

ESKOM

APPLICATION FOR SUSPENSION AND ALTERNATIVE LIMITS AND POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINIMUM EMISSIONS STANDARDS COMPLIANCE TIMEFRAMES FOR THE MATLA POWER STATION

DATE: March 2019

Report reference: Eskom ENV18-R242 rev 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	ESKOM'S EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN	5
3	REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT EMISSION LIMITS	6
4	LEGAL BASIS FOR DECISION-MAKING	7
4.1	Regulatory requirements	7
4.2	Changes in Regulatory Framework	8
4.3	The Need to Amend Variation Requests	8
5	REASONS FOR APPLYING FOR POSTPONEMENT	8
5.1	Remaining Power Station Life	8
5.2	Water Availability	9
5.3	Environmental Implications of FGD	10
5.4	Impact on Ambient Air Quality	10
5.4.1	Sulphur Dioxide	10
5.4.2	Particulate Matter (PM)	10
5.4.3	Nitrogen dioxide	10
5.4.4	The Highveld Priority Area	11
5.4.5	Cumulative Assessment of Requested Emission Limits in the Northern Highveld	11
5.5	Cost Implications of Compliance with the MES	11
5.5.1	Direct Financial Costs	11
5.5.2	Electricity Tariff Implications	12
5.5.3	Cost Benefit Analysis	13
5.6	Project Delays	15
6	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	15
7	EMISSION OFFSETS	15
8	CONCLUSIONS	16

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Household Intervention for Lead Implementation Sites (KwaZamokuhle and Ezamokuhle)	16
--	----

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Current and requested interim emission limits for Matla.	7
Table 1: Cost and benefits NPV estimates for each scenario and cost:benefit range	14

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIR	Atmospheric Impact Report
AEL	Atmospheric Emission License
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DOE	Department of Energy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ERP	Emission Reduction Plan
ESP	Electrostatic Precipitator
FGC	Flue Gas Conditioning
FGD	Flue Gas desulphurisation
GNR	Government Notice No.
HFPS	High Frequency Power Supply
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
IRR	Issues and Response Report
LNB	Low NO _x Burner
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAQO	National Air Quality Officer
NEMAQA	National Environment Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004)
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NERSA	National Electricity Regulator of South Africa
NO	Nitrogen oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen (NO _x = NO + NO ₂)
PM	Particulate Matter
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter with a diameter of less than 10 µm
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 µm
RTS	Return to Service
SO ₂	Sulphur dioxide
TSP	Total Suspended Particulates
µm	1 µm = 10 ⁻⁶ m
WHO	World Health Organisation

LIST OF ANNEXURES (SEPERATE DOCUMENTS)

Annexure A	Atmospheric Impact Report – Lethabo
Annexure B	Summary Atmospheric Impact Report
Annexure C	Health impact focussed cost benefit analysis
Annexure D	Public Participation report

1 INTRODUCTION

Eskom, as South Africa's public electricity utility, generates, transmits and distributes electricity throughout South Africa. The utility also supplies electricity to neighbouring countries including Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Eskom's principal generation technology is pulverised coal with approximately 90% of its current generating capacity lying in coal-fired power stations. One such power station is the Matla Power Station (hereafter referred to as "Matla"), which lies 30km from Secunda in the Nkangala District of the Mpumalanga Province. The station is located within the Highveld Priority Area (HPA) in terms of the NEMAQA.

In terms of the Integrated Resource Plan and the Eskom Consistent Data Set, coal stations will generally be decommissioned at 50 years. The exact date of decommissioning is determined by current and future demand, the performance of other electricity generating plants and the cost of generation. The last of Matla unit was commissioned in 1983, the power station is planned to be decommissioned between 2030 and 2034.

In terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (NEMAQA), all of Eskom's coal and liquid fuel-fired power stations are required to meet the Minimum Emission Standards (MES) in terms of GNR 893 of 22 November 2013 as amended in GNR 1207 on 31 October 2018 ("GNR 1207") which was promulgated in terms of Section 21 of the NEMAQA. GNR 1207 provides for transitional arrangements in respect of: a once off postponement with the compliance of minimum emissions for new plant for five years from the date of issue, no once off postponement will be valid beyond 31 March 2025; a once off suspension for plants being decommissioned by 31 March 2030; the National Air Quality Officer may grant an alternate emission limit or emission load if certain conditions are met. The application for any of these requests must be submitted by 31 March 2019.

Matla is unable to comply with the new plant MES for any of the three pollutants by 2020 due to financial, technical and water limitations. For Units 1-4 a postponement from compliance to the new plant standard will be requested until 2025. In addition the station will request an alternative limit of 200 mg/Nm³ from 2020 to April 2021 (when ESP upgrade is completed). From April 2021 to March 2025 whilst the HFPS is installed an alternate limit of 100 mg/Nm³ is requested. From April 2025 to decommissioning the station request a limit of 80 mg/Nm³ for Units 1-4. For Units 5&6 a postponement to the new plant standard for PM is requested with an alternate limit of 100 mg/Nm³ proposed until 2025. From 2025 an alternative limit of 80 mg/Nm³ is requested until decommissioning. Matla will also be retrofitted with low NOx burners, which will see Matla compliant with the new plant NOx MES by 2027 and so Matla is requesting a postponement of the new plant standard until 2025 and then an alternative NOx emissions limit of 1 200 mg/Nm³ until 2027. Finally, Matla will not be able to comply with the SO₂ new plant MES at any stage, so is requesting a postponement of compliance to the new plant standard till 2025 and thereafter an alternative limit of 2 600 mg/Nm³ until the station is decommissioned. Matla is scheduled for decommissioning between 2030 and 2034.

