

**NOTICE REFUSAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (NEMA): GNR 326/327/325/324 FOR THE EXPANSION OF TRANSNET'S LEPHALALE RAILWAY YARD, LEPHALALE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE
DEA REFERENCE NO. 14/12/16/3/3/2/1133**

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) on 18 December 2019 rejected Transnet SOC Limited's application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) to expand the Lephalale Railway Yard from a 100 to a 200 wagon railway yard. Application was made in November 2018 and a full Scoping and EIA Process was followed in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (GNR. 326) under the NEMA.

The present yard is situated behind Medupi Power Station along the Thabazimbi-Lephalale railway track outside Lephalale town and was to be expanded south of the existing track onto the farms Geelhoutkloof 359LQ (Portion 1), Geelhoutkloof 717LQ, Enkeldraai 718LQ and Buffelsjagt 744LQ. Transnet planned to develop four additional railway tracks; bulk fuel storage, associated buildings and infrastructure in order to increase long term rail capacity from the Waterberg area for coal transportation based on confirmed demand for rail capacity. The project is a designated as a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP) set to unlock the northern mineral belt of the Waterberg as a catalyst by creating rail capacity to Mpumalanga and Richards Bay.

Decision open for inspection: Reasons for DEFF's decision, including the process to follow should you wish to lodge an appeal against the decision, are set out in the rejected EA and a copy thereof can be obtained from the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) (see details below).

Appeal Procedure: Should you wish to appeal the decision, you may lodge an appeal to the **DEFF, The Director, Appeals and Legal Review** within 20 days from the date of authorisation **on /before 27 January 2020** by means of either the following methods: By Email: appeals@environment.gov.za | By Hand: Environmental House, 473 Steve Biko Street, Arcadia, PRETORIA, 0083 | By Post: Private Bag X447, PRETORIA, 0001

As per the National Appeals Regulations of 2014 the appeal must be submitted in writing and on an official appeal form obtainable from the DEFF (appeals@environment.gov.za). Also copy the appeal to TRANSNET SOC LIMITED, the EAP and any registered interested and affected parties, organs of state with interest in the matter (obtainable from EAP). For guidance visit www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations

EAP Details: Marissa Botha / Desmond Musetsho, Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd, Tel: (015) 296 3988 / Fax: (015) 296 4021 / Cell: 084 226 5584, Email: botham@naledzi.co.za / dmusetsho@naledzi.co.za