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15 JANUARY 2009

ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY / PROPERTY OWNER

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION: GDACE REF NO: GAUT 002/ 08-09 / N0865

Dear Sir/Madam

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT AND INVITATION TO COMMENT: NOTICE OF SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 20MVA CORNWALL SUBSTATION LOCATED ON A PORTION OF PORTION 330 OF THE FARM DOORNKLOOF 391 JR.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the proposed project, and to indicate how interested and affected parties can become involved in the EIA project, and contribute to the EIA process.

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Tshwane Public Works & Infrastructure Development Energy & Electricity Division proposes the construction of the **20 MVA**

Cornwall Substation, located on a Portion of Portion 330 of the Farm Doornkloof 391 JR.

Geopower Consulting Electrical Engineers on behalf of Tshwane Public Works & Infrastructure Development Energy & Electricity Division, appointed Seedcracker Environmental Consulting cc, an independent environmental assessment practitioner, to conduct the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment, including the public participation process, for the proposed substation.

The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality.

MOTIVATION:

The construction of the proposed 20MVA Cornwall Substation is necessary to re-inforce the load transfer capability of the Centurion 132kV line distribution network.

The Cornwall substation needs to be constructed to enable the City of Tshwane to supply 11kV to the new and planned township developments in the Irene / Rietvlei area.

The foregoing infrastructure upgrade will provide surplus line transfer capacity that will benefit a large percentage of the existing substations in Centurion. The provision of electrical supply capacity will benefit the societies in these regions as capacity will be created to supply the new consumers as well as new township developments.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No 107 of 1998), the applicant, Tshwane Public Works & Infrastructure Development Energy & Electricity Division, requires the approval from the Competent Environmental Authority, in this case the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment, to undertake this development.

Government Notice (GN) No. R. 386 and R. 387 of 2006, list specific activities which require approval from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE). For the purpose of this development, the following listed activities in GN R. 386 & R. 387 are anticipated to be applicable to the proposed development:

Act, No.R.386 21 April 2006

15) The construction of a road that is wider than 4 metres or that has a reserve wider than 6 metres, excluding roads that fall within the ambit of another listed activity or which are access roads of less than 30 metres long.

Act, No.R.387 21 April 2006:

1a) The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for -

- (a) the generation of electricity where -
 - (i) the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more; or
 - (ii) the elements of the facility cover a combined area in excess of 1 hectare;

1I) The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the transmission and distribution of above ground electricity with a capacity of 120 kilovolts or more.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE SCOPING AND EIA PHASES OF THE DEVELOPMENT:

- Potential surface water pollution
- Soil disturbances and pollution
- Soil erosion
- Geotechnical stability and suitability
- Impact of flora, fauna, avi-fauna & other
- Habitat destruction or loss
- Safety, health and security
- Heritage Impact (Historical sites)
- Visual Impact (Topography and major land features
- Quality of living environment
- Alternatives

ALTERNATIVES

As part of the EIA process, alternatives will be assessed. Alternatives include location, construction methods, and the like.

SCOPING AND EIA PROCESS

The key objective of the **public participation process** forming part of the Environmental Scoping and EIA process is to obtain the inputs of I&APs. This process includes press advertisements, distribution of background information documents and open and transparent communication.

Objectives

The public participation process has the following objectives:

- To inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- To provide an opportunity for I&APs to raise issues, concerns and suggestions;
- To promote transparency and an understanding of the project and its consequences;
- To serve as a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs; and
- To serve as data gathering mechanism for the Social Scoping Study.

The public participation process aims to promote a project process, which is both technically and financially feasible, as well as socially acceptable or desirable. It does not serve as a vehicle to quell opposition or to foster consensus among role-players.

The EIA project team will identify issues and assess the impacts in terms of their significance in accordance with the EIA guidelines. The project team includes:

ORGANISATION	SPECIALIST	FIELD
Seedcracker	Stephanie	Environment
Environmental	Webber	al
Consulting		Assessment
(SEC)		Practitioner,
		Project
		Manager and
		Integration
To be determined		Ecological
		and
		Biodiversity
		Assessment
National	Johnny	Heritage
Cultural	van	Impact
History	Schalkwyk	Assessment
Museum		

PHASES OF THE EIA

An EIA is completed in phases, as outlined in Figure 1. The provisional scheduling of these phases for the over head power line and substations is:

Scoping phase of the EIA

January - Feb 2009

- First round of public participation: distribution of this Background Information Document, advertisements in selected local and regional newspapers to announce the project and opportunities to participate
- Conduct specialist studies

Mar - April 2009

- Distribution of a Draft Scoping Report, including the issues and response report, for comment
- Convening public meetings if necessary

May 2009

- Submission of the final scoping report to the approving authority, GDACE
- Distribution of the final scoping report for information to registered stake holders

Impact Assessment phase of the EIA

July - Aug 2009

- Follow up specialist studies based on outcomes of the scoping phase and issues raised by the IAP's.
- Compilation of a draft EIA report

Aug – September 2009

- Advertise the availability of the draft EIA report
- Distribution of the draft EIA report, including issues and response report, for comment
- Submit the final EIA report to GDACE

Decision making phase

October -November 2009

- Finalise the EIA report based on comment received from GDACE
- After obtaining environmental authorization for the project, (Record of Decision), advise the registered parties of the decision as well as ways to appeal the decision.

Should you wish to deliver any issues of concerns/comments with regards the proposed development, please **register** as an I&AP, by completing and submitting the attached Registration and **Comment Sheet** on or **before** the **15th February 2009.** Your registration in this matter will ensure your active participation and involvement throughout the EIA process.

If you would like to obtain more information on the project, please feel free to contact Stephanie Webber from Seedcracker Environmental Consulting CC at 082 626 4117, F: 086 518 4885 or e-mail: <u>stephweb@mweb.co.za</u>.

Your comment is important!

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I&AP REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

GDACE REF NO: GAUT 002 / 08 - 09/ N 0865 Attention: Stephanie Webber Tel: 082 626 4117 Fax: 086 518 4885 Email: stephweb@mweb.co.za Post: P O Box 12460 Clubview 0014

Please complete and return this form to Seedcracker Environmental Consulting cc by no later than 15 February 2009

TITLE	
NAME	
SURNAME	
COMPANY NAME / INTEREST	
POSTAL ADDRESS	
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	
POSTAL CODE	
TEL	
MOBILE	
FAX	
EMAIL	

COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION: (Please use additional sheets if required)

PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO INDICATE THE CONTACT DETAILS OF THOSE PARTIES YOU WISH SEEDCRACKER ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING CC TO INFORM OF THIS DEVELOPMENT:



Stephanie Webber, Environmental Assessment Practitioner. BSc Animal Science (Hons), BSc Wildlife Management (Hons)