The purpose of this document is to present an application for suspension and alternative limits and postponement from specific MES compliance timeframes and propose alternative limits for Matla as required in terms of GNR 1207. The document has been structured to present an overview of Eskom's emission reduction plan including the current shut down of units for reserve storage, the decommissioning plan and its influence on Eskom's emissions. Based on this the proposed emission limits to which Matla could be held and which could then be included in the Atmospheric Emission Licence (AEL) are proposed. The legal basis for applying for suspension, postponement and alternative limits is then presented, including the requirements that must be met in making such an application. Finally, the reasons for the application for suspension, postponement and alternative limits are presented.

2 ESKOM'S EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN

Eskom considers that it is not practically feasible or beneficial for South Africa (when considering the full implications of compliance, planned decommissioning and health impacts) to comply fully with 'new plant' MES by stipulated timeframes. As a result, Eskom proposes to adopt a phased and prioritised approach to compliance with the MES. The highest emitting stations will be retrofitted first. Reduction of Particulate Matter (PM) emissions has been prioritised, as PM is considered to be the ambient pollutant of greatest concern in South Africa. In addition, Eskom proposes to reduce NO_x emissions at the three highest emitting stations. Kusile Power Station will be commissioned with abatement technology to achieve the new plant standards. Medupi is commissioned with abatement technology which can meet PM and NO_x new plant standards and will be retrofitted with flue gas desulphurisation so that the new plant SO₂ limit will also be achieved at Medupi over time. There are six power stations which will be decommissioned before 2030, an additional two by 2035 and the remaining existing plants (excluding Majuba, Medupi and Kusile) by 2044.

Emission reduction interventions to achieve compliance with the new plant emission limit are planned for the following stations:

- Particulate Matter emission reduction: Tutuka, Kriel, Matla and Duvha Units 4-6, Matimba, Kendal and Lethabo;
- NO_x emission reduction: at Matla, Majuba, Tutuka, Camden; and
- SO₂ emission reduction: at Medupi and pilot studies which will confirm the appropriate technology for Matimba and Kendal.

Currently the draft Integrated Resource Plan 2018 is based on a general 50-year life for coal fired power stations however the actual shut down and decommissioning dates of power stations are determined based on economic, technical and environmental criteria. In 2017/18 11 units at Eskom's most costly and oldest plants namely Grootvlei, Hendrina and Komati were shut down for reserve storage. Based on the current electricity demand these three power stations will be shut down by 2025. Further, Arnot, Camden, and Kriel will be decommissioned by 2030. The shutting down of these power plants will reduce the cumulative pollution in the three airsheds, some reduction has already materialised due to the 11 units which are shut down for reserve storage in 2017/18. The emissions load will continuously decrease ensuring that health impacts from Eskom's power stations will not increase.

The retrofits listed above are over and above the emission abatement technology which is already installed at Eskom's power stations, which is:

- Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) at Matimba, Kendal, Lethabo, Matla, Kriel, Tutuka, Komati and 3 of 6 units at Duvha. In addition SO₃ injection plants have also been installed at those stations with ESPs, except Tutuka, to improve the efficacy of the same;
- Fabric Filter Plants (FFPs) at Majuba, Arnot, Hendrina, Camden, , Grootvlei, Medupi, Kusile, and 3 units at Duvha;
- Boilers with Low NO_x design at Kendal and Matimba;
- Low NO_x Burners (LNBS) at Medupi, Kusile and some units at Camden; and
- Flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) at Kusile.

Eskom applied and was granted postponements between 2014 and 2015. Since then Eskom has updated its emission reduction plan to include the enhancement of existing particulate matter abatement technology currently installed at Kendal, Matimba and Lethabo Power Stations.

Implementing the emission reduction plan and installing more efficient emission control technology will reduce Eskom's emissions. The decommissioning of the older stations and an increased use of the newer less

emitting Medupi and Kusile power stations will also result in a substantial decrease in Eskom’s emissions over time. For example, it is projected that compared to a 2020 baseline by 2035 Eskom’s relative PM emissions will reduce by 58%, SO₂ by 66% and NO_x by 46%.

Eskom’s proposed atmospheric emission reduction plan is estimated to cost R 67 billion over the next 10 years. The costs have been included in the latest Multi Year Price Determination tariff application.

The retrofit schedule and projected emission reduction above clearly illustrates Eskom has been and remains committed to implementing emission reduction technologies to improve air quality in South Africa. Though there are delays in the implementation of the retrofit plan Eskom remains committed to ensuring these planned technology installations are completed.

A detailed discussion on Eskom’s emission reduction plan is provided in the Eskom Summary Document.

3 REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT EMISSION LIMITS

Matla Power Station lies 30km from Secunda in the Nkangala District of the Mpumalanga Province and has an installed capacity of 3600MW.

