

Invitation to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the Basic Assessment and Integrated Water Use License Application Process for the Proposed Construction of Stormwater Drainage and Associated Infrastructure at the Kusile Power Station, near Delmas, Mpumalanga Province

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

18 October 2022

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) has been structured to provide all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with a concise overview of the proposed project activities as well as the associated Environmental Authorisation and Integrated Water Use License Application (IWULA) Processes. Furthermore, this BID also intended to provide I&APs with information relating to the manner in which I&APs can voice any issues concerning the proposed project. The compilation and distribution of this BID, forms part of the Public Participation Process for the project.

When you complete and return the registration form included with the BID, you will be included in the stakeholder database and will receive further documents for review and comment. Your comment will ensure that all issues of concern are incorporated. To raise your concerns, please complete the enclosed registration sheet, write a letter, call, or e-mail the public participation office. All documents will be available on the internet at www.zitholele.co.za/environmental, under heading “Kusile Stormwater”

For enquiries, please contact:

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1. BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited proposes the construction of stormwater drainage and associated infrastructure at the Kusile Power Station. The proposed activities entails the construction of viz, stormwater collection channels or concrete v-drains, an Overland Conveyor Link (OLC) 1&2 collection sump with a capacity of 125m³, the East Settling Tanks (EST) comprising of two compartments and a pump sump with a total storage capacity of 5394.3m³, two 250NB interconnecting pipelines (length = 45m each) from the OLC 1&2 sump to the EST, a 300mm diameter above ground steel pipeline to transfer clarified water from the EST pump sump to the ash dump dirty water drain (length - 688m), the West Settling Tanks (WST) comprising of two compartments, and a pump sump with a total storage capacity of 1270.2m³, a 200mm diameter overland steel pipeline to transfer clarified water from the WST pump sump to the ash dump dirty water drain (length - 178m) and groundwater interception drains underneath the EST and WST foundations to drain into the environment. A gravel access road (169m) will be constructed from the sump to the EST. The proposed concrete v-drains will be located underneath the existing Overland Conveyor, and the associated infrastructure will be located near the Overland Conveyor and radial stacker at the Kusile Power Station.



Figure 1: Location of the proposed Kusile stormwater drainage and associated infrastructure, Mpumalanga Province

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The Kusile Power Station is located along Lone Rock Road (R686). The proposed stormwater infrastructure (concrete V-drains) will be located underneath the overland

conveyor from the station to the existing radial stacker within the Kusile Power Station located within the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, near Delmas, Mpumalanga. Part of the site for the proposed stormwater infrastructure occurs within the Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) that overlaps with the channelled valley bottom wetland within the study area. The study area has been disconnected and fragmented from any natural areas. The majority of the development footprint is located within, or along roads or transformed areas, and their associated servitudes, which have very low ecological sensitivity.

3. NEED AND DESIRABILITY

The OLC system is currently operating without stormwater drainage infrastructure to contain ash contaminated water along the conveyor servitudes, and this has resulted in ponding and ash laden stormwater runoff entering into the nearby wetlands and watercourses. The proposed stormwater drainage and associated infrastructure will prevent dirty stormwater runoff (ash laden water) from spilling into the surrounding environment. This will ensure that the operations on site will comply with the environmental requirements.

4. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed activity is underpinned by the legal provisions of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended, and the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998. These Acts have specific regulations governing potential impacts on the receiving environment and includes the following Regulations:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (GN R982), as amended;
- Water Use Licence Application and Appeals Regulations of 2017 (GN R267)

The listed activities that may be applicable to the project are indicated in the table below:

Listed Activities as listed in the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998	Applicability to proposed project
<p>Listing Notice 1, Activity 12: The development of—</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more,</p> <p>where such development occurs—</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p>	<p>The proposed stormwater drainage (V-drain) will occur 32m of the channelled valley bottom wetland. A portion of the drainage outlet pipe will occur within the channelled valley bottom wetland.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 1, Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.</p>	<p>A portion of the drainage outlet pipe will occur within the channelled valley bottom wetland.</p> <p>The construction of the stormwater drainage infrastructure (V-drain) will not directly impact on the wetland as the v-drain will be constructed within the internal access road at the Kusile Power Station.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3, Activity 14: The development of (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more, where such development occurs within a watercourse (a) Within a watercourse, (c) where no development setback has been adopted, within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, (a) in Mpumalanga Province, (ii) Outside urban areas, (ff) in Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the Competent Authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The proposed stormwater drainage and associated infrastructure will be more than 10m² in extent. The study area occurs in Mpumalanga. A portion of the site occurs within a CBA (<i>Systematic Biodiversity Plan was adopted by the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs</i>).</p>

Listed Activities as listed in the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998	Applicability to proposed project
	The proposed stormwater drainage (v-drain) will occur 32m of the channelled valley bottom wetland. A portion of the drainage outlet pipe will occur within the channelled valley bottom wetland.
<p>National Water Act, 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 21(c): impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and • Section 21(i): altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristic of a watercourse. 	The proposed stormwater drainage and associated infrastructure occurs within the 500m regulated areas of the wetlands. A portion of the drainage outlet pipe occurs within the channelled valley bottom wetland. Therefore, an Integrated Water Use License (IWULA) will be required in terms of Section 21(c) and 21 (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

The following processes must therefore be undertaken:

1. Basic Assessment process towards issuance of an Environmental Authorisation (EA); and
2. Integrated Water Use License Application towards issuance of a Water Use License (WUL).

5. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Basic Assessment (BA) aims to provide an objective view of the potential environmental and social impacts that could arise during the planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning phase of a proposed project. A critical element of the BA Process is the Public Participation Process that gives Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) an opportunity to provide comments on a proposed development. The outcome of the BA Process is concisely presented and documented in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) in order to provide the Competent Authority with all the information in order to make an informed decision.

The BAR content aligns with the requirements of Appendix 1 of the EIA regulations, 2014 (as amended) (GN R.326) and timeframes are strictly adhered to through careful management of process. **Figure 2** provides a process flow diagram indicating the key tasks to be carried out for the BA Process.

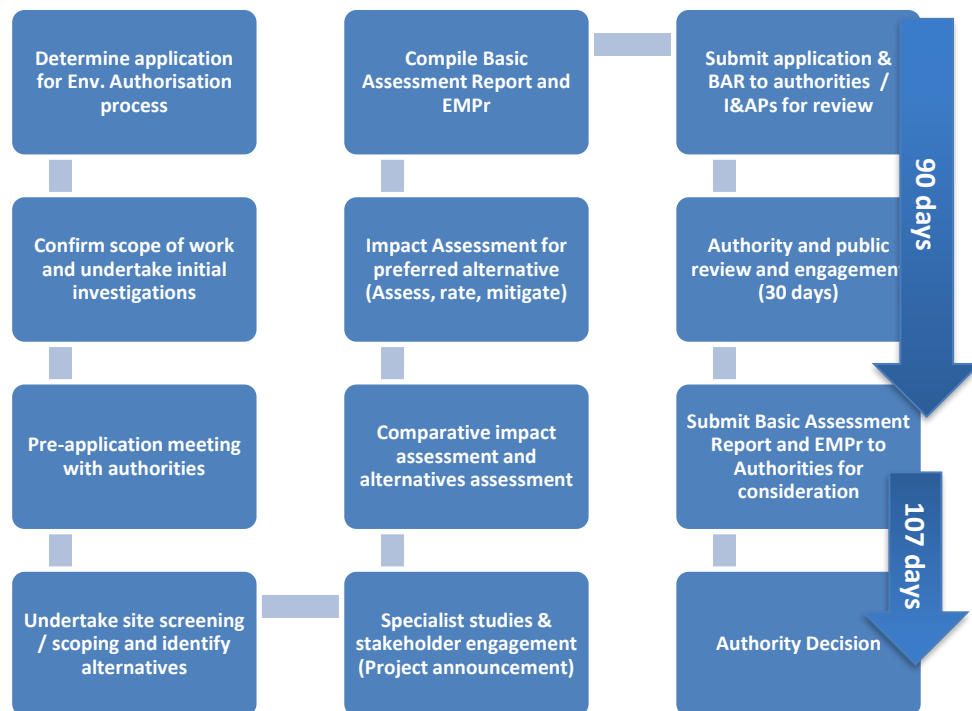


Figure 2: Process Flow Diagram for the steps required in a Basic Assessment Process

