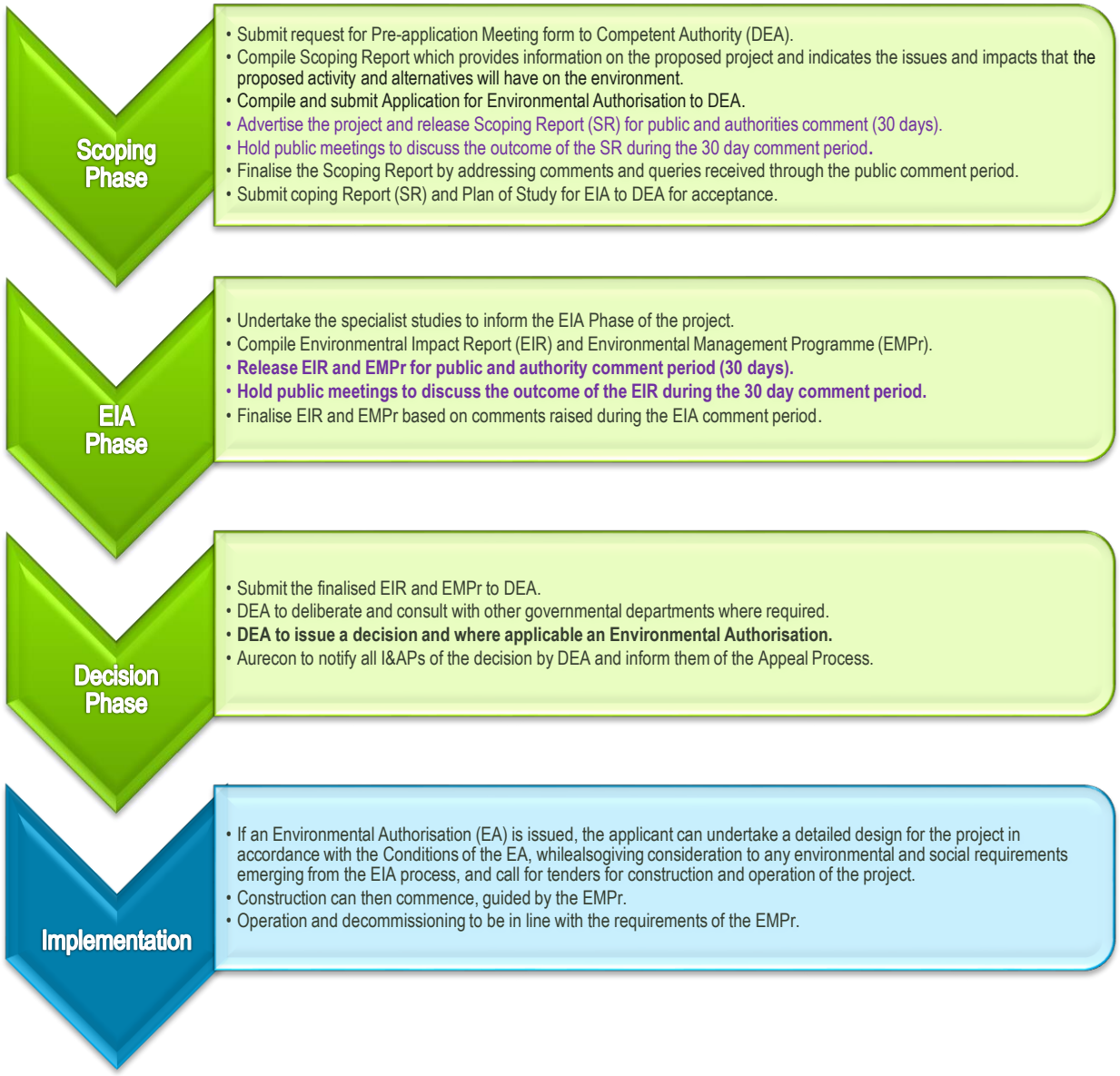

Figure 1 EIA process followed for the proposed expansion of the Kriel Ash Disposal Facility

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The construction of the Kriel Power Station was completed in 1979 and it was considered to be the largest coal-fired power station in the southern hemisphere at the time. The 37 year old power station, with an installed capacity of 3 000 MW (Eskom, 2010), is situated about 7 km east of the small town of Kriel (also known as Ga-nala) in the Mpumalanga Province. Through the process of electricity generation, coarse and fine ash is produced by burning coal. At full capacity, each of the six boilers can produce up to 740 000 tonnes/year of coarse ash/ boiler bottom ash (approximately 20% of total ash produced) and 2 960 000 tonnes/year of fly ash/ precipitator fly ash (approximately 80% of total ash produced).