The current limits listed in Table 1 are as in Matla’s AEL (ref: 17/4/AEL/MP312/11/14). The alternative emission limits that are requested for Matla during normal operating conditions are:

Table 2: Current and Requested Emission Limits for Matla

	Current Limit (from AEL)			Requested Emission Limits*		
	Limit value	Averaging period	Date to be achieved by	Limit value	Averaging period	Date to be achieved by
Particulate Matter	200 (Units 1-4)	Daily	1 April 2015 – 1 March 2020	200** (Units 1-4)	Daily	1 April 2020
	50	Daily	1 April 2020	100 (Units 1-4)	Daily	1 April 2021
				80 (Units 1-4)	Daily	1 April 2025
	100 (Units 5 & 6)	Daily	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020	100 (Units 5 & 6)	Daily	1 April 2020
	50	Daily	1 April 2020	80 (Units 5 & 6)	Daily	1 April 2025
Sulphur dioxide	3500	Daily	1 April 2015	3500	Daily	1 April 2020
	2600	Daily	1 April 2020 – 31 March 2025			
	500	Daily	1 April 2025			
Nitrogen oxides	1200	Daily	1 April 2015 – 31 March 2020	1200	Daily	1 April 2020
	750	Daily	1 April 2020	750	Daily	1 April 2027

**The requested interim emission limits above are in mg/Nm³ at 273 K, 101.3 kPa, dry and 10% O₂.*

In summary the postponements and alternative limits requested for Matla are:

- 1) Unit 1-4 Postponement of the new plant PM MES between 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025 and an alternative daily limit of 200 mg/Nm³ from 2020 until March 2021 (when ESP upgrades complete). An alternative limit of 100 mg/Nm³ from April 2021 to March 2025. An alternative limit of 80 mg/Nm³ from April 2025 onwards.
- 2) Unit 5 & 6 Postponement of PM new plant MES and an alternative limit of 100 mg/Nm³ from 2020 to March 2025. An alternative limit of 80 mg/Nm³ from 2025 onwards.
- 3) Postponement of the new plant SO₂ standard and an alternative daily limit for SO₂ of 2600 mg/Nm³ from 1 April 2025 onwards.
- 4) Postponement of NO_x new plant MES and an alternative daily limit of 1200 mg/Nm³ from 1 April 2025 until March 2027 (retrofit complete). Compliance to the standard at 750 mg/Nm³ from 1 April 207 onwards.

Based on the remaining life of the Matla power station, the techno-economics and cost benefits assessment shows that any additional measures other than what was committed to above is not financially viable.

It is requested that the proposed alternative limits only apply during normal working conditions, and not during start-up or shut-down, upset conditions and maintenance periods.

4 LEGAL BASIS FOR DECISION-MAKING

4.1 Regulatory requirements

In terms of Section 14(1) of the NEMAQA, the Minister of Environmental Affairs ("Minister") must designate an officer in the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the National Air Quality Officer. In this regard, Dr Thuli Khumalo has been designated by the Minister as the current National Air Quality Officer. Section 14(4)(b) of the NEMAQA provides that the National Air Quality Officer may delegate a power or assign a duty to an official in the service of his/her administration. It is our understanding that no such delegation has been made for the area of jurisdiction in which the power station is located. Accordingly, Eskom submits this Application to the National Air Quality Officer (NAQO).

In terms of Paragraph (12)(a) – (c) of GNR 1207 of 31 October 2018 (the Regulations), the postponement application must include:

1. An air pollution impact assessment compiled in accordance with the regulations prescribing the format of an Atmospheric Impact Report (AIR) (as contemplated in Section 30 of the NEMAQA), by a person registered as a professional engineer or as a professional natural scientist in the appropriate category;
2. A detailed justification and reasons for the application; and
3. A concluded public participation process undertaken as specified in the National Environmental Management Act and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations made under section 24(5) of the aforementioned Act.

In respect of these requirements we have attached –

1. As Annexure A, a copy of the AIR prepared in respect of Matla. The AIR provides, *inter alia*, an assessment of how ambient air quality is likely to be affected by Matla's requested emission limits by utilising, *inter alia*, atmospheric dispersion modelling;
2. Detailed justifications and reasons for the application (this document Section 5 below); and
3. A comprehensive report on the public participation process followed, and associated documentation (Annexure D)

4.2 Changes in Regulatory Framework

In October 2018 the 2017 National Framework for Air Quality Management in the Republic of South Africa and the Amendment to Listed Activities and Associated Minimum Emission Standards Identified in terms of Section 21 of NEMAQA were published. Eskom and the independent consultants appointed to complete the AIR have made every effort to provide complete information, Eskom reserves the right to supplement the information if it deems appropriate or if requested to do so by the NAQO.

4.3 The Need to Amend Variation Requests

In terms of timing, Eskom is required to submit an AEL variation request parallel to the MES postponement application. The variation request is prepared based on the assumption that the requested MES once off suspension and alternative limits and postponement is granted by the NAQO. If the NAQO decision is substantially different from the requested once off suspension and alternative limits and postponement, Eskom reserves its right to amend its variation request.

