1. BACKGROUND

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom) intends to rehabilitate several degraded wetlands in and around the Kusile Power Station. The rehabilitation of the degraded wetlands will be undertaken by implementing the wetland offset strategy which was developed and approved in support of the integrated environmental authorisation for the Kusile 60-year Ash Disposal Facility (ADF) project.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Eskom Holdings (Pty) Ltd, intends to rehabilitate several degraded wetlands at the Kusile Power Station, Mpumalanga. Wetland rehabilitation involves the construction of a variety of interventions that could include gabions, concrete structures; as well as soft options such as re-vegetation, removal of alien vegetation and in-filling of agricultural scars. The number, type, scale and location of each of these interventions within the wetlands would vary according to the nature and magnitude of the problem and the condition of the receiving environment.
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The focal area is located just east of Bronkhorstspruit along the border of Gauteng and Mpumalanga province. The Kusile Power Station is situated south of the N4 highway and is accessed from the secondary road, D686. The New Largo Colliery is situated east of the power station, while the Eyethu Coal’s Klipfontein Colliery is situated directly south of the approved location for the Kusile Power Station 60 year Ash Disposal Facility (ADF).

The wetlands that will be investigated are given in the Figure 1 and are located within the following properties:
- Parcel 537; Portions 1 (Re.), 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- Parcel 565; Portions 1 and 2
- Parcel 566; Portions 3

The proposed activities fall in the Olifants River Catchment (Primary Catchment B), but more specifically in quaternary catchment B20F and is directly linked to the Wilge River (sub-quaternary B20F-01150). The Wilge River flows north and forms a tributary of the larger Olifants River. Two key tributaries of the Wilge River are the Klipfonteinspruit and the Holspruit, both of which extend past the north and southern extents of the Kusile Power Station infrastructure footprint. These tributaries form the focal systems of the rehabilitation.

Most of the wetlands in the area (along the Wilge River and associated tributaries in the study area) have been denoted as Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (Wetland FEPAs) or recognised as important wetland clusters. These wetlands are important contributors to base flow maintenance of the perennial Wilge River (SQ B20F-01150), as well as flood attenuation which protects the integrity of banks along the downstream Wilge environment. The predominant land use in the region is agriculture (cultivation) and various mining activities. The extent of cultivated land ranges in intensity of use from historically cultivated land to currently cultivated. There is also a mixed mosaic of improved and unimproved grassland throughout the area.

4. NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The rehabilitation of these wetlands function to address the loss of various wetlands within the footprint of the Kusile Power Station ADF. The construction of ADF infrastructure will result in residual impacts and, in worst cases, the loss of various wetlands. In order to compensate for this loss, Eskom propose to undertake the rehabilitation of downstream wetlands in the same catchment through the implementation of a wetland offset. It is the specific wetland rehabilitation measures proposed to be implemented that triggers the need to undertake this environmental authorisation process.

5. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Environmental Authorisation

The proposed rehabilitation interventions require environmental authorisation from the Competent Authority, i.e. the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA): Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations 2014, as amended. The proposed project is likely to trigger a number of listed activities in terms of Listing Notice 1 (GN R983) and Listing Notice 3 (GN R985) of EIA regulations 2014 as amended (refer to Table 1).

Activities triggered in Listing Notice 1 indicates that an application for environmental authorisation must be undertaken via a Basic Assessment Process.

Table 1: Listed activities that may be applicable to the project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Listed Activities as per EIA regulations 2014, GN R983 (Listing Notice 1) and GN R985 (Listing Notice 3), as amended</th>
<th>Applicability to proposed project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Listing Notice 1, Item 12: The development of (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse. Exclusions not applicable.</td>
<td>Combined area of engineering structures for wetland rehabilitation measures is expected to be &gt;100m².</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Listing Notice 1, Item 19:
The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse. Exclusions not applicable.

### Listing Notice 1, Item 30:
Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).

### Listing Notice 3, Item 12:
The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more (exclusion not applicable) in: c. Gauteng or f Mpumalanga, in specific identified geographical areas that contain sensitive or protected ecosystems, habitat or species as stipulated in GN R985, as amended.

### Listing Notice 3, Item 14:
The development of (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse (exclusions not applicable) in: c. Gauteng or f Mpumalanga, in specific identified geographical areas that contain sensitive or protected ecosystems, habitat or species as stipulated in GN R985, as amended.

Comined area of material deposition or excavation for the proposed rehabilitation measures is expected to be >10m³.

Study area contain threatened ecosystems listed in Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004), some of which are classified as Vulnerable.

Combined area of vegetation clearance is expected to be >300m² and the study area fall within Gauteng and Mpumalanga Province and contain threatened ecosystems listed in Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004), or Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs).

Combined area of vegetation clearance is expected to be >10m² and the study area fall within Gauteng and Mpumalanga Province and contain threatened ecosystems listed in Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004), or Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs).

Listed activities that may be applicable to this project will be confirmed during the Basic Assessment process and considered in the application.