The Kriel Power Station makes use of a wet ashing process to dispose of its ash. Coarse ash is transferred with a small volume of fine ash (fly ash, to limit pipeline wear) from the Power Station to sumps from where it is pumped as a slurry mixture to the ash dams. The fine ash is transported separately to the existing ash dam complex via two conveyors that are located south-east of Kriel Power Station. The three existing ash dams will reach a limiting Rate of Rise (RoR) by end July 2021. Eskom is thus proposing to construct and commission an additional ash disposal facility, consisting of two ash dams, before the existing ash dams reach their limiting RoR in 2021. The new dams would fulfil the ash disposal requirements for the Power Station's extended operational life, with decommissioning of the six generating units planned to commence in 2036. A five year contingency has been allowed for, thus it's assumed that the Power Plant will be operated for an additional five years at full load from 2036 to 2040, with final decommissioning date proposed for 2045.

The importance of the Kriel Power Station in the socio-economic environment of the area is evident, which in turn highlights the strategic importance of the proposed expansion of the ash disposal facility to keep the power station operational for at least another 28 years to contribute to the national energy supply and job security in the region. During the site selection process, it was determined that the proposed expansion at Site 10, located directly adjacent to the existing ash dam facility would be preferred. For a detailed motivation of the need for the proposed project, please refer to the full EIR, Chapter 4 and Annexure C1.

Figure 2 Aerial photograph of the Kriel Power Station and existing ash dam complex

In order to expand the Power Station's ash disposal facility, the following components are required:

- An Ash Disposal Facility that would have sufficient capacity to store ash volumes produced up to 2045;

- Ash Water Return dam from where decanted and drained water will be pumped back to the power station for re-use;
- Ash Water Return transfer dam;
- Delivery and return infrastructure, including conveyor belts and/ or pipelines, transfer houses, pump stations;
- Clean and dirty water channels;
- Powerlines; and
- Access roads.

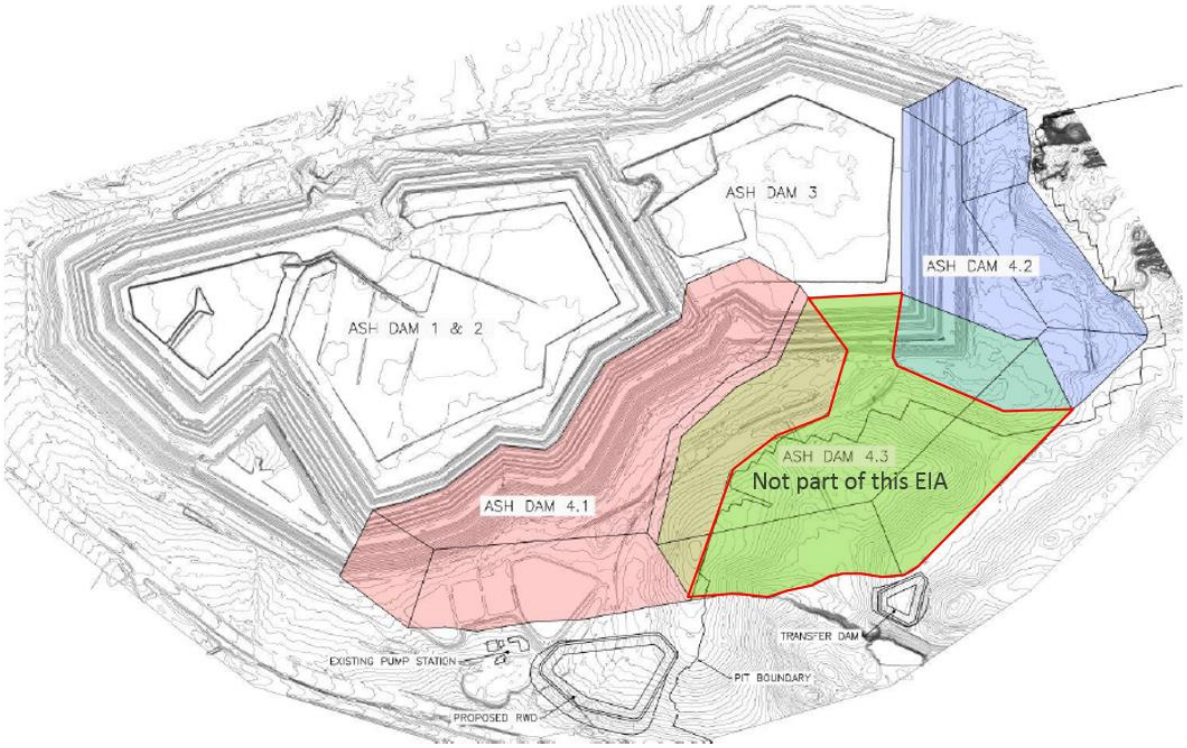

Figure 3 Ash Dam 4 Concept (Source: JW044/16/E821)

WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS ARE REQUIRED?

In terms NEMA, the proposed development triggers a suite of activities, which require authorisation from the competent environmental authority before they can be undertaken. Furthermore, the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) (NEMWA) provides various measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation, as well as for ecologically sustainable development in order to protect human health and the environment. In this regard, NEMWA identifies and lists certain activities which require environmental authorisation through the NEMA EIA and waste management licensing processes, prior to commencement of those activities. The listed activities in terms of NEMA GN R983, R984 and R985, 8 December 2014 (as amended), being assessed and applied for approval in this EIA process are: *GN R.983 Item 10, GN R.983 Item 12, GN R.983 Item 19, GN R.983 Item 24, GN R.983 Item 34, GN R.983 Item 46, GN R.983 Item 48, GN R.983 Item 49, GN R.983 Item 56, GN R.984 Item 15, and GN R.984 Item 16*. The activities in terms of NEMWA, GN No. 921 of 29 November 2013, Categories A and B, being applied for in this EIA process are: *Category A, No 14; and Category B, No's 1, 7*

and 10. Eskom is in the process of applying for a Water Use Licence for the proposed project in terms of the National Water Act.