5 REASONS FOR APPLYING FOR POSTPONEMENT

As mentioned above, the application for once off suspension and alternative limits and postponement must be accompanied by reasons. Such reasons are set out below and include the fact that emissions from Matla will not result in non-compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), together with a suite of undesired environmental consequences of compliance with the MES including associated water demands, transport impacts and increases in waste and carbon dioxide (CO₂) production. These undesired consequences together with the financial costs of compliance (such as an increase in the electricity tariff) must be weighed up against the benefits that will accrue as a result of compliance with the MES. It is Eskom's view that the benefit of compliance does not justify the non-financial and financial costs of compliance (see section 5.5 below for the details of the cost implication of MES compliance).

None of these reasons should be seen as exclusive (i.e. it is not one reason alone that prevents compliance) but rather all in combination.

5.1 Remaining Power Station Life

Matla is currently scheduled to be decommissioned between 2030 and 2034, according to the Integrated Resource Plan and the Eskom Consistent Data Set which generally plans for a 50 year life for Eskom coal fired power stations.

Based on Eskom's experience at Medupi it is estimated that the time required for FGD development and construction would be 12 years (project development 4 years, commercial process 2 years and construction 6 years – one unit per year). Given these project timelines operation of FGD would only commence from 2032, 3 years after the station begins decommissioning. It is thus considered not financially viable to retrofit Matla with FGD given its current operating life.

5.2 Water Availability

Water is an extremely limited resource in South Africa and it is argued that the implementation of FGD at Matla is not an appropriate decision for a water scarce country.¹

Both wet and semi-dry FGD are critically dependant on large quantities of water being available at the power stations where FGD is deployed. Recent investigations undertaken for Medupi indicate that the implementation of FGD will increase its water requirement by 9 Mm³/annum. Wet FGD approximately triples the water consumption of a dry-cooled power station; semi-dry FGD more than doubles the water consumption of a dry-cooled power station (a wet cooled power station uses more than 10 times the amount of water of an equivalent dry-cooled power station. Typically 0.12 l/kWh for dry cooled to 2 l/kWh for wet cooled). The water demands of FGD increase the water required by a wet-cooled power station like Matla by 7.8 million cubic meters some 20% (around 42 million m³/annum without FGD, to nearly 50 million cubic metres per annum with wet FGD). Matla Power Station being a wet-cooled power station already uses large quantities of water.

The water demands of FGD are thus significant across the power stations and will increase Eskom's water demand by some 59 million m³/annum – a 20% increase in the combined water consumption of Eskom's power stations¹.

The total water demands in the Integrated Vaal River Catchments presently exceed the water availability in the catchment until Phase 2A of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is implemented. The projected completion date of Phase 2A of the LHWP now being beyond 2026. The water supply deficit is expected to grow with the growing urban demand in the greater Gauteng area. It is unlikely that DWS will license new major demands in this system until then. Thus far all efforts by DWS to reduce demand in the Vaal River system have been delayed or ineffective. Rand Water for example are requesting an increase in its water license volume to cater for the additional demand and DWS have refused thus far as there is no water available in the Vaal System.

Eskom has a combined water licence of 360 million m³/annum from the Vaal River Eastern Subsystem to generate electricity (licensed to October 2025 when it will be reviewed). Some of Eskom's older power stations are expected to be decommissioned within the next 5 to 10 years but that does not significantly contribute to reducing the shortages in the Vaal River System as the declining demand for Eskom's water use is already taken into account in the annual operating analysis. Eskom will not be able to re-allocate its water allocation to FGD as a relinquishing of our licenced volume goes back to DWS to determine whom would be the best user for the water being made available.

Beyond 2026 when LHWP 2 comes into operation it is possible that water is available for retrofits to the current fleet supplied from the Vaal System.

The argument is also not just one of having water available in the catchment, it is also one of determining whether FGD is a judicious use of what is an extremely scarce resource in South Africa in the face of multiple competing demands for that same resource. Especially since more than 95% of South Africa's available water has already been allocated.

¹ **Assuming that wet FGD is installed on the 5 newest stations excluding Kusile, and semi-dry FGD is installed on the rest of the coal-fired fleet, excluding stations decommissioned by 2030. The October amendment of the MES for SO₂ new plant to 1000 mg/Nm³ will require a revision of technology choices to determine what can be achieved.*

5.3 Environmental Implications of FGD

FGD is not without negative environmental consequences:

- Up to almost 450 000 tons of sorbent (limestone) per annum would be required to operate the FGD at Matla. The main source of sorbent is the Northern Cape, so the sorbent would need to be transported over hundreds of kilometres, preferably by rail or otherwise by road. The transport of the sorbent would result in environmental impacts, notably greenhouse gas emissions, and fugitive dust emissions. An increase in truck traffic would also result in an increase in driver mortalities, as has been observed in association with coal transport in Mpumalanga.
- Up to 940 000 tons of gypsum will be produced per annum as a by-product of the FGD process. If a high quality limestone is used, a high quality gypsum can be produced by wet FGD, and this could be taken up by the market for e.g. wallboard production. Lower grade gypsum can also be used for agricultural purposes. However, if there is not sufficient demand from the market, the gypsum will need to be disposed of in which case it would need to be managed carefully to ensure that there are no impacts on groundwater or air quality (from fugitive dust emissions).
- Matla is expected to produce an additional approximately 330 000 tons of CO₂ per annum. In addition, the electricity output of Matla would be reduced by around 1% due to the additional auxiliary power requirements of the FGD, and correspondingly the relative CO₂ emissions would increase by 1%.

