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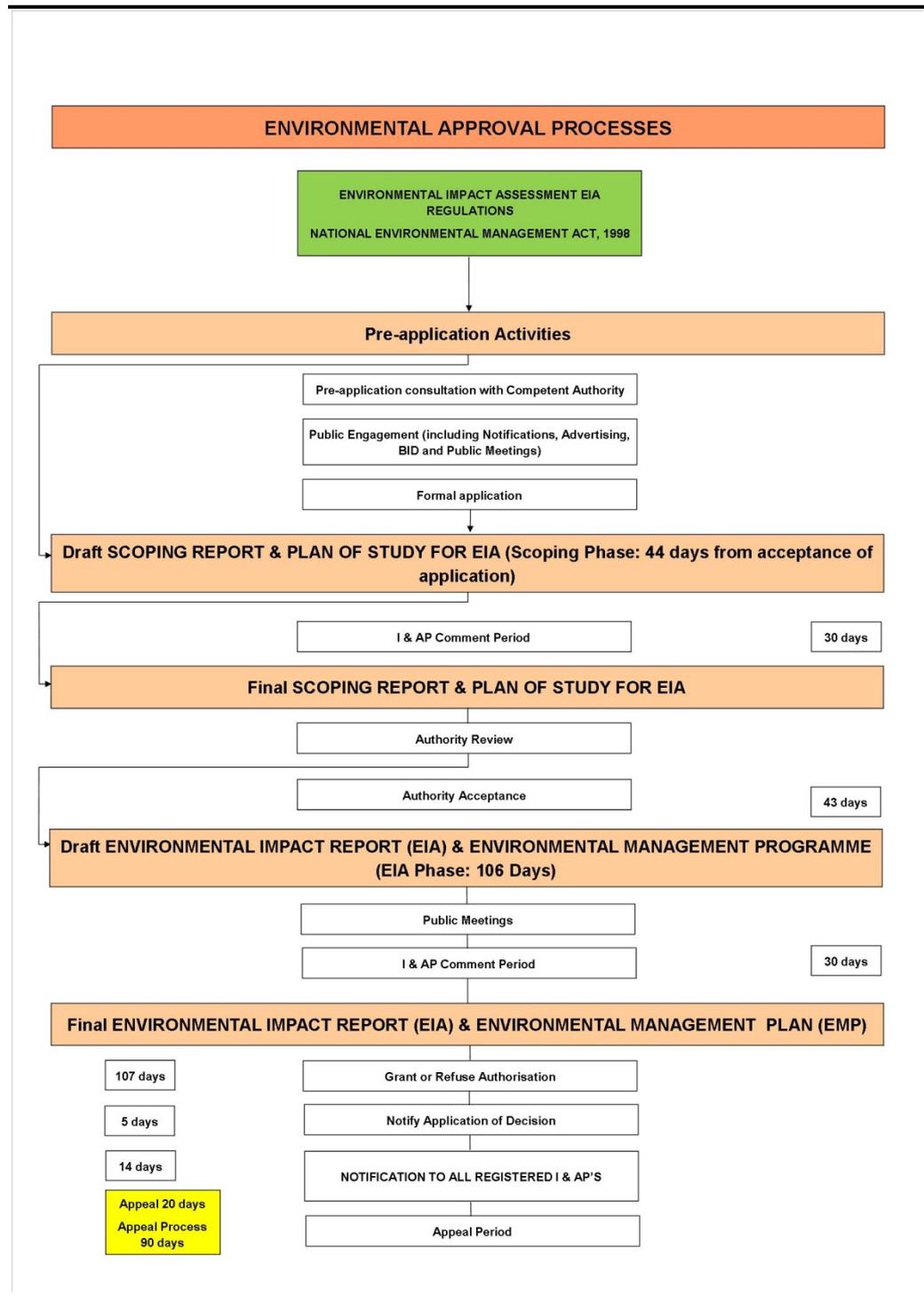
INTRODUCTION

EIA is a systematic process that identifies and evaluates the potential impacts a proposed Project may have on the physical, biological, chemical, and social environment and develops mitigation measures that will be incorporated in order to eliminate, minimise or reduce these impacts.

As described in *Chapter 2*, the process in South Africa is regulated by the NEMA Environmental Assessment Regulations (GNR R982/2014 as amended). The overall Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (EIR) process is illustrated in *Figure 6.1*.

This EIA process that is being undertaken for the project is aligned with the requirements of the EIA Regulations (2014).

Figure 6.1 Integrated Environmental Impact Assessment Process



The EIA process is initiated by the Scoping phase (inclusive of a notice of intent to the authorities), as shown in *Figure 6.1*. During the Scoping phase the Terms of Reference for the full EIA is formulated, and requirements from the authorities clarified and any potential issues and concerns identified via consultation.

After completion of the Scoping phase, detailed specialist studies will be undertaken in order to address issues identified during the Scoping phase. Specialists are expected not only to provide baseline information in their particular field of expertise for the study area, but also to take this study further and identify which project actions will result in significant impacts. Consultants are also expected to suggest ways in which these negative impacts could be mitigated, to reduce their severity.

Draft reports are submitted for public review, during which time ERM present the key findings to all interested and affected parties (I&APs). All comments made by I&APs are captured in a Issues and Response Report, and in this report responses to all issues and concerns raised during the public review period are provided.

All recommendations cited in the EIA report must be detailed in an Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr), which defines the mitigation actions to be implemented. EMPs are recognised as important tools for the sound environmental management of projects.

A principal objective of the Scoping phase is to identify the key environmental, social and health issues and those Project activities with the potential to contribute to, or cause, impacts to the environmental and social receptors.

At the Scoping stage, the key issues are identified (often together with input from key stakeholders) and understood to a level which allows the definition of the Plan of Study for the EIA.

Issues that are not relevant are scoped out. This enables the resources for the EIA to be focused on collecting required information and identifying significant impacts while carrying out specialist studies and stakeholder engagement activities in an effective and efficient manner.

Specifically, the objectives of the Scoping phase are to:

- Understand the legislative context and establish a description of baseline conditions;

- Identify project alternatives and preferred options for the proposed development;
- Identify stakeholders and plan or initiate communication with these stakeholders so as to gather issues of concern;
- Identify potential significant impacts; and
- Develop the Plan of Study for the EIA which sets out the proposed approach to the EIA, potential impacts to be evaluated and methodology to be used.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the Scoping phase, and are described below:

- Pre-application correspondence with the DEA and DMR;
- desktop review;
- site visit;
- preparation of the Draft Scoping Report;
- submission of application form;
- release of Draft Scoping Report for public comment;
- finalisation of Scoping Report for submission to DEA.

6.3.1 *Desktop Review*

An initial review of available information was conducted. The desktop review included the following tasks:

- Initial review of relevant legislative and guidance documents;
- Identification and review of secondary data;
- Development of an outline description of the planned Project activities; and
- Development of a plan for stakeholder engagement.

6.3.2 *Public Participation*

Details of the public participation process are provided in *Section 6.6*.

6.3.3 *Scoping Report*

In accordance with the regulatory requirements stipulated in GNR 984 of the EIA Regulations (2014), this Scoping Report (including Plan of Study), has been compiled as part of the EIA process.

The draft Scoping Report was made available to stakeholders through the Project website, selected libraries, and hard copies provided on request for a period of 30 days. After the 30 day public comment period a Comments and Responses Report was compiled and is attached as Annex B6 to the final

Scoping Report. This final Scoping Report (including Plan of Study) will be submitted to the competent authority for their consideration.

Registered I&APs will be notified once the final Scoping Report has been submitted. The comments and responses report is included in the final Scoping Report and is to be distributed to registered I&APs.

6.3.4 *Submission of Application Form*

The completed EIA application form was submitted to the competent authority along with the draft Scoping Report for comment on 22 May 2017. In terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations the final Scoping Report is to be submitted to the competent authority within 44 days of submission of the application form.

6.4 *SPECIALIST STUDY PHASE*

A number of specialist studies have been identified to address key issues of concern. The findings of these studies will be incorporated into the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) that will close out the Integration and Assessment Phase. Further information related to the approach to the specialist studies and the impact assessment is contained in the Plan of Study for EIA in *Chapter 8*.

6.5 *INTEGRATION AND ASSESSMENT PHASE*

The final phase of the EIA is the Integration and Assessment Phase, which is described in detail in the Plan of Study for EIA (*Chapter 8*).

The assessment of impacts proceeds through an iterative process considering three key elements:

- a) Prediction of the significance of impacts that are the consequence of the proposed development on the natural and social environment.
- b) Development of mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or manage the impacts.
- c) Assessment of residual significant impacts after the application of mitigation measures.

The Draft EIA Report will be made available to I&APs for a 30 days public comment period. Registered and identified I&APs will be notified of the release of the Draft EIA Report and where the report can be reviewed. A public meeting will be held where the findings of the specialist studies and outcomes of the integration and assessment phase will be presented and discussed.

Comments received on the Draft EIA Report will be assimilated and the EIA project team will provide appropriate responses to all comments. A Comments and Responses Report will be appended to the Final EIA Report, which will be submitted to DMR for decision-making.

All registered I&APs will be notified when an Environmental Authorisation has been issued by DMR. A 90 day (maximum time should an appeal be submitted) appeal period will follow the issuing of the Environmental Authorisation.

6.5.1 *Proposed Timeframe for the EIA*

The estimated process schedule for the EIA is presented in *Table 6.1. Chapter 8* of this report presents a more detailed Plan of Study for the EIA.

Table 6.1 *EIA Schedule*

Task	Timing
Stakeholder Comment on Draft Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA	22 May 2016 – 22 June 2017
Finalise Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA and submit to DMR	Beginning -July 2017
Acceptance of Scoping Report received from DMR (within 43 days of receipt of FSR)	September 2017
Specialist studies	May - August 2017
Prepare Draft EIA and EMP	May - August 2017
Stakeholder Comment on Draft EIA and EMP	August – September 2017
Finalise and submit EIA and EMP to DMR	September 2017

6.6 *PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING SCOPING*

6.6.1 *Public Participation Objectives*

Public consultation is an inclusive and culturally appropriate process which involves sharing information and knowledge, seeking to understand the concerns of others and building relationships based on collaboration. It allows stakeholders to understand the risks, impacts and opportunities of the Project in order to achieve positive outcomes.

The public participation process is designed to provide information to and receive feedback from interested and affected parties (I&AP) for use throughout the EIA process, thus providing organisations and individuals with an opportunity to raise concerns and make comments and suggestions regarding the proposed project. By being part of the assessment process, stakeholders have the opportunity to influence the project layout and design, input into mitigation measures and technical solutions as well as the Plan of Study for the EIA.

The main objectives of public participation are:

- i. to ensure that adequate and timely information is provided to those potentially affected by the Project;
- ii. to provide these groups with sufficient opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns; and
- iii. to ensure that comments are received in a timely manner so that they can be taken into account in project decisions.

6.6.2 *Legislative Context*

Public participation with regards to EIA's in South Africa is determined by the principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) and elaborated upon in 'GN 657: Guideline 4: Public Participation' (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, 19 May 2006), which states that: "Public participation process means a process in which potential interested and affected parties (I&APs) are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to, specific matters."

Public participation is required for an environmental authorisation process in terms of the EIA Regulations GN R.982 (December 2014).

6.6.3 *Public Participation Activities*

Table 6.2 details the public participation tasks that have been undertaken to date, while Table 6.3 details the proposed stakeholder engagement that will take place through the EIA Process.

Table 6.2 *Public Participation Tasks Completed*

Activity	Description and Purpose
Pre-Application	
Preparation of a preliminary stakeholder database	A preliminary database has been compiled of authorities (local and provincial), Non-Governmental Organisations, neighbouring landowners and other key stakeholders (refer to <i>Annex B</i>). This database of registered I&APs will be maintained and updated during the ongoing EIA process.
Preparation of a Background Information Document (BID)	A BID has been developed which provides an introduction to the Project and the EIA process. See <i>Annex B</i> .
Erection of Site Notices	Site notices have been placed at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twinshaft Gate; • South Shaft Gate; and • Carletonville, Fochville, and Westonaria Libraries. See <i>Annex B</i> .
Release of BID and draft Scoping Report for Public Comment	The BID and draft Scoping Report were released for a 30 day comment period. Notifications were sent to 85 stakeholders on the database via email, and sent via registered post to a further 3 stakeholders. The report was made available online and at the Westonaria Public Library.

Activity	Description and Purpose
Publication of newspaper advert	A newspaper advert was published on two local newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carletonville Herald (26 May 2017); and • Randfontein Herald (30 May 2017). This was to inform the public of the EIA and invite them to a public meeting.
Public Meeting	An Open Day was held at the Westonaria Community Hall on 7 June 2017 during the comment period in order to present the Project to stakeholders.
Development of a Comments and Response Report	All comments received during the Scoping consultation period have been recorded into a Comment and Responses Report and are included in the Final Scoping Report. See <i>Annex B</i> .
Key stakeholder meetings	Meetings were held with the following key stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rand West Stakeholders Forum (17 May 2017) • Adjacent Land Owners • Representative from the committee representing the employees grazing cattle on the land associated with the preferred alternative (27 June 2017).

Table 6.3 *Proposed Public Participation Tasks during EIA*

Activity	Description and Purpose
Release of draft EIA and EMP for Public Comment	The draft EIA and EMP document will be made available for a 30-day comment period to stakeholders and the relevant authorities. A notification letter will be sent to all registered I&APs on the project database. This letter will invite I&APs to comment on the draft EIR. The report will be available online and at the Westonaria Public Library. All comments received will be recorded in a Comment and Response Report to be included in the final EIR.
Notification of Environmental Authorisation	Registered I&APs will be notified of the Environmental Authorisation and the statutory appeal period. An advertisement will be placed to advertise the Environmental Authorisation if required.