WHICH PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES WERE INCLUDED IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

NEMA requires that feasible alternatives are considered during the EIA process. An important function of the Scoping Phase was to screen potential alternatives to derive a list of feasible alternatives that need to be assessed in further detail in the EIA Phase (i.e. this report). The table of preferred alternatives assessed is shown below.

Preferred alternative	Reason for preferred alternative
■ **Location alternative** – Site 10 for the proposed ash disposal facility and associated conveyor system alignments.	Various site locations were considered within a 12km radius of the Kriel Power Station for the proposed extended ash disposal. One site, i.e. Site 10, was identified as being the most suitable for the proposed extended Ash disposal facility for the following reasons: ■ located **close** to the Kriel Power Station and therefore requires less capital **costs**; ■ located on a brown field site **within the disturbance footprint** of the existing ash disposal facility; ■ **limited visual footprint** due to its proximity to the existing Ash disposal facility; and ■ located on **Eskom owned land**.
■ **Site layout alternative** – Ash dam 4 layout, consisting of only AD 4.1 and 4.2 (**Error! Reference source not found.**3).	Three potential layout alternatives have been considered for the preferred site: ■ 2014 ash dam layout, consisting of one large and one small ash dam; ■ 2016 ash dam layout, consisting of three ash dams; and ■ 2016 ash dam layout, consisting of only AD 4.1 and 4.2. The main aspect that influenced the design layouts relate to potential geotechnical issues due to subsidence. It was however determined that the proposed extended AD 4.1 and 4.2 do **not** hold any **potential geotechnical issues** since the backfilled mined area (located beneath AD 4.3) is avoided, resulting in the remaining two layout alternatives to be screened out as feasible options.
■ **Activity alternative** – Wet ashing.	Two methods for ash disposal were considered: ■ Wet ashing; and ■ Dry ash stacking. Wet ashing is considered to be **financially the best** practical option in comparison to dry ash stacking which would require a change in the station's current **design**, and would entail considerable **costs** to change the existing wet ashing infrastructure and systems at Kriel Power Station. Secondly, even though dry ash stacking would require less water than the wet ashing option, the water that is used for the current (and proposed) wet ashing operations is recycled wastewater from the power station's cooling system. Lastly, the footprint requirement for a dry ash dump is larger than for a wet ash dam and would thus increase the disturbance footprint of the Kriel Power Station.
■ **No-go alternative**	NEMA requirement against which all alternatives should be measured.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The preferred site alternative assessed, Site 10, is located south to southwest directly adjacent to the existing ash disposal facility at the Kriel Power Station. The land, which is entirely owned by Eskom, is zoned agricultural and mostly consists of grassed slopes with some areas of thicker vegetation and trees, often alien invasive species such as Blue gum and Black Wattle. The surrounding land use is mainly agriculture, including maize and cattle farming, and mining.

Climate

The area is dominated by winds from the north-west, north-east and, less frequently, the south-west, with calm conditions occurring less than 1% of the time. Wind speeds are higher during the day than the night. The area experienced warm temperatures above 24°C during summer and relatively low winter temperatures, especially during June and July, with daily minima between -1.0°C in July and 11.0°C in October.

Topography

The topography of the area in which Site 10 is located, is somewhat variable due to the nature of the mining activity and the subsequent rehabilitation that has taken place.

Figure 4 General landscape of the proposed development site

Air Quality

During the period 2013 to 2015, the measured ambient PM_{10} concentrations in the air recorded at the Kriel Village station were in non-compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (the maximum allowable number of days exceeding the concentration limit (75 µg/m³) is four (4) days per year). Potential sources in the vicinity contributing to elevated PM_{10} concentrations include: the Kriel Power Station and ash disposal facility, the Matla Power Station and ash disposal facility, agricultural activities, mining activities, as well as domestic fuel combustion for cooking and heating.

Surface Water

All surface water from the Kriel Power Station area drains into the Olifants River via the Riet and Steenkool springs. The Rietspruit flows to the north of the Kriel Power Station into the Rietspruit Dam from where water

enters the Steenkoolspruit, which is located to the south-east of the power station. Both rivers are perennial and fall within the B11E and B11D quaternary catchments, respectively. The Rietspruit and Steenkoolspruit both have a Present Ecological Status (PES) of Class D: Largely Modified, and are considered to be Critically Endangered due to the ecosystem processes they maintain downstream.