5.4 Impact on Ambient Air Quality

The impact of Matla's emissions on ambient air quality has been comprehensively assessed in the accompanying independently compiled Atmospheric Impact Report (Annexure A). Dispersion modelling of the current emissions for SO₂, NO_x and PM₁₀ from Matla alone, indicates compliance with the relevant NAAQS for all averaging periods. The net effect of all of the above is that PM is already and unequivocally resulting in unacceptable health risk for a large part of the Highveld. The direct contribution of Matla alone to that situation is considered to be small even taking into account predicted concentrations of secondary PM_{2.5}.

5.4.1 Sulphur Dioxide

It can be seen from the measured ambient air quality measurements that 10-minute and hourly average concentrations of SO₂ are all compliant with the NAAQS implying a permissible health risk for these averaging periods. Non-compliance with the NAAQS is evident, however, for daily average concentrations at the Kriel Village (2015) and Kendal (2015 and 2017) ambient air quality monitoring stations

5.4.2 Particulate Matter (PM)

Ambient PM measured at Kriel Village monitoring station indicates non-compliance with both the daily and annual NAAQS. The same pattern of non-compliance with the NAAQS for both daily and annual averages is seen for Elandsfontein. However, dispersion modelling reveals that predicted ambient PM₁₀ concentrations resulting from current and requested emission limits from Matla Power Station comply with the NAAQS. Analysis of diurnal data shows that the Matla Power Station does not contribute significantly to ambient PM₁₀ levels and that the exceedances derive from ground level emissions such as domestic fuel use. Current and future PM emissions from the power station contribute only marginally to the measured ambient concentrations.

5.4.3 Nitrogen dioxide

Ambient air quality measurements from all monitoring stations, as well as the NO₂ concentrations predicted as a result of the current emissions and requested emission limits for Matla comply with the NAAQS.

5.4.4 The Highveld Priority Area

Eskom is aware that Matla is situated within the Highveld Priority Area and is, as such making a substantial financial investment into reducing emissions from Matla's operations, through the installation of low NOx burners over the next 6 – 7 years, Matla has already made good progress toward reducing particulate emissions through the upgrading of electrostatic precipitator's and dust handling plant. This will be further enhanced over the next five years with the completion of the upgrades on all the units and the installation of high frequency power supply (HFPS) on each of the units.

5.4.5 Cumulative Assessment of Requested Emission Limits in the Northern Highveld

In addition to the individual AIR completed for each power station, an air quality report, considering the cumulative impact of the Eskom stations including Matla over the HPA was completed (Annexure B). The analysis included three scenarios; which considered (1) the actual emissions, (2) emissions if the MES was complied with and (3) emissions if six power stations are decommissioned by 2030. The general conclusions of the analysis indicate that the quality of air will be in compliance with NO₂ National Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), but noncompliance with the daily and annual SO₂ standards in several areas across the Highveld. Daily and annual average PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations could be in noncompliance and for extended periods of time. The effect of the above is that PM ambient levels currently result in increased health risk for a large part of the Highveld.

Dispersion modelling results based on individual and combined power station emissions, excluding all other sources; indicate a negligible contribution to PM pollution. In addition the diurnal pattern in PM concentrations based on monitored ambient data clearly indicate a morning and early evening peaks, typical of low level source contributions. However, a combination of SO₂ and NO_x emissions from all the Highveld power stations is predicted to form a significant component of the PM_{2.5} load especially over Emalahleni area, which is in noncompliance with PM standards, is a cause for concern.

In addition, the combined SO₂ emissions from all Eskom power stations are predicted to contribute a significant amount to the pollution in and around the Emalahleni and Middelburg areas and even extending south towards Komati Power Station. However analysis indicates that the non-compliance is not only due to Eskom Power Stations but a function of a multitude of sources in the Highveld.

The dispersion modeling and ambient air quality monitoring data indicate that the elevated pollution levels in the Highveld require a holistic approach, addressing all identified and potential sources. Therefore, a single approach, targeted at only eliminating Eskom power station emissions will not result in acceptable ambient air quality levels that are not harmful to human health and the environment.

5.5 Cost Implications of Compliance with the MES

The financial implications of compliance to the MES, most especially the financial implications of compelling existing plants to comply with 'new plant' standards is presented below.

5.5.1 Direct Financial Costs

Eskom estimates that the CAPEX cost of full compliance with the MES at Eskom's power stations is greater than R187 billion in 2019 real terms (excluding financing costs), and that annual OPEX costs are at least R5 billion per annum. This includes the costs for emission control for the power stations being decommissioned post 2030 including flue gas desulphurisation at Medupi. Medupi's other emission abatement costs and all emission abatement costs for Kusile have been excluded from these totals because they have already been incorporated into the Medupi and Kusile projects. These costs are considered to be accurate to a factor of two.