### Water Use Licence

In terms of Section 39 of the National Water Act, No 36 of 1998 (NWA), a General Authorisation (GA) has been granted for use of water in respect of section 21(c) and (i) of the NWA for activities occurring near or in a wetland (GN 509 of 26 August 2016). This GA relieves a water user from the need to apply for a licence for impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse in terms of section 21 (c) or altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse in terms of section 21 (i) of the Act for activities proposed near or within a wetland, provided that the use is within the provisions set out in the GA. An application for water use authorisation in the form of application for GA is therefore required to be submitted to the competent authority, i.e. the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

In terms of the above, an integrated authorisation process will be undertaken for the application of an Environmental Authorisation and a General Authorisation for the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands associated with the wetland offset for the Kusile Power Station 60 year ADF.

### 6. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Basic Assessment (BA) aims to provide an objective view of the potential environmental and social impacts that could arise during the planning, construction, operation and decommissioning phase of a proposed project. A critical element of the BA Process is the Public Participation Process that gives Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) an opportunity to provide comments on a proposed development. The outcome of the BA Process is consisncely presented and documented in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) in order to provide the Competent Authority with all the information in order to make an informed decision.

The BAR content aligns with the requirements of Appendix 1 of the EIA regulations, 2014 (GN R.982) and timeframes are strictly adhered to through careful management of process. Figure 2 provides a process flow diagram indicating the key tasks to be carried out for the BA Process.
A decision on the application for environmental authorisation through a BA process is usually reached within 107 days of receipt of the BAR by the Competent Authority.

### 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

As an important element in undertaking the BA for the proposed project, Zitholele Consulting will conduct the public participation process as set out in the NEMA EIA regulations, 2014. Applicable guidelines and best practice procedures will furthermore be taken into consideration. The public participation process will enable stakeholders to contribute to the process through information sharing and to review the findings of the independent studies that are to be undertaken. The steps of the public participation component are outlined below.

**Figure 3: Process Flow of the Public Participation Process**

- **Advertising - public notice of the BA process in national / provincial newspaper**
- **Place site notice boards at the project sites being investigated and at public places at closest town**
- **Notify affected and adjacent landowners and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed application**
- **Undertake Public and Focus Group Meetings during public review period**
- **Document stakeholder comments in the Comments and Responses Report (CRR)**
- **Notify stakeholders when the Final BAR is submitted to the DEA**
- **Notify stakeholders when the Environmental Authorisation is issued.**
8. GENERAL AUTHRISATION REGISTRATION PROCESS

The GA registration process is undertaken in terms of GN 1198 of 18 December 2009, as contemplated in section 5 above. The registration process include the completion of water use registration forms that are submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation for consideration. Upon completion of registration, the Department will provide a certificate of registration to the water user.

9. DECISION-MAKING (ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION)

Based on the information provided in the final BAR, the Competent Authority will make a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation. The granting of environmental authorisation will allow the Applicant to proceed with implementing the proposed project activities. Once the Competent Authority has reached a decision, with regards to granting the environmental authorisation, all registered I&APs will be notified thereof within 14 days of the date of the decision. An appeal may be lodged against the decision made in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) and National Appeal Regulations, 2014. I&APs will be notified of the decision made by the Competent Authority by means of the following:

- Via electronic mail;
- Facsimile (to I&APs who do not have access to electronic mail);
- Registered mail (to those I&APs who do not have access to electronic mail nor facsimile facilities).

The Basic Assessment Process will be concluded by the notification of I&APs of the decision made by the Competent Authority.

10. MAP OF PROJECT LOCATION

A locality Map of the proposed project can be found in Figure 4 below.

11. BID COMMENT SHEET

A comment sheet associated with this project and Basic Assessment process in included at the end of this BID. Please complete and return to the PPP desk by hand delivery to the offices of Zitholele Consultin, scan and email to the email address provided, fax to fax number provided or by submitting your comments elephinically to the PPP desk via the landline number specified in the left column on page 1 of this BID.
Figure 4: Locality Map of the Proposed Project
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR ENGINEERING INTERVENTIONS PROPOSED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED WETLANDS AROUND KUSILE POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

22 November 2017

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SHEET

Public Participation Process desk
Dr. Mathys Vosloo
Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685
Tel: 011 207 2060 - Fax: 086 674 6121
Email: kusileba@zitholele.co.za

PLEASE NOTE: ALL FIELDS ARE MANDATORY TO COMPLETE.
Please complete by 8 December 2017 and return to the Public Participation Process desk (as above).

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Would you be interested in attending the Public Meeting envisaged for January 2018? YES NO

Please formally register me as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP) so that I may receive further information and notifications during the BA process YES NO

I would like to receive documents for comment as follows:
- By e-mail
- By SMS
- By fax

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, (Act No. 107 of 1998), EIA Regulations GN R 982 – Government Gazette No. 38282 of 04 December 2014, as amended, Regulation 43(1), I disclose below any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that I may have in the approval or refusal of the application (please use additional sheet if required):

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COMMENTS (please use separate sheets if you wish)

I suggest that the following issues of concern be considered in the BA:

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Please inform the following of my colleagues/friends/neighbors whom may be interested to register their participation in this project (Please provide name, mobile number