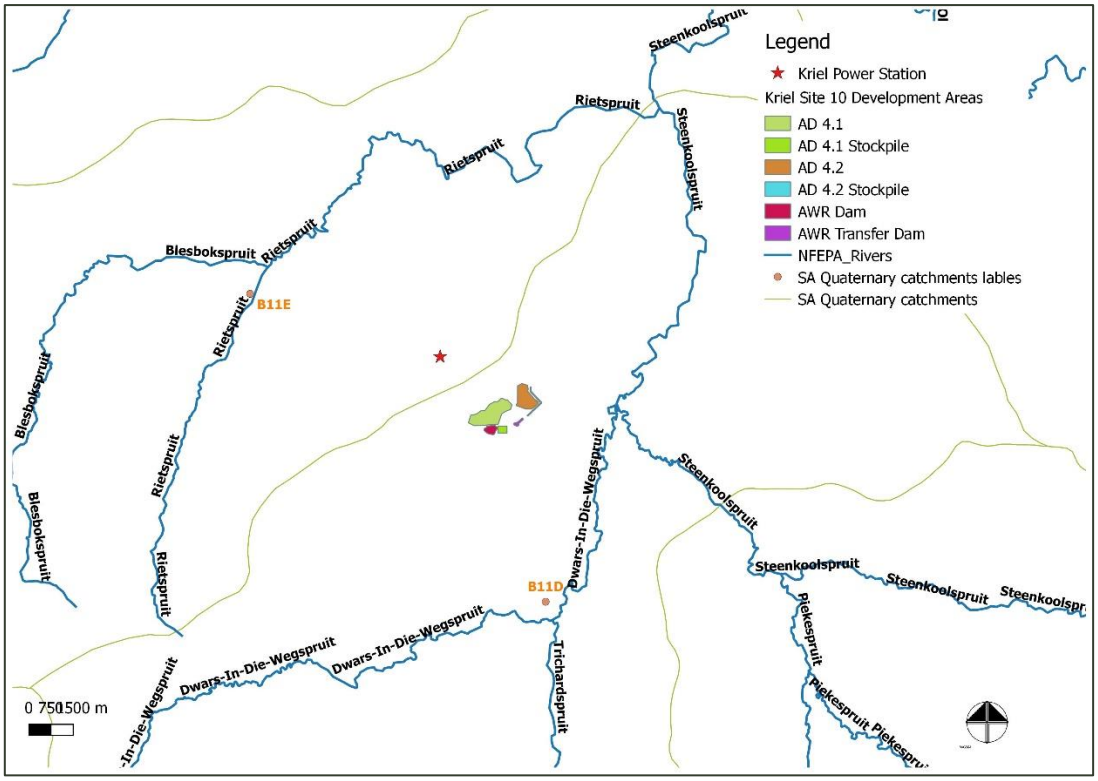

Figure 5 The main-stem rivers found within the respective quaternary catchments in the study region

Groundwater

Measured water levels in the study area varied between 0.12 m and 81.79 m below ground level. Under undisturbed conditions, a linear relationship can be expected to exist between groundwater levels and surface topography. This is however not the case in the project area, as historical and current opencast and underground mining, mine dewatering and rehabilitation activities, has altered the static water level and natural groundwater flow directions significantly. Water levels in each of the measured boreholes must thus be interpreted in the context of the area in which they are located.

Water is generally of good quality, with only one borehole exceeding the Class 2 drinking water standards due to elevated sulphate concentrations. Three boreholes indicated high pH values, which can be attributed to the high pH in ash water which is usually above 12. High levels of calcium and sodium were also identified at a few boreholes. Even though seepage from the existing ash dams into the underlying strata occurs, very few of the ash water's components are carried into the underlying aquifer. Hodgson et al. (1998) determined that unstable components are filtered out to a significant degree from ash water, before it reaches the aquifer, and that it is safe to dispose of power station fly ash into Pit 1, on condition that the necessary precautions are taken that ash water does not decant from the pit into public streams. Hodgson also concluded that groundwater in the area adjacent to the pits was generally very good.

Geology

The Kriel Power Station is located within the Great Karoo Basin, a prominent feature of which are dolerite dykes and sills. In the vicinity of Kriel however, few dolerite intrusions occur apart from a few narrow sub-vertical dykes. Furthermore, coal seams are interrupted by numerous minor faults of which many are water bearing. Small fracture zones which are generally associated with the upper and lower contacts of sills (usually water bearing) also occur throughout the power station area. The Kriel Coalfield, which forms part of the Highveld Coalfield, covers an area of more than 25 000 ha. Five coal seams are represented across the Highveld Coalfield, and Seam 4, a flat-lying to gently-undulating unit with a thickness of about 4.8 m, is the only seam currently mined by the Kriel Colliery, occurring at a depth of about 30m in open cut areas.