The breakdown of the CAPEX costs is as follows:

- SO₂ emission reduction by FGD is estimated to cost R 140 – 175 billion. The estimated cost assumes R 15 - 26 billion per power station dependent on installed capacity and wet or dry FGD technology. that wet FGD is implemented on Medupi, Majuba, Matimba, Kendal, and Tutuka, (power stations being decommissioned after 2035) and that semi-dry FGD is implemented on Duvha, Lethabo and Matla (stations decommissioned between 2030 and 2035). For the tariff impact calculation an amount of R150 billion is used.
- NO_x emission reduction by the most appropriate technology is estimated to cost between R10 and R40 billion for all power stations. This includes Low NO_x Burner retrofits at stations which need them, and burner optimisations at others. For the tariff impact calculation an amount of R20 billion is used.
- Particulate Matter emission reduction by FFP retrofits is estimated to cost between R15 and R40 billion. For the tariff impact calculation an amount of R40 billion is used.

Full compliance with the PM and NO_x MES at Matla would require a fabric filter plant retrofit and dust handling plant upgrade (CAPEX of over R6.1 billion) and a Low NO_x Burner retrofit (over R2 billion). The proposal for Matla is for an alternate limit for PM of 80mg/Nm³, this would reduce the cost from R 6.1 to R1.5 billion. Plans are underway for low NO_x burners and full compliance will be achieved in 2025 and 2027. Compliance with the SO₂ MES would require FGD (well in excess of R 15 billion), however this is not planned for Matla.

The CAPEX cost estimates were derived as follows:

- FGD: Costs for existing stations are based on a study done by EON Engineering for all Eskom's power stations in 2006, adding on provisions for balance of plant considerations and owner's development costs, and inflated to 2019 costs. Costs are considered to be accurate to a factor of two. Costs for Medupi are according to the Concept Design Report, and are considered to be accurate to within 20%.
- LNBS and/or OFA: Costs are based on International Energy Agency (2006) costs, escalated for inflation, rate of exchange and owner development costs. Costs are considered to be accurate to a factor of two.
- FFPs: Costs are based on actual tender prices for an enquiry for FFP retrofits at Matla and Duvha in 2011/12. Costs are considered to be accurate to 40% for Tutuka, Matla, Duvha and Grootvlei and to approximately a factor of two for other power stations.

The OPEX costs are only for FGD, and are also based on costs in the EON Engineering Report for the existing fleet, and on costs in the Medupi Concept Report for Medupi. Again, the OPEX costs do not include OPEX for Kusile. The main cost items are the sorbent (limestone), water, gypsum disposal, auxiliary power and maintenance costs. The certainty with which Eskom presents costs depends on the stage of the project. Before concept release approval, costs are based on published international averages, and so are considered to be accurate to a factor of two. Once the conceptual designs have been done, costs are generally accurate to within 50%. Once the detailed designs are completed, costs are considered to be accurate to within 20%. There is only complete certainty about the costs once the contract has been placed.

5.5.2 Electricity Tariff Implications

The electricity tariff is the mechanism through which the cost of producing electricity is recovered from the consumers thereof. The cost of compliance with the MES would be part of the inherent cost of production of electricity in future. Eskom has estimated that full compliance with the MES by 2020 would require the electricity tariff to be on average between 7 and 10% higher than what it would be in the absence of the emission abatement retrofits, over a 20-year period. The difference between the base tariff and the tariff including the costs of MES compliance would be slightly higher (than the mentioned average) in the earlier years and slightly lower than the mentioned average in the later years. The implications for the tariff are of course

dependent on when the emission abatement retrofits are installed, and what assumptions are used for interest and inflation rates and future base electricity tariffs.

This tariff calculation is based on the following assumptions:

- The CAPEX and OPEX costs are the mid-point amounts as provided above.
- The CAPEX costs are incurred in 2020, and fully implemented over a period of up to six years (with a shorter period resulting in the higher %, in the range mentioned above).
- The average remaining power station life is 20 years, thus the CAPEX costs for the retrofits are depreciated over a 20-year period.
- The inflation rate is 6%.
- Nominal pre-tax cost of capital is 14%.
- Cost-reflective electricity tariffs are reached within five years after Multi Year Price Determination 3.

The electricity tariff is applied for by Eskom, but decided on by the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). Eskom has included the CAPEX required to cover the proposed emission reduction plan with an estimated cost of R 67 billion over the next 10 years, it is covered in the MYPD4 application (for costs over the next 5 years). If there is a requirement for additional retrofits based on the DEA response to this application, these costs would need to be provided for through the tariff, failing which Eskom's financial health will further deteriorate and the ability to raise funding for these projects would be limited. The original assumptions are still at risk. On 7 March 2019 the price increase of 15% per annum was declined by NERSA, Eskom will now need to further prioritise its operations including a review of the Eskom Emission Reduction Plan and seek further support to its balance sheet. In addition, Eskom has not reached a level where it is recovering its efficient and prudent costs (even at the end of the MYPD 4 period if the 15% increase is approved).

5.5.3 Cost Benefit Analysis

The basis of the assessments of the impact of power stations emissions on human health and the environment is a comparison of the measured and predicted air quality concentrations with the NAAQS. Stakeholders have argued correctly that the NAAQS cannot be interpreted to imply no health risk at all but the counter argument is that the NAAQS express a 'permissible' level of risk. To manage air quality to a point that it is completely free of risk is to invoke such significant financial and non-financial costs that those costs will in themselves result in severe potential economic and social consequences. In these terms it is necessary to present here some perspectives on the cost-benefit of full MES compliance.

