

Notice: Grootvlei Power Station's Postponement Application from the MES Compliance timeframes is resuming & Public Participation Required

Marissa Botha

Wed 4/1/2020 1:23 PM

To: mafunda1234@gmail.com <mafunda1234@gmail.com>; nbkhanye@gmail.com <nbkhanye@gmail.com>; khanyeD@dipaleseng.com <khanyeD@dipaleseng.com>; khethiwenkosi93@gmail.com <khethiwenkosi93@gmail.com>; nkosiK@dipaleseng.com <nkosiK@dipaleseng.com>;

Cc: Desmond Musetsho <dmusetsho@naledzi.co.za>; thabomabote1@gmail.com <thabomabote1@gmail.com>; willem@likkewaan.com <willem@likkewaan.com>; leboMaruping@gmail.com <leboMaruping@gmail.com>; khanyeD@webmail.co.za <khanyeD@webmail.co.za>; NgwenyaZ@dipaleseng.com <NgwenyaZ@dipaleseng.com>; fransisdlamini@gmail.com <fransisdlamini@gmail.com>; bafanaG41@gmail.com <bafanaG41@gmail.com>; muhawusiphiwe@gmail.com <muhawusiphiwe@gmail.com>; Kgashmokoena@webmail.co.za <Kgashmokoena@webmail.co.za>; kentnyamade@gmail.com <kentnyamade@gmail.com>; thembajmahlangu@gmail.com <thembajmahlangu@gmail.com>; Johasaloni@gmail.com <Johasaloni@gmail.com>;

Importance: High

Good day,

My telephonic conversation in the last three days with MM Busi Khanye, Speaker Khethiwe and all the relevant PR Councillors and Ward Councillors for Dipaleseng copied in this email refers. (Some I have not been able to reach😊)

Let me reintroduce myself, Marissa Botha from Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd. I am a Professional Natural Scientist at Naledzi.

Eskom has applied to the National Air Quality Officer for once-off suspension of the Minimum Emission Standard (MES) compliance timeframe for the new plant limit for Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) for Grootvlei power station (see more details in last paragraph below email signature provided in blue font). Naledzi Environmental Consultants have been appointed to prepare the Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR) and conduct a round of public participation for the application.

The Speaker and some of the councillors copied in this email may recall, this application process was first initiated in August 2018 and we conducted the first round of public participation for this application in August 2018, to announce the project. Eskom however decided to pause the process in September 2018. We will now resume with the application process and will thus pick up where we left. That being preparing the AIR and conducting the second round of public participation.

The aim with the second round of public participation will be to:

- Notify the public that Eskom is resuming with the application for Grootvlei and make the AIR findings available to the public for a 30 day public review and comment period
- Solicit and record comments from the public on the AIR findings and application.

We intend to conduct the public participation after 16 April (after lockdown period) to mid May 2020.

In light of the above, we need to plan and strategise together with the Dipaleseng EM, MM, Speaker, PR Councillors and the Ward Councillors on how we are going to execute the public participation process for the

application.

The recent pronouncements by the President on Covid 19 stating no public engagements including the national lockdown bring forth several limitations to the public participation process. No public meetings can be conducted even if the lockdown is lifted (we can't take the risk). BUT we can implement alternative measures (electronic notifications such as email, teleconferences, virtual meetings/any other).

We would want your inputs on the alternative measures that we can implement (any existing structures in place at municipal level etc) that has proven to be effective.

We understand from several of the councillors that the municipality already has a good electronic platform/structure (whatsapp groups) in place which it communicates with the communities etc. We would want to capitalise on that instead of creating our own structure to avoid confusion.

We herewith request each and everyone of your inputs on how we can conduct the public participation process within Dipaleseng (Balfour, Siyathemba, Grootvlei, Greylingstad, agricultural farm owners) without having to conduct public meetings/engagements.

Your inputs would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

Marissa Botha

Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd

1 Oudekraal Estate, 95 Hamerkop Street, Thabazimbi, 0387 (**Working safely from Home**😊)

Email: botham@naledzi.co.za

Cell: 084 226 5584

www.naledzi.co.za

Regulatory mechanism requiring this application and how it applies to Eskom's Grootvlei power station:

South Africa has a set of Minimum Emission Standards (MES) published under the National Air Quality Act which is a regulatory mechanism aimed at addressing emissions that impact on human health. All Eskom power stations must comply with the MES since three pollutants that are emitted from the power stations' stacks i.e. Particulate Matter (PM), Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) are regulated under the MES.