Vegetation

The Kriel Power Station is located within the Mesic Highveld Grassland Bioregion as defined by Mucina and Rutherford (2006). The dominant vegetation type found in the vicinity of the power station and surrounding areas is Eastern Highveld Grassland. Nearly 44% of this grassland type is already transformed by cultivation, coal mining and the creation of artificial impoundments and is thus considered a vulnerable vegetation type with only a handful of patches conserved. The conservation target is 24%. The landscape is characterised by slight to moderate undulating plains as well as low hills with intermittent pan depressions that provide critical important foraging habitat to two "Near-threatened" Flamingo species. The proposed site 10 consists of two broad land cover classes, which include mined land and post-mined rehabilitated grasslands dominated *Eragrostis curvula*, *E. plana* and *Hyparrhenia hirta* secondary grass species. The grass was being heavily grazed by cattle. The majority of the area surrounding the power station was considered to be areas of 'No Natural Habitat Remaining' in terms of the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

Mammals

A total of 31 mammal species could occur at the site, with among those confirmed including two antelope species, three rodents, one canine (jackal), two herpestids (mongoose) and one leporid (hare). Recent observations from nearby areas have shown that the cultivated lands provide an alternative food resource for carnivore species as evidenced by the frequent occurrence of undigested corn in their droppings.

Figure 6 Images of confirmed mammal species occuring at the site (Source: www.Arkive.org)

Amphibians

13 Amphibian species could occur at the site (mostly in temporary waterbodies and inundated grassland) and none of the frog species under consideration are listed as species of conservation concern.

Reptiles

14 taxa of reptiles (comprising of nine (9) snakes and five (5) lizard species) have been recorded by the South African Reptile Conservation Assessment (SARCA)) but this represents and underestimation of the expected richness in reptile diversity expected at the site.

Birds

According to the South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP1) (Harrison et al., 1997), an average of 185 bird species have been recorded from the quarter degree grid cells (QDGC) that overlaps Site 10. However, recent data suggests that the diversity of habitat types prevalent at Site 10 is more likely to sustain approximately 50 species.

Aquatic Ecology

The Present Ecological State (PES) scores for both the Steenkoolspruit and Olifants rivers systems have been rated as Class D, "largely modified" by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA – RQS website), and due to the ecosystems processes that these rivers maintain downstream, they have been rated as Critically Endangered. Wetland areas that are considered to be "Important and Necessary" in terms of the MBCP occur within the area of investigation. The MBCP is a document intended to guide conservation and land-use decisions in support of sustainable development in Mpumalanga and areas indicated as 'Irreplaceable', 'Highly Significant' and 'Important and Necessary' should remain unaltered and should be managed for biodiversity by various means. An important endorheic pan (no outflow of water) is also located to the north-east of the Kriel power station, which provides a foraging and roosting habitat for "Near-threatened" animals such as Servals and Flamingos.

Heritage

A basic historical and archaeological background study was undertaken using available resources accessed at the National Archives in Pretoria as well as published literature and historical map series. An assessment was also undertaken of the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). A historical overview of the greater study area and surrounds is provided in the EIA report. It was determined by the palaeontologist that the likelihood of finding fossils in disturbed and old backfilled areas, or before actual excavations into intact sedimentary rocks take place, is considered fairly low.

Agricultural land use and economy

Seventy nine hectares of the site is used for cultivation and most of it is dryland. The surrounding area, as well as parts of the site, is heavily impacted by mining and industrial activity. Agricultural sensitivity to proposed development is defined by the value of the land from an agricultural production point of view. The cultivated areas therefore have a higher sensitivity, while the rest of the site, most of which is likely to be unsuitable for cultivation due to historical impact, has a low sensitivity. The soils are predominantly deep, reasonably drained, red and yellow, sandy loams to sandy clay loams.

Visual

The visual character of the area is determined by a combination of topography as well as the existing surrounding land use patterns. The general area surrounding Kriel Power Station is visually characterised by mining activities, including mine dumps and open cast mines. The broader study area can be described as being rural with a sense of industrialisation. Large industrial infrastructure already plays a significant role in the visual character of the area.

Figure 7 View looking south from Kriel ash dam two towards Matla ash dams in the background

Figure 8 Housing and offices north of the existing ash dams

Figure 9 Atop the ash dams looking south, the ash dams are vast but little of it can be seen from ground level

Figure 10 View towards south from existing Kriel ash dams

Traffic

The site is currently accessible by a paved single-carriageway local road off R545, a regional road that connects the site to major regional and national routes: R555, N12 and N4. With the exception of the local access road and R545 intersection, the following regional roads and intersections are expected to be impacted the most by the traffic generated by proposed activities:

- R545 and R547 at intersection 1 are paved single-carriageway roads which form an intersection situated southeast of the site. The R547 runs in a north east direction from its intersection with the R545 and functions as a collector/distributor road serving mainly two communities, Kriel and Thubelihle.
- R545 and R547 at intersection 2 are also paved single-carriageway roads in the immediate vicinity of the site in the northeast. Both roads function as collector/distributor roads serving mining and industrial activities.

Intersection capacity analysis in the study area was undertaken to determine existing volume/capacity (v/c) ratios, delay (sec) and levels of service (LOS) and the associated traffic impact of the development proposal. The results indicated that the overall operation of all intersections are acceptable, with the exception of the R545 and R547 intersection.