A decision on the application for environmental authorisation through a BA process is usually reached within 107 days of receipt of the BAR by the Competent Authority.

8. WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION

The Integrated Water Use License Application (IWULA) processes will be undertaken in terms of the Regulations regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (GN R. 267 of 24 March 2017) promulgated in terms of the NWA. In terms of these Regulations, the IWULA must be undertaken and submitted through the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)'s online submission portal called Electronic Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System (e-WULAAS). In terms of this online submission system, a WULA is submitted online in three distinct phases (Refer to Figure 3).

The Water Use Licence or General Authorisation process can occur simultaneously and in conjunction with a Basic Assessment Process therefore Zitholele ensures that the WULA Application Forms, Technical Report (if required) and supporting documents are completed at the same time as the BAR. This streamlines the public review process per project.

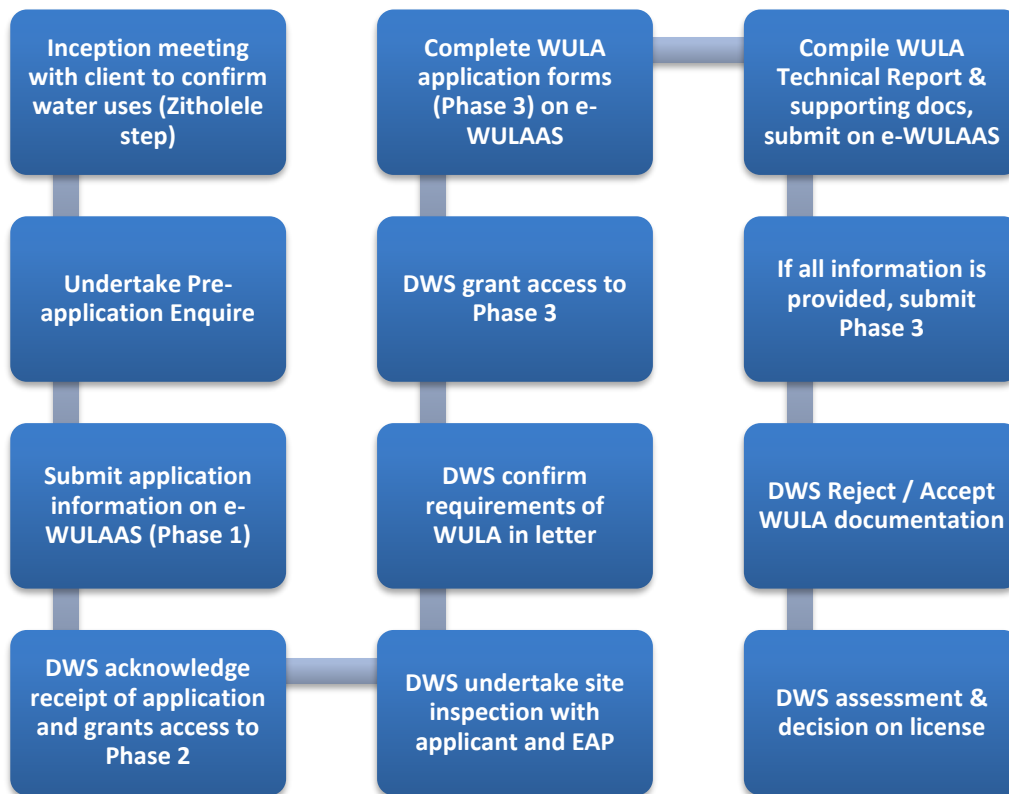


Figure 3: Process Flow Diagram for the steps required in a Water Use License Application

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

As an important element in undertaking the BA for the proposed project, Zitholele Consulting will conduct the public participation process as set out in the NEMA EIA regulations, 2014 (as amended). Applicable guidelines and best practice procedures will furthermore be taken into consideration. The public participation process will enable stakeholders to contribute to the process through information sharing and to review the findings of the independent studies that are to be undertaken. The steps of the public participation component are outlined below.