In the 2017 National Air Quality Framework for Air Quality Management provision is made for suspensions and alternative emission limits due to the potential economic implications of emission standards on existing plant. The provision is provided because a sector specific Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) was not completed prior to setting standards. Eskom commissioned a health impact focussed CBA to support the decision making process for this application. The aim of the CBA was to determine the health costs associated with current emissions, health benefits associated with compliance to the new MES, and the direct and indirect costs of compliance under the scenarios tested. The CBA followed the approach recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and it used input (exposure response functions) provided by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC).

Health benefits associated with each scenario were calculated against the baseline that assumed no new abatement technologies would be installed, and all plants would continue to emit air pollution at their current rates until decommissioning. Scenario costs were calculated using Eskom's estimates of abatement technology capital and operational spending requirements.

Scenarios were then compared in a cost-benefit analysis with a cost: benefit ratio, in terms of which a number greater than 1 indicates that the costs outweigh the benefits, and a number less than 1 indicates that the benefits outweigh the costs. The CBA ratios need to be interpreted with care. They are meant only to provide a perspective on and inform the decision-making process underlying the scenarios. It is further to be noted that the cost benefit ratios were assessed using different discount rates (8.4%, 1% and -1%) and the order of the scenarios as measured by cost benefit ratio remained the same for all discount rates.

Table 3: Cost and benefits NPV estimates for each scenario and cost:benefit range

	FC (S1)		ERP (S2)		ERP+FGD (S3)		ERP+ED (S4)	
	<i>lower</i>	<i>upper</i>	<i>lower</i>	<i>upper</i>	<i>lower</i>	<i>upper</i>	<i>lower</i>	<i>upper</i>
Million Rands								
NPV of Costs	-43 369	-65 053	-16 923	-25 385	-21 205	-31 808	-16 923	-25 385
NPV of benefits	2 403	21 625	1 962	17 661	2 252	20 264	3 374	30 367
NPV of Benefits minus Costs	-40 966	-43 428	-14 961	-7 724	-18 954	-11 544	-13 549	4 982
Cost:Benefit Ratio (<i>range</i>)	18.0	3.0	8.6	1.4	9.4	1.6	5.0	0.8
Cost:Benefit Ratio (<i>central</i>)	4.5		2.2		2.4		1.3	

The modelling shows the early decommissioning of the coal-fired power stations assessed in S4 ERP+ED (implementation of the ERP and early decommissioning of Grootvlei, Hendrina and Komati), would have a significantly larger beneficial effect on health costs than abatement technologies alone. This plays a large role in positioning Scenario 4 as the most beneficial scenario, both in terms of largest health cost benefits, lowest cost of abatement, as well as relative cost:benefit ratio.

While S1 FC (full compliance to the MES) would eventually have the second most absolute benefits (after S4 ERP+ED), the uncertainty of the effectiveness of actual emission reduction (even if Eskom complies with the MES ambient concentrations will remain high due the significance of other sources) as well as the long implementation timeframe mean that NPV of benefits values are reduced.

Implementation of the Eskom Emission Reduction Plan (S2 – ERP) is shown to be more beneficial from a cost benefit perspective than implementation of the ERP with the addition of FGD at Kendal (S3) and full compliance to the MES (S1).

In addition it should be noted that increased implementation of the PM reduction technology will inflate the cost of electricity, making it more unaffordable to poor communities who are typically exposed to elevated PM10 concentrations thereby curtailing access to one of the most potentially effective means of mitigating the current health risk.

In respect of SO2 emissions the cost-benefit is more difficult to qualify. Although the risk of non-compliance with the NAAQS is generally low, stakeholders have presented that it is ‘unacceptable to allow the continued emissions of large quantities of SO2’. In principle this comment is accepted but again the argument is one of weighing up both the financial and non-financial costs of reducing those emissions. The argument has already been made that the water use implications of SO2 control are untenable and that the cost benefit ratio does not support FGD as the best option to reduce the impact on health.

No argument is presented anywhere in these applications that reducing atmospheric emissions is not required. The argument is simply one of ensuring that emissions reductions are carefully planned and phased so that the associated cost-benefit is positive. A key consideration is that half of the existing Eskom power stations will be shut down and decommissioned in the next 10 – 15 years significantly reducing the emissions. The planned offset project which will reduce low level emissions in communities in the vicinity of Eskom power station has not been studied long enough to conclusively provide cost benefit. However initial assessment indicates a significant reduction in exposure to indoor air pollution. In cases where solid fuel stoves are removed and replaced with LPG equipment (and in the absence of regression), the particulate matter emissions are avoided completely. Focussing on coal only and taking the annualised coal use of 1206kg per household (control group mean, 2016) – the resulting PM emissions that can be avoided are 14.48kg of PM2.5 per year per household and 15.57kg of PM10 per year per household.