Noise

The existing residual noise climate in most of the local area is largely typical of a rural/agricultural environment as defined in SANS 10103:2008, that is, areas where ambient noise levels generally do not exceed 45dBA during the daytime period (06h00 to 22h00) and generally do not exceed 35dBA during the night-time period (22h00 to 06h00). In the residential area of Kriel, in Thubilihle and Lehlaka Park, Rietstroom Park, Ga-Naka Village at the Kriel Power Station and in the informal settlements the existing residual noise climate is typical of a suburban environment as defined in SANS 10103:2008, that is, areas where ambient noise levels generally do not exceed

50dBA during the day and generally do not exceed 40dBA during the night-time. There are also areas close to the two power stations and the mines where the ambient noise levels and maximum noise levels exceed that of various adjoining agricultural and residential areas.

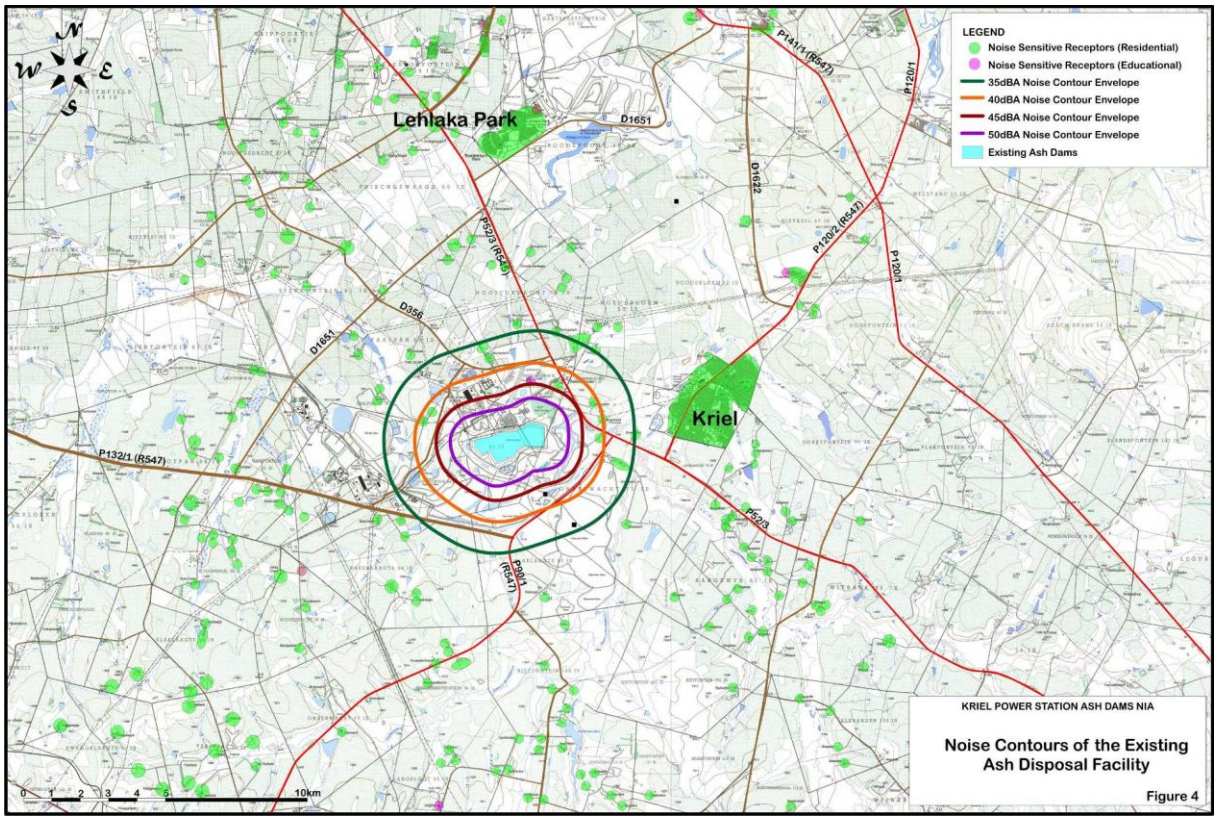

Figure 11 Map showing residential (green) and educational (pink) noise sensitive receptors, as well as the 35dBA, 40dBA, 45dBA and 50dBA noise contour envelope for the existing ash disposal facility

FINDINGS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

During the EIA Phase, the following team of specialists assessed the significance of the potential impacts of the proposed development on the existing receiving environment:

Study	Consultant and Organisation
Terrestrial ecology impact assessment	Dr Brian Colloty, Scherman Colloty and Associates
Aquatic ecology impact assessment	Dr Brian Colloty & Dr Patsy Sherman, Scherman Colloty and Associates
Groundwater assessment	Mr Louis Stroebel, Aurecon
Air quality impact assessment	Ms Reneé von Gruenewaldt, Airshed Planning Professionals
Visual impact assessment	Mr Johan Goosen, Aurecon
Heritage impact assessment	Mr Polke Birkholtz, Professional Grave Solutions: Heritage Unit

Study	Consultant and Organisation
Noise impact assessment	Mr Derek Cosijn, Jongens Keet Associates
Agricultural / land capability and economic impact assessment	Mr Johann Lanz, Sole Proprietor
Traffic impact assessment	Mr Werner Heyns, Aurecon

This was done by means of a specific methodology developed for assessment of significance of impacts, based on the specific characteristics of the site and the proposed Ash Disposal Facility components. A summary of the findings are presented in the table below. For details of each impact study, please refer to the complete EIA Report.

