

**APPLICATION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MES COMPLIANCE
TIME FRAMES FOR ESKOM’S COAL AND LIQUID FUEL FIRED
POWER STATIONS**

1ST ROUND OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT –

WARD COUNCILLOR BRIEFING AT EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

(KENDAL, DUVHA, KRIEL AND MATLA POWER STATIONS)

MINUTES OF MEETING

MEETING DATE	17 August 2018
VENUE	Emalahleni Civic Centre, Speaker’s Office Boardroom
TIME	10:00am
CHAIRPERSON	Marissa Botha
MEETING	Ward Councillors Briefing (Focus Group Meeting)

Content of the Minutes of Meeting:

1. Meeting Attendees
2. Discussions

Annexure A – Attendance Register

No presentation was given at the briefing. The project Background Information Document (BID) was referred to.

1. MEETING ATTENDEES:

Name & Surname	Position	Abbreviation
Naledzi Environmental Consultants (NEC)		
Marissa Botha	EAP and Meeting Facilitator	MB
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom)		
Bryan McCourt	Environmental Manager	BM
Emalahleni Local Municipality (ELM)		
Oupa Mokoena	ELM Public Participation Officer, Office of Speaker	OM
Nomasonto Mofokeng	Ward 30 Councillor – Phola, Ogies, Kendal	NM
Rika Wilken	Ward 26 Councillor - Kriel	RW
Thembi Shabalala	Ward 32 Councillor – Blesboklaagte, Reedstream Park	TS
Themba Gulube	Ward 19 Councillor – Witbank Dam, Duvha Power Station, Duvha Park	TG
Bangiswani Jiyane	Ward 28 Councillor - Phola	BJ
Mduduzi Mnjomozilva	Office Manager – Municipal Manager	MM
REFER TO ANNEXURE A FOR THE SIGNED ATTENDANCE REGISTER		
Apologies:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Dirk Grobler for Ward 27 - Kriel • Councillor Maggie Magagula for Ward 27 - Thubelihle 		

2. DISCUSSIONS

NO	ITEM	OWNER
2.1	Welcome and Introduction	
2.1.1	Welcome and introductions by NEC, Eskom and ELM Councillors. The office of the Municipal Manager is represented by MM.	OM (ELM)
2.1.2	Attendance register The attendance register was circulated and signed.	
2.1.3	Apologies: Councillor Dirk Grobler from Kriel and Maggie Magagula from Thubelihle.	
2.2	Purpose of Meeting	
2.2.1	The purpose of the meeting is to brief the ward councilors on the project and why it necessitates public participation.	OM (ELM)
2.2.2	Eskom's intends to apply for postponement from the Minimum Emission Standards (MES) compliance time frames for Kendal-, Duvha-, Kriel- and Matla power stations. The power stations fall within the wards of the councilors present at the briefing meeting.	
2.2.3	It is very important that the Councillors are first briefed before such information is communicated to the communities.	
2.2.4	NEC has been in communication with the Speaker's Office via email and through several telephonic consultations to discuss and plan the public meetings and how to inform the public of the project. The project notification and Background Information Document (BID) has also been emailed to the councilors.	
2.2.5	NEC will now provide background information regarding the project and detail the planned public participation process.	
2.2	Background for the project	
2.2.1	Eskom has numerous coal fired power stations in Emalahleni and throughout the Mpumalanga Province. The power stations have been built to comply with former legislative requirements. Legislation requires power stations to reduce emissions released into the atmosphere. Accordingly power stations have emission control equipment which removes fly ash or better known as particulate matter (PM) from its emissions.	BM (Eskom)
2.2.2	The challenge faced by Eskom is, new emission limits come into effect in 2020 which the older power stations cannot meet. The older stations were designed to meet a certain limit, however the stations currently need to be retrofitted to reach the more stringent limits.	
2.2.3	Eskom needs to install further abatement equipment, in particular for PM, at its power stations, to reduce its emissions and comply with the MES. This is known as retrofitting.	
2.2.4	Retrofitting power stations is an extensive process and expensive. Eskom can therefore not meet the MES within the compliance time frames.	
2.2.5	Eskom does not want to emit more pollution through this application, yet want to continue on its current levels, since it cannot install the retrofits within the time frame set in the MES. Retrofits will be undertaken at power stations over time yet not within the stipulated time frames of the MES. Eskom therefore needs to apply for postponement.	
2.2.6	In 2014, Eskom applied for a suite of postponements for 16 of its power stations. DEA granted 5 year postponements for most of the power stations. The 5 year postponement period is now lapsing and Eskom needs to re-apply for postponement.	
2.2.7	Further postponement is required from 2020 from 'existing' and 'new plant' limit compliance timeframes. Eskom will submit postponement applications for its power stations to the NAQO at DEA.	
2.2.8	Eskom believes that the request for postponement for the MES will not have a significant impact on the ambient air quality and human health. Yet Eskom's opinion needs to be assessed and analysed to determine what the impact on surrounding communities would be before such postponement can be granted by government.	