The Public Participation Process, as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, are described below in Figure 3:

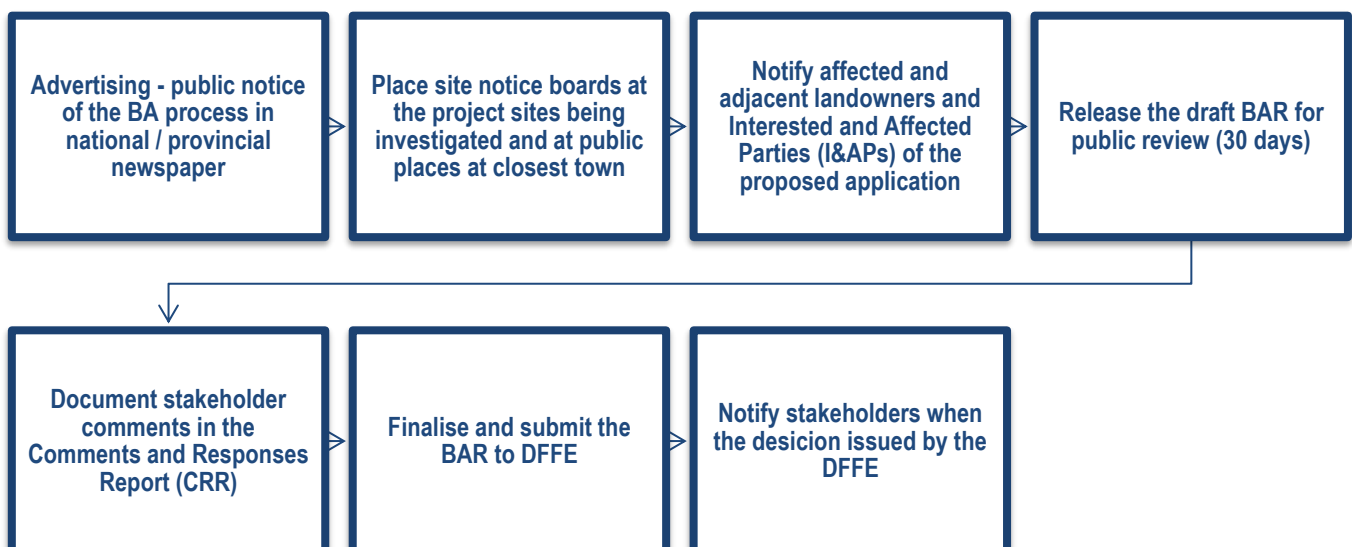


Figure 4: Process Flow of the Public Participation Process

10. AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION

The Basic Assessment Report and Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP) for public review and comment will be placed at the public venues listed below. The Interested and Affected Parties will be notified of the commencement of public review via email:

- Delmas Public Library, Van Riebeeck Ave, Delmas Ext 8, 2210
- Kwa-Guqa Public Library, Intshe Street, KwaGuqa ,Witbank,1073
- Documents will be available electronically at the following links:
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9bxjw3>
<https://tinyurl.com/yc37ztjw>

All stakeholders that wish to be part of the BA and IWULA process and stay informed throughout the process are urged to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) by:

1. Download the Background Information Document (BID) from Zitholele's website: www.zitholele.co.za/environmental, under heading "Kusile Stormwater"
2. Download the BID from one of the two alternative project information portals at the links:
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9bxjw3>
<https://tinyurl.com/yc37ztjw>
3. Request more information or an electronic copy of the BID from the PPP desk at contact details specified in this site notice.
4. Register your interest in the project through one of the following means:
 - a. SMS the word "Kusile Stormwater" to 45776