Aspect	Impact	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation
Pre-construction			
No impacts have been identified for the pre-construction phase.			
Construction			
Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology	Possible impact on surface water quality	High (-)	Low (-)
	Displacement of non-wetland associated fauna	Low (-)	Low (-)
	Possible loss Red Data Bird habitat	High (-)	Low (-)
	Destruction of vegetation and loss of habitat	Low (-)	Low (-)
Groundwater	Potential hydrocarbon pollution through spillages and handling	Very low (-)	Very low (-)
	Decanting of Pit 1	Low (-)	Low (-)
Air Quality	Degraded ambient air quality	Medium (-)	Very low (-)
Visual	Visibility of the project	Low (-)	Low (-)
	Viewer incidence and perception	Low (-)	Very low (-)
	Visual absorption capacity	Low (-)	Very low (-)
	Lighting	Low (-)	Low (-)
Heritage	Destruction of paleontologically significant material	High (-)	Low (-)
Noise	Noise disturbance	Medium (-)	Medium (-)
Agricultural land capability and economics	Loss of agricultural land	Low (-)	Low (-)
Traffic	Traffic conditions	Very low (-)	Very low (-)
Operation			
Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology	Displacement of non-wetland associated fauna	Low (-)	Low (-)
	Destruction of vegetation and loss of habitat	Low (-)	Low (-)
	Possible impact on surface water quality	High (-)	Low (-)

Aspect	Impact	Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation
	Possible loss Red Data Bird habitat	High (-)	Low (-)
Groundwater	Potential hydrocarbon pollution through spillages and handling	Very low (-)	Very low (-)
	Potential inorganic pollution from fly ash disposal	Medium (-)	Low (-)
	Decanting in Pit 1	Medium (-)	Low (-)
Air Quality	Degraded ambient air quality impacting on human and animal health	Medium (-)	Very low (-)
Visual	Visibility of the project	Low (-)	Low (-)
	Viewer incidence and perception	Low (-)	Very low (-)
	Visual absorption capacity	Low (-)	Very low (-)
	Lighting	Low (-)	Low (-)
Noise	Noise disturbance	Medium (-)	Medium (-)
Traffic	Traffic conditions	Low (-)	Low (-)
Decommissioning			
Groundwater	Potential hydrocarbon pollution through spillages and handling	Very low (-)	Very low (-)
	Potential inorganic pollution from fly ash disposal	Low (-)	Low (-)
	Decanting of Pit 1	Low (-)	Low (-)
Air Quality	Degraded ambient air quality impacting on human and animal health	Medium (-)	Very low (-)
Visual	Visibility of the project	Low (-)	Low (-)
	Viewer incidence and perception	Low (-)	Very low (-)
	Visual absorption capacity	Low (-)	Very low (-)
	Lighting	Low (-)	Low (-)

THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is an important part of the EIA process, as it allows the public and stakeholders to receive information about the proposed project, to view documentation, and to make input and voice any concerns. This affords the environmental practitioner early identification of key issues and concerns, and an opportunity to respond to these.

During the Scoping process, Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were afforded a 30-day public comment period on the draft Scoping Report (SR) from **26 October to 28 November 2016**. The period however was kept open due to certain key stakeholders not submitting comments within the allocated timeframe. On completion of the public comment period, the SR was updated and finalised, taking cognisance of the comments received

and issues raised. The SR was completed and submitted to the Department for review, and was accepted on 27 February 2017.

The completed Final EIR will be made available for comment for 30 days, from 3 July 2017 to 2 August 2017, at:

- Kriel Public Library
- Kriel Power Station (security centre)
- Thubelihle Community Health Centre

The report will also be made available electronically on the following websites:

- Aurecon website:
  - http://www.aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx; and
- Eskom website:
  - http://www.eskom.co.za/OurCompany/SustainableDevelopment/EnvironmentalImpactAssessments/Pages/Environment_Impact_Assessments.aspx) and potential.

Due to poor attendance of the public meetings during the Scoping Phase, registered I&APs have been requested to indicate by 14 July 2017 if they require a public meeting. Should public open house meetings be required, these will be scheduled for 26 July 2017 at the locations shown below. These dates will however be confirmed with registered I&APs should the meetings take place.

Venue	Date	Time	Address
Methodist Church Hall, Kriel	26 July 2017	18:00 – 20:00	Springbok Crescent, Kriel, 2271
Thubelihle Hall	26 July 2017	14:00 – 17:00	Thubelihle Hall

All I&APs are encouraged to submit written comments/ issues/ concerns on the EIR for the proposed Ash Disposal facility by **2 August 2017** at the latest. Comments can be submitted via email, mail or fax and must be directed to Mr Dirk Pretorius or Ms Franci Gresse as indicated below.

