

**Environmental
Resources
Management**

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2 October 2012

Project number: 0172056

Dear Sir/Madam,

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF TRANSNET'S EXISTING MANGANESE ORE
EXPORT RAILWAY LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,
NORTHERN AND EASTERN CAPE**

Basic Assessment Ref no.: DEA Ref no.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/405

Amendment Ref no.: 12/12/20/1240

Scoping/EIA DEA Ref no.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/688

Transnet (SOC) Limited (hereafter referred to as Transnet) is proposing to expand the existing manganese ore railway line from Hotazel in the Northern Cape to the Port of Ngqura in the Eastern Cape. The growing demand for manganese ore has resulted in the need to expand the capacity of the export corridor to 16 million tons per annum (Mtpa). The proposed expansion includes the following:

- Extension of several existing rail loops in the Northern and Eastern Cape;
- The installation of two new rail loops in the Northern Cape; and
- The construction of a new compilation yard near Hotazel in the Northern Cape.

Before the proposed project may proceed an Amendment process of an existing environmental authorisation (DEA Reference No. 12/12/20/1240), a Basic Assessment (BA) process and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process needs to be undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998), as amended. The decision-making authority on all these processes will be the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). ERM Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner to undertake the mentioned processes.

Important milestones in the EIA, BA and Amendment processes

- **Project announcement and stakeholder registration:** The attached Background Information Document (BID) provides more information about the project and associated regulatory process. You are invited to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) and to participate in the regulatory processes. The due date for I&AP registration and comment on the BID is **Thursday, 1 November 2012**.
- **Public review of the Draft Scoping, Draft BA and Amendment Reports:** These reports will be made available for public review in November 2012 and I&APs will be invited to attend Public Meetings and will be informed about the relevant dates in due course.
- **Public review of the Final Scoping and Final BA Reports:** These reports will be made available for public review during the first quarter of 2013.
- **Public review of the Draft EIA Report:** The Draft EIA report will be made available for public review during the second quarter of 2013 and I&APs will be invited to attend Public Meetings and will be informed about the relevant dates in due course.
- **Public review of the Final EIA Report:** The Final EIA report will be made available for public review during the third quarter of 2013.

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Registered Company address:
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Company registration number
2003/001404/07

Directors
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John Simonson (UK)

Offices worldwide

A member of the
Environmental Resources
Management Group

How to comment on the BID?

You are welcome to provide comments on the BID in the following manner:

- Completing the enclosed registration and comment sheet and submitting it to ERM by Thursday, 1 November 2012;
- Writing a letter or additional written submission by mail, email or fax; and/or
- Calling ERM to provide comments telephonically.

We invite you to become involved in the regulatory processes and to raise any comments, concerns and suggestions about the proposed project and/or the public participation process. Further correspondence will be with registered I&APs only.

Should you require any additional information, please contact **Paul Monare** at: (011) 798 4300, fax 086 292 7318 or email: transnet@erm.com. The project website will also be updated throughout the process, please feel free to visit www.erm.com/transnet-expansion

Kind Regards,



Nestus Bredenhann
Senior Consultant

Enclosed:

- *Background Information Document*
- *Registration and Comment Sheet*