5.6 Project Delays

The process to implement projects such as the emission retrofit projects is complex and there is a continual risk of delays affecting planned project completion dates. Notwithstanding implementing controls to reduce project delays such as high level project oversight and attempts to fast track commercial processes some of the retrofit projects have been subject to delays. The retrofit of low NOx burners at Matla have been delayed, it was originally planned to complete the project by 2025, the retrofit on all units will be complete by 2027.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The requirement that the public participation process for an application for postponement from the MES follow the process specified in the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. Eskom supports and aligns its public participation process with the requirements as stipulated within the NEMA EIA Regulations. The public participation process followed for this postponement application has increased the number of public meetings to include communities in the vicinity of the power stations. Unfortunately some meetings had to be postponed and then cancelled due to unrest. With regards to the AEL variation request to be submitted, the public participation process undertaken meets the requirements of Section 46 of NEMAQA. For details pertaining to the public participation process, the reader is referred to Annexure D of this Application.

7 EMISSION OFFSETS

Eskom is willing to implement emission offsets in areas where power stations impact significantly on ambient air quality, and where there is non-compliance with ambient air quality standards as a condition of a granted once off suspension and alternative limits and postponement. Eskom is of the view that in many cases household emission offsets are a more effective way of reducing human exposure to harmful levels of air pollution, than is retrofitting power stations with emission abatement technology. Emission retrofits at power stations also increase the cost of electricity, which may make electricity unaffordable for more people, resulting in an increase in the domestic use of fuels and a deterioration in air quality in low income areas.

Eskom has undertaken several feasibility and pilot studies (2011 – 2018) in KwaZamokuhle, a township near Hendrina Power Station to identify and test potential offset interventions. Based on the results of the studies conducted to date, it was concluded that ambient air quality in the affected communities could be improved by replacing household's coal stoves with a hybrid gas electricity stoves and a LPG heater together with retrofitting the houses with a ceiling to insulate the houses.

The recommended Air Quality Offset intervention for the lead implementation (in KwaZamokuhle and Ezamokuhle) entails the following (Figure 1);

Provision of a basic plus retrofit which consists of;

- Insulation entailing installation of a SPF ceiling system and draft proofing
- Electrical rewiring and issuance of Certificate of Competence (CoC).

Stove swap which entails

- Provision of electricity based energy source with LPG backup. This will include a hybrid electric gas stove, LPG heater plus 2x9 kg LPG cylinders and Compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) for energy efficiency lighting.
- Removal and disposal of the coal stove



Figure 1: Household Intervention for Lead Implementation Sites (KwaZamokuhle and Ezamokuhle)

The lead implementation in KwaZamokuhle and Ezamokuhle is planned to commence in 2019. The large scale rollout of offset intervention is planned for 2020 to 2025 (including offset interventions for Matla Power Station).

8 CONCLUSIONS

Eskom is committed to ensuring that it manages and operates its coal-fired power stations in such a manner that risks to the environment and human health are minimised and socio-economic benefits are maximised. As set out in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, there is the need to recognise the interrelationship between the environment and development. There is a need to protect the environment, while simultaneously recognising the need for social and economic development. There is the need therefore to maintain the balance in the attainment of sustainable development.

The Eskom Emission Reduction Plan will lead to a reduction in total emissions from several power stations specifically particulate emissions. Further 6 power stations will be decommissioned by 2030 reducing the total load of all emissions in each of the three air sheds applicable to this year's application.

It is anticipated that the installation of the planned retrofit by 2025 will reduce emissions to 80 mg/Nm³ and as such an alternative limits of 200 mg/Nm³ (Unit 1-4) and 100 mg/Nm³ (Unit 5 &6) are proposed to 2025 and 80 mg/Nm³ thereafter. The ambient standard for NO_x is complied with but the NO_x emissions from Matla are high, it is therefore planned to retrofit low NO_x burners by 2027, a postponement and alternate limit is requested until 2027 after which Matla will comply with New Plant Standards. SO₂ levels in the airshed are in general compliance with the ambient limit (exceedances of the daily limit are recorded) and the modelled impact of Matla on SO₂ shows that it does not individually create a situation of non-compliance. Considering this, the costs and the implications of implementing FGD it is not considered appropriate to implement FGD and an alternative limit of 2600 mg/Nm³ is proposed.

The financial costs of compliance with the MES will translate into an increase in the electricity tariff. It is requested that the long lead time of 12 years required to design, procure and construct a flue gas desulphurisation plant and Eskom's financial position which limits funding options, is considered in the decision making process.

The Air Quality offset programme initiated by Eskom will continue to be implemented, based on current information Eskom believes this programme will reduce direct exposure to harmful indoor pollution and improve the quality of life.

Given that a revised National Framework for Air Quality Management and the Amendment of Listed Activities and Emission Standards were only published in October and there is a requirement to submit applications by 31 March 2019. Eskom has complied with this requirement but reserves the right to submit additional information including additional modelling scenarios which assess the closure of power stations, a high level assessment of technologies which could meet the new 1000mg/Nm³ SO₂ emission limit and any other aspects of significance.

Eskom believes given the motivation presented above in terms of its complete emission reduction plan and its implications and the specific detail in respect of Matla that the application for the requested alternate limits are appropriate and in line with the relevant Constitutional, regulatory and policy requirements and as such the application should be approved by the NAQA.