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2.2.9	<p>It is compulsory for an independent consultant to conduct an Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR) as part of the application for postponement from the MES. The decision makers need to understand what the implication of granting postponement from the MES will have on the ambient air quality. NEC was appointed to conduct the independent studies.</p> <p>The AIR allows an understanding of what the impact will be on the ambient air quality if there is non-compliance with the MES. The AIR will also assess the impact on the environment, human health.</p>	
2.2.10	All stakeholders will be invited to form part of the application process through public engagement. The outcome of the specialist studies will be communicated to the public and will be available for public review and comment.	
2.2.11	The public meetings scheduled for the project from 20 August until 31 August 2018 serve to inform the public of the project and Eskom's application for postponement. It will also allow the public to become involved in the process.	
2.3	Public Participation Process	MB (NEC)
2.3.1	The application for postponement from the MES is subject to a public participation process (PPP). The PPP forms an important component of the overall process in which the views and comments of the public are solicited.	
2.3.2	<p>The PPP for the project will include two rounds of public engagement.</p> <p>The 1st round will announce the project and present the BID at several public meetings as scheduled from 20 until 31 August 2018. All comments received during the 1st round of engagement will be recorded in an Issues and Response Report and responses provided thereto will be included in the IRR.</p> <p>The 2nd round will see the motivation for application for postponement, the AIR, CBA and PPP Report being placed in the public domain for comment. The outcome of the assessment will also be presented at a series of public meetings.</p>	
2.3.3	<p>NEC has been in consultation with the councilors and the ELM PPO to determine a suitable date, time and venue for the public meetings. As a result public meetings have been scheduled for power stations which fall within jurisdiction of ELM as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kriel and Matla power stations: Thubelihle at 11:00am and Kriel at 05:00pm on 23 August 2018 • Kendal and Duvha power stations: Phola at 11:00am and Emalaheni at 04:00pm on 24 August 2018 	
2.3.4	The relevant ward committees and community structures need to be informed of the project and the scheduled public meetings in the area. NEC would therefore like to involve the Speaker's Office and ward councilors from onset as to ensure that the information is filtered through the structures to the communities, Business Forums and any important stakeholders that may be interested in the project.	
2.3.5	NEC has published a notice regarding the project and scheduled public meetings in several national, regional and local newspapers. Site notices have been placed in the area and we have notified the relevant district and local authorities including ward councilors.	
2.4.	DISCUSSION SESSION	Response
2.4.1	Bangiswani Jiyane Ward 28 Councillor – Phola I did not receive a copy of the BID. Can you please provide me with a copy?	<p>MB (NEC) NEC emailed the BID to the each councilor. The BID contains the project overview and includes the public participation process approach and tasks planned for the 1st round of</p>

NO	ITEM	OWNER
		public engagement. OM (ELM) As the PPO, I will make a copy of the BID and provide it to the councilors in hard copy.
2.4.2	Themba Gulube Ward 19 Councillor –Duvha Power Station, Duvha Park Will transport be provided to the communities at Rietspruit and Duvha Park in order to attend the public meeting in Emalahleni?	MB (NEC) No, transport will not be provided. The project is of such a nature that it is not confined to a specific ward. We have informed the greater public of the project and of the scheduled public meetings. If any parties are interested to attend the meetings they can do so at their own cost.
2.4.3	Nomasonto Mofokeng Ward 30 Councillor – Phola, Ogies, Kendal I have the community of Kendal that would need to attend the Phola public meeting. They will not attend at Phola. They will complain about transport.	
2.4.4	OM – PPO for ELM The challenge remains that the closest affected communities are Duvha Park close to Duvha power station and then Kendal / Ogies close to Kendal power station. These are people living in the feeder areas which would need transport to attend the public meetings. ELM provides transport to our meetings; if not possible we conduct the meetings in their areas. Even at Emalahleni we cannot confirm attendance at the City Hall due to transport issues.	BM (Eskom) Please note that several business, industries and non-government organizations would also attend the scheduled public meetings. There is a broader public that has been invited to the meetings not just communities. Hence venues for meetings also need to be selected to accommodate the broader public.
2.4.5	MB (NEC) As a suggestion we can use alternative venues in the 2 nd round of public consultation instead of using Phola Community Hall we can meet in the Kendal area.	
2.4.6	OM – PPO for ELM We usually use loud hailing to remind/inform communities of public meetings. It is the most effective method. Has NEC arranged for loud hailing as yet?	MB (NEC) No, we contacted the service provides provided by ELM yet the cost for hailing is too expensive per ward and not a financially viable option at this point.
2.4.7	OM – PPO for ELM The councilors will provide NEC with alternative service providers.	MB (NEC) Noted. Thank you.
2.4.8	Mduduzi Mnjomozilva Office Manager – Municipal Manager The people’s motivation for streaming to these public meetings, once they hear it involves Eskom, is job opportunities. OM – PPO from EML To avoid people flooding to the meetings in masses for the wrong reasons we need to communicate the purpose of the meeting very carefully to ensure that the correct people attend the meetings e.g. Youth Office which have particular interests in environmental justice, non-governmental organizations, ward councilors and ward committees who deal with environmental issues in their areas. People must come and ask questions based on the presentation, not former or current electricity problems.	MB (NEC) Yes, that is a very important statement. People need to understand that this project does not provide for any job opportunities not is it a platform for complaints regarding electricity provision. It relates to Eskom’s application for postponement from the MES and whether requesting postponement of the MES will have a significant impact on the ambient air quality and human health.

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2.4.9	<p>OM – PPO from ELM The people of Emalahleni are complaining a lot about the air pollution. The environment is not conducive. We are particularly worried about the new born children that are born into this air pollution.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) The AIR will include the assessment of the impact on the environment, human health. It will also include a cost benefit analysis which will explain the human health cost which must be borne by South Africa as a result of postponement from the MES.</p>
2.4.10	<p>Themba Gulube Ward 19 Councillor –Duvha Power Station, Duvha Park Will the impact on air quality from ash emitted from the power stations also be assessed? The ash is of concern to us. It is dangerous for our health.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) A key tool used in the AIR is dispersion modelling. The model allows NEC to model emissions and determine what the likely ambient air level will be in terms of the exposure of people and the environment. Primary pollutants particulate matter (PM / ash), SO₂ and NO_x will be modelled.</p>
2.4.11	<p>OM – PPO from ELM In what language is the BID made available? The councilors will go back to their communities and inform them of the project and mobilise the relevant structures/parties to attend the meetings on 24 August 2018.</p>	<p>MB (NEC) The BID has been made available in English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, IsiZulu, Siswati and Sesotho. The translated BID's are available from the Naledzi website: www.naledzi.co.za/publicdocuments.</p>
2.8	Closure	OWNER
2.8.1	MB indicated the way forward and closed the meeting.	MB (NEC)

Signed Attendance Register