The MES specifies that existing power stations (plants) must comply with the MES for 'existing plant limits' effective 1 April 2015 and must comply with the more stringent 'new plant limits' by April 2020. However an existing plant can apply for postponement (max 5 years) and now also for once-off suspension of compliance with the 'new plant limits' for stations to be decommissioned by 31 March 2030.

Grootvlei power station already achieves the new plant limit for PM and existing plant limit for SO2 and NOx but cannot meet with the new plant limit for NOx and SO2 within the defined compliance timeframe. Postponement was granted to Grootvlei in 2015 and has until April 2025 to comply with the new plant NOx and SO2 limits. However since Grootvlei is scheduled for decommissioning by no later than 31 March 2030 (by 2028) there are no plans to install additional pollution reduction equipment at the station to operate only 5 years until the station is decommissioned. Therefore Eskom has submitted an application for suspension of the new plant limits until the station is decommissioned (2028).

This application is subject to an Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR) which will determine the impact the station's current emissions will have on the ambient air quality. The ambient air quality is the air breathed by people where they live and work. The findings of this AIR must be available to the public through a public participation process before its submitted to the National Air Quality Officer for decision making.

Application for suspension of MES new plant limits for Eskom's Grootvlei Power Station, Mpumalanga Highveld

Marissa Botha <botham@naledzi.co.za>

Tue 3/31/2020 6:06 PM

To: willem@likkewaan.com <willem@likkewaan.com>

Good day,

Our telephonic conversation today refers;

Eskom has applied for once-off suspension of the Minimum Emission Standard (MES) compliance timeframe for the new plant limit for Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) for Grootvlei power station.

The application is subject to an Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR) and public participation. Naledzi has been appointed to prepare the AIR and conduct the second round of public participation. You may recall, we did the first round of public participation in August 2018 to announce the project and will thus just pick it up from there.

For the second round of public participation we intend to:

- Notify the public of the resume of the application,
- Make the AIR findings available for a 30 day public review and comment period
- Solicit and record comments from the public on the application and study outcome.

We need to plan the second round of public participation for the application and will be informing the Dipaleseng Municipal Manager, Speaker, other PR Councillors and the Ward Councillors of the application in the next few days. We will send joint email to everyone. In this email will request inputs to strategise on how to conduct the public participation given the recent pronouncement by the President on Covid 19.

WE may not publish newspaper notices etc during the lockdown period. No public meetings can be conducted even if the lockdown is lifted. However we can implement alternative measures (electronic notifications, teleconferences, virtual meetings/any other). It is thus on the alternative measures that we would need to agree on before implementation.

Further to get geared for the process we are busy gather contact details and updating the 2018 I&AP Database.

You indicated that we also need to include the TLU Balfour, TLU Grootvlei and TLU Bloekomspruit in the engagement process. Can you provide us with the relevant names and contact details for these unions?

Regards

Marissa Botha

Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd

1 Oudekraal Estate, 95 Hamerkop Street, Thabazimbi, 0387

Cell: 084 226 5584

Re: Notice: Grootvlei Power Station's Postponement Application from the MES Compliance timeframes is resuming & Public Participation Required

Mafunda Makhubo <mafunda1234@gmail.com>

Thu 4/16/2020 12:05 PM

To: Marissa Botha <botham@naledzi.co.za>

Morning Ms Marissa Botha

Your email is noted. I the Executive Mayor hereby wish to support the proposed means of communication, being the WhatsApp groups and Facebook. The official municipal page on Facebook is Dipaleseng Local Municipality. In as far as WhatsApp groups are concerned I would advice that you may forward whatever message you want communicated to any/all councillors for distribution in the various WhatsApp groups within the municipal boundary. unfortunately many if not all councillors do not have access to Zoom. Nonetheless, we will look into it.

regards,

On Thu, Apr 16, 2020 at 11:14 AM Marissa Botha <botham@naledzi.co.za> wrote:

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We have received input from only one councillor thusfar. The suggestion made is that we make use of pamphlets, facebook and whatsapp groups.

Thank you for the suggestion so far. We will not be able to distribute pamphlets but the use of whatsapp groups and facebook pages are a very good and effective idea.

What facebook pages are currently used by the municipality or communities that we can use to insert notifications?

What standing whatsapp groups are currently being used by the municipality to communicate with the communities?

Do all PR councillors, ward councillors, MM, Speaker, EM have access to Zoom? or able to download and use it? We would like to schedule a Zoom video call meeting with you all so that everyone copied on this email can join in and we can share project information and strategise on further engagements?

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Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:23 PM

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Cc: Desmond Musetsho <dmusetsho@naledzi.co.za>; thabomabote1@gmail.com <thabomabote1@gmail.com>; willem@likkewaan.com <willem@likkewaan.com>; leboMaruping@gmail.com <leboMaruping@gmail.com>; khanyeD@webmail.co.za <khanyeD@webmail.co.za>; NgwenyaZ@dipaleseng.com <NgwenyaZ@dipaleseng.com>; fransisdlamini@gmail.com <fransisdlamini@gmail.com>; bafanaG41@gmail.com <bafanaG41@gmail.com>; muhawusiphiwe@gmail.com <muhawusiphiwe@gmail.com>; Kgashmokoena@webmail.co.za <Kgashmokoena@webmail.co.za>; kentnyamade@gmail.com <kentnyamade@gmail.com>; thembajmahlangu@gmail.com <thembajmahlangu@gmail.com>; Johasaloni@gmail.com <Johasaloni@gmail.com>

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CLR M L MAKHUBU
EXECUTIVE MAYOR
DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY

Re: Notice: Grootvlei Power Station's Postponement Application from the MES Compliance timeframes is resuming & Public Participation Required

Bafana Shongwe <bafanag41@gmail.com>

Sat 4/18/2020 5:14 PM

To: Marissa Botha <botham@naledzi.co.za>

The municipal is buzzy with [it.it](#) will be installed in , the 20

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Re: Notice: Grootvlei Power Station's Postponement Application from the MES Compliance timeframes is resuming & Public Participation Required

Marissa Botha <botham@naledzi.co.za>

Wed 4/29/2020 10:58 AM

To: khethiwenkosi93@gmail.com <khethiwenkosi93@gmail.com>; nkosiK@dipaleseng.com <nkosiK@dipaleseng.com>

Good day Khetiwe,

Our below emails refer. We tried to contact you today however reached your voicemail.

The lockdown will be lifted by 30 April 2020 and we intend to conduct the public participation process for Grootvlei power station from 13 May to 11 June 2020. We want to engage the local authority in this regard to transfer project information and work with the existing municipal structure to filter the project information through to the communities. At this stage our only option of engagement is through video conference call.

We understand from PR Councillor Bafana Shongwe that municipal councillors have now installed the Zoom video conference call app on their phones/Lapstops and are already engaging through this platform.

Can you please assist us to schedule a Zoom Video Conference Call with yourself and the Dipaleseng PR councillors, ward councillors, MM and EM for the Grootvlei power station public participation process?

We want to schedule the call for the week of 11 - 15 May 2020? You can confirm which day and time will suite the municipality/councillors and we will confirm with our project team.

Your inputs and advice on how to go about arranging this will be highly appreciated!

Regards,

Marissa Botha

Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd

1 Oudekraal Estate, 95 Hamerkop Street, Thabazimbi, 0387

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From: Marissa Botha <botham@naledzi.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 10:30 AM

To: Bafana Shongwe <bafanag41@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Notice: Grootvlei Power Station's Postponement Application from the MES Compliance timeframes is resuming & Public Participation Required

Good day Bafana,

Thank you for the response.

We will communicate with the Speaker for all necessary arrangements.

Regards,

Marissa Botha

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From: Bafana Shongwe <bafanag41@gmail.com>**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2020 5:14 PM**To:** Marissa Botha <botham@naledzi.co.za>**Subject:** Re: Notice: Grootvlei Power Station's Postponement Application from the MES Compliance timeframes is resuming & Public Participation Required

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From: Marissa Botha**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:23 PM**To:** mafunda1234@gmail.com <mafunda1234@gmail.com>; nbkhanje@gmail.com <nbkhanje@gmail.com>; khanyeb@dipaleseng.com <khanyeb@dipaleseng.com>; khethiwenkosi93@gmail.com <khethiwenkosi93@gmail.com>; nkosiK@dipaleseng.com <nkosiK@dipaleseng.com>**Cc:** Desmond Musetsho <dmusetsho@naledzi.co.za>; thabomabote1@gmail.com <thabomabote1@gmail.com>; willem@likkewaan.com <willem@likkewaan.com>

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Subject: Notice: Grootvlei Power Station's Postponement Application from the MES Compliance timeframes is resuming & Public Participation Required

Good day,

My telephonic conversation in the last three days with MM Busi Khanye, Speaker Khethiwe and all the relevant PR Councillors and Ward Councillors for Dipaleseng copied in this email refers. (Some I have not been able to reach 😊)

Let me reintroduce myself, Marissa Botha from Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd. I am a Professional Natural Scientist at Naledzi.

Eskom has applied to the National Air Quality Officer for once-off suspension of the Minimum Emission Standard (MES) compliance timeframe for the new plant limit for Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) for Grootvlei power station (see more details in last paragraph below email signature provided in blue font). Naledzi Environmental Consultants have been appointed to prepare the Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR) and conduct a round of public participation for the application.

The Speaker and some of the councillors copied in this email may recall, this application process was first initiated in August 2018 and we conducted the first round of public participation for this application in August 2018, to announce the project. Eskom however decided to pause the process in September 2018. We will now resume with the application process and will thus pick up where we left. That being preparing the AIR and conducting the second round of public participation.

The aim with the second round of public participation will be to:

- Notify the public that Eskom is resuming with the application for Grootvlei and make the AIR findings available to the public for a 30 day public review and comment period
- Solicit and record comments from the public on the AIR findings and application.

We intend to conduct the public participation after 16 April (after lockdown period) to mid May 2020.

In light of the above, we need to plan and strategise together with the Dipaleseng EM, MM, Speaker, PR Councillors and the Ward Councillors on how we are going to execute the public participation process for the application.

The recent pronouncements by the President on Covid 19 stating no public engagements including the national lockdown bring forth several limitations to the public participation process. No public meetings can be conducted even if the lockdown is lifted (we can't take the risk). BUT we can implement alternative measures (electronic notifications such as email, teleconferences, virtual meetings/any other).

We would want your inputs on the alternative measures that we can implement (any existing structures in place at municipal level etc) that has proven to be effective.

We understand from several of the councillors that the municipality already has a good electronic platform/structure (whatsapp groups) in place which it communicates with the

communities etc. We would want to capitalise on that instead of creating our own structure to avoid confusion.

We herewith request each and everyone of your inputs on how we can conduct the public participation process within Dipaleseng (Balfour, Siyathemba, Grootvlei, Greylingstad, agricultural farm owners) without having to conduct public meetings/engagements.

Your inputs would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

Marissa Botha

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Regulatory mechanism requiring this application and how it applies to Eskom's Grootvlei power station:

South Africa has a set of Minimum Emission Standards (MES) published under the National Air Quality Act which is a regulatory mechanism aimed at addressing emissions that impact on human health. All Eskom power stations must comply with the MES since three pollutants that are emitted from the power stations' stacks i.e. Particulate Matter (PM), Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) are regulated under the MES.

The MES specifies that existing power stations (plants) must comply with the MES for 'existing plant limits' effective 1 April 2015 and must comply with the more stringent 'new plant limits' by April 2020. However an existing plant can apply for postponement (max 5 years) and now also for once-off suspension of compliance with the 'new plant limits' for stations to be decommissioned by 31 March 2030.

Grootvlei power station already achieves the new plant limit for PM and existing plant limit for SO2 and NOx but cannot meet with the new plant limit for NOx and SO2 within the defined compliance timeframe. Postponement was granted to Grootvlei in 2015 and has until April 2025 to comply with the new plant NOx and SO2 limits. However since Grootvlei is scheduled for decommissioning by no later than 31 March 2030 (by 2028) there are no plans to install additional pollution reduction equipment at the station to operate only 5 years until the station is decommissioned. Therefore Eskom has submitted an application for suspension of the new plant limits until the station is decommissioned (2028).

This application is subject to an Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR) which will determine the impact the station's current emissions will have on the ambient air quality. The ambient air quality is the air breathed by people where they live and work. The findings of this AIR must be available to the public through a public participation process before its submitted to the National Air Quality Officer for decision making.