Information pertaining to the Basic Assessment and IWULA process can be requested from the PPP desk on the details below:

Ms Natasha Lalie
Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd, P O Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685
Tel: (011) 207 2060, Fax: 086 674 6121, or Email: kusile@zitholele.co.za

11. DECISION-MAKING (ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION)

Based on the information provided in the final BAR, the Competent Authority will make a decision to grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation. The granting of Environmental Authorisation will allow the Applicant to proceed with implementing the proposed project activities. Once the Competent Authority has reached a decision, with regards to granting the Environmental Authorisation, all registered I&APs will be notified thereof within 14 days of the date of the decision. An appeal may be lodged against the decision made in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) and National Appeal Regulations, 2014. I&APs will be notified of the decision made by the Competent Authority by means of the following:

- Via electronic mail;
- Facsimile (to I&APs who do not have access to electronic mail); and
- Registered mail (to those I&APs who do not have access to electronic mail nor facsimile facilities).

The Basic Assessment Process will be concluded by the notification of I&APs of the decision made by the Competent Authority.

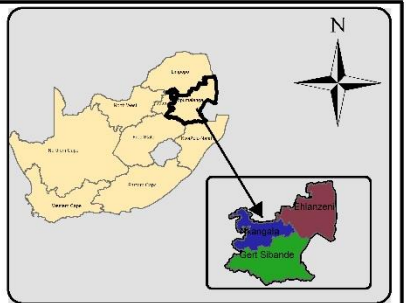
12. MAP OF PROJECT LOCATION

A locality Map of the proposed project can be found in Figure 5 below.

13. BID COMMENT SHEET

A comment sheet associated with this project and Basic Assessment process is included at the end of this BID. Please complete and return to the PPP desk by hand delivery to the offices of Zitholele Consulting, scan and email to the email address provided, fax to fax number provided or by submitting your comments telephonically to the PPP desk via the landline number specified in the left column on page 1 of this BID.

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Legend

- Kusile_Study_Area
- Kusile Power Station
- Regional Road
- Channelled Valley Bottom

Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan

- Critical Biodiversity Area
- Heavily or moderately modified
- Other Natural Areas

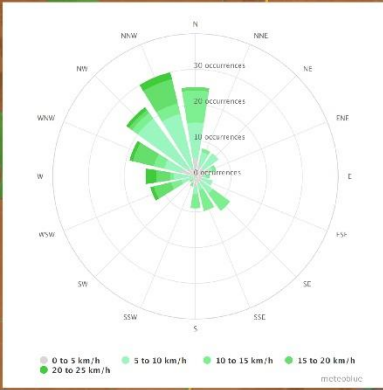
Vegetation

- Eastern Highveld Grassland
- Rand Highveld Grassland

KUSILE POWER STATION

LOCALITY MAP

WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere



	GIS	JM	12 Oct 2022	PROJECT No. 22018
	CHECK	MV	12 Oct 2022	SCALE 1:50 000
	REVIEW	MV	12 Oct 2022	A3 REV 0

Figure 5: Locality Map of the Proposed Project

**Basic Assessment and Integrated Water Use License
Application Process for the Proposed Construction
of Stormwater Drainage and Associated
Infrastructure at the Kusile Power Station, near
Delmas, Mpumalanga Province**



Public Participation Office

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Fax: 086-676-9950
Email: kusile@zitholele.co.za

COMMENT SHEET FOR I&AP REGISTRATION

18 October 2022

Please complete and return the form to the Public Participation Office (as above)

TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION (Please do not use any acronyms)			
ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
TELEPHONE NO			
FAX NO			
CELL PHONE NO			
E-MAIL ADDRESS			
SIGNATURE			
DATE			

REGISTRATION TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT	
I would like to receive an electronic copy of the Basic Assessment Report (please circle the appropriate block)	
YES	NO

1. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION