

Date: 5 July 2019

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING

EIA PROCESS, WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION AND BORROW PIT APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED LEPHALALE RAILWAY YARD EXPANSION, AT STEENBOKPAN, LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WATERBERG DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE (DEA reference: Pending)

Notice is hereby given that Transnet SOC Limited has resubmitted its application for environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) to the DEA on 8 July 2019 for the expansion of its Lephalale Railway Yard since the original application lapsed on 6 June 2019. The submission of a Water Use License (WUL) in terms of the National Water Act 36 of 1998 (NWA), and a Mining Permit (Borrow Pit Application) will soon follow.

Transnet intends to expand the existing Lephalale Yard from a 100 - to a 200 wagon train yard to allow for the compilation of 200 wagon trains from the surrounding mines. The yard expansion will take place along the existing single track Thabazimbi-Lephalale railway line on Portion 1 (remaining extent) of the farm Geelhoutkloof 359LQ, farm Geelhoutkloof 717LQ, Enkeldraai 718LQ and Buffelsjagt 744LQ. Two borrow pits will also be established on the farm Buffelsjagt 744LQ. It will go beyond Transnet servitude and requires 22 hectares of land to be acquired. The yard will include four new service tracks and numerous ancillary infrastructures to enable more trains to enter and exit Lephalale, switching of crew including service and maintenance of diesel locomotives.

The study site is situated behind Medupi Power Station approximately 30km west of Lephalale town (Ellisras) in the game farming area of Steenbokpan. It falls within the jurisdiction of Lephalale Local Municipality in the Waterberg District of Limpopo Province.

As part of the environmental authorisation application documentation, Transnet must submit a Scoping Report, Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to DEA, which has been subjected to a public participation process. The Scoping Report was approved on 19 February 2019 under the original application (DEA ref. 14/12/16/3/3/2/1116) therefore this need not be repeated under the new application. Transnet now has 106 days from application resubmission to submit the finalised Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Management Programme inclusive of public inputs to DEA for decision making.

Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd is the independent environmental practitioner (EAP), appointed to obtain the relevant authorisations and to facilitate the EIA Study. The draft EIR has been prepared by Naledzi on acceptance of the Scoping Report and advice by DEA to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA, including public participation process. Specialist investigations as detailed in the Plan of Study for the EIA have now been completed and the findings have been consolidated in the draft EIR. The EIR includes an independent assessment of the project's environmental consequences and recommends ways to reduce the impact of the project by imposing mitigation/management measures.

We are thus now in the second round of public engagement for the project, where the EIR is made available for public review and comment to solicit the final views and comment on the applications. This letter serves as notification of the project and we draw your attention to the following:

- Availability of the draft EIR and EMPR for public review and comment until 6 August 2019;
- A public meeting scheduled during the public review period, on 24 July 2019;
- Way forward

DRAFT EIR AND EMPR AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The draft EIR and EMPr will be made available for public comment from Monday, 8 July 2019 until Tuesday 6 August 2019. An electronic version of the report and comment sheet will be available on the following website: <http://www.naledzi.co.za/public-documents-naledzi.php> . Hard copies of the report and comment sheet will be available at the following public venues for public review and comment:

- Lephalale Public Library
- Marapong Public Library
- Lesedi Tshukudu Thusong Centre

If you wish to comment on the draft EIR and EMPr, you can:

- Complete the enclosed Comment Sheet and submit it to NEC;
- Write a letter; or any additional written submission by email or fax; or
- Contact NEC at the below given contact details.

Please submit your comments together with your name and contact details to Ms. Marissa Botha at the following details: Tel: 015 296 3988 / 084 226 5584 or send us your comments by email to botham@naledzi.co.za or either by fax number to 015 296 4021. Please ensure to submit your comments on or before Tuesday, 6 August 2019.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting has been scheduled to facilitate comments on the draft EIR and EMPr. The EAP will talk over the findings of the EIA Study and Transnet will be available to answer any technical related questions. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be given an opportunity to meet the project team, obtain clarity and provide comments on the project at the meeting. You are invited to attend the following public meeting for the project:

Venue	Date	Time
Komunati Lodge, Farm Altoostyd, Onverwacht, Lephalale 23°45'47.60"S 27°31'33.70"E	Wednesday, 24 July 2019	2pm - 4pm

What's next?

The draft EIR and EMPr will be made available for public review for 30 calendar days until 6 August 2019 at the above stated public venues and on the Naledzi website. A public meeting will take place on 24 July 2019 in the project area to facilitate comments. NEC will record and consolidate all the comments and issues raised at the public meeting and received during the public review period on the draft EIR. The EIR and EMPr will be finalised and the Issues and Response Report will be updated to incorporate public inputs received and subsequently will be submitted to DEA for approval. DEA will thereafter have 107 days to reach a decision on the application.

Thank you for your participation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Botha', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marissa Botha (*Pr.Sci.Nat*)

Naledzi Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd

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