EIA Project Team:	Dirk Pretorius	Franci Gresse
Telephone Number:	021 – 526 6012	021 – 526 6022
Fax Number:	021 – 526 9500	021 – 526 9500
Email Address:	Dirk.Pretorius@aurecongroup.com	Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com
Postal Address:	PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000	PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000

For a detailed description on the public participation process undertaken to date and going forward, please refer to Chapter 3 of the EIR.

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

All written comments received will be consolidated into an annexure of the EIR. This will take the form of a Comments and Response Report (CRR), with copies of the original comments received, in which raised issues and concerns will be included and responded to by the Project Team. The report will also be revised in light of feedback from the public, where necessary. The document will be submitted to DEA for their decision-making by 10 August 2017 at the latest. Registered I&APs will be provided access to the final report submitted to DEA.

The DEA must, within 107 days of receipt of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report review it and, in writing, issue their decision regarding the environmental acceptance of the proposed project (see Figure 12 below).

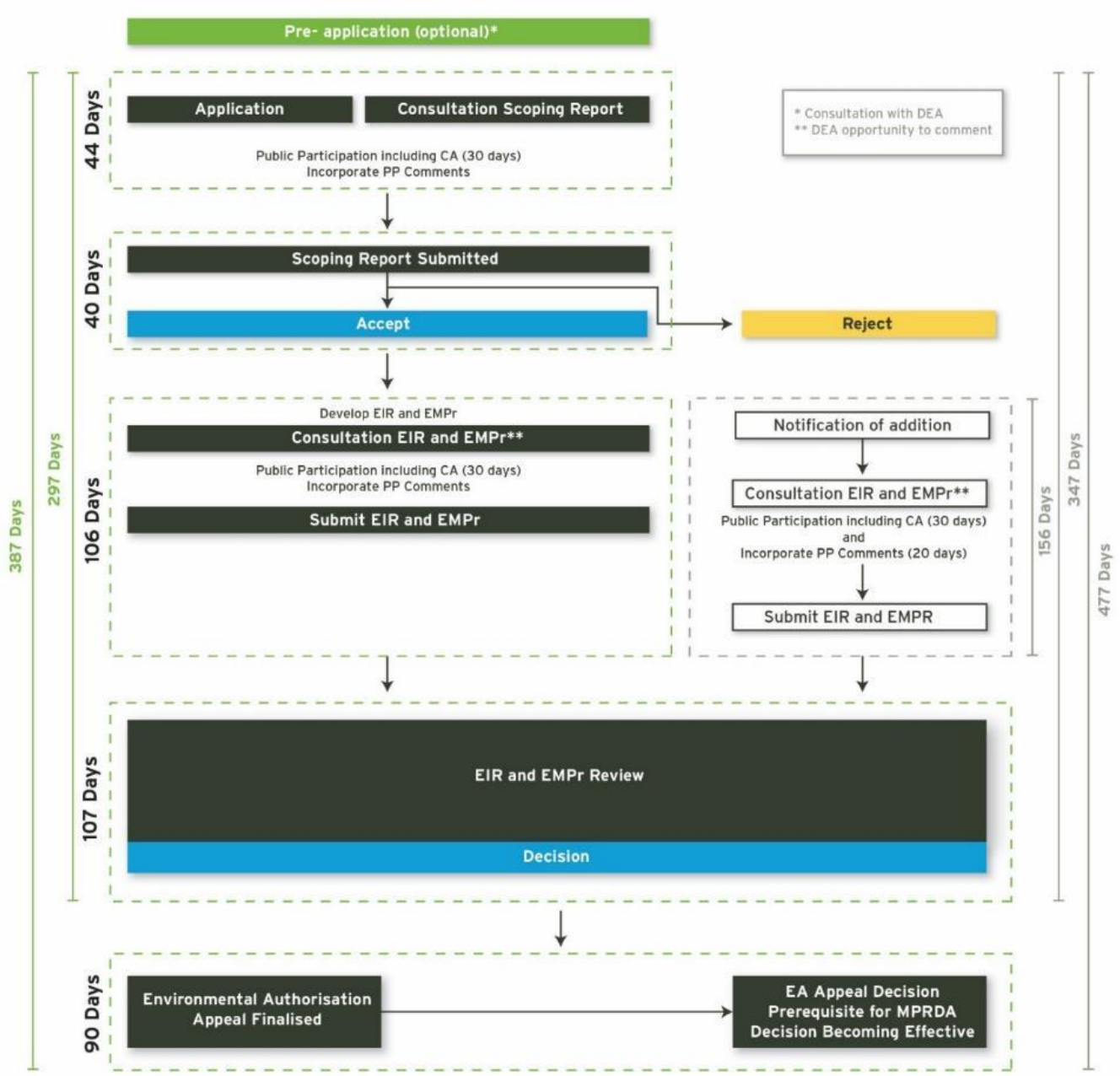

Figure 12 The EIA process in terms of the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, showing timeframes

All registered I&APs will be notified in writing of the receipt of the authorities' decisionand will be provided with an opportunity to appeal DEA's decision in terms of the NEMA National Appeal Regulations R.993 of 8 December 2014 (as amended). Any person affected by a decision who wishes to appeal must lodge a Notice of Intention to Appeal with the Minister by the date as specified by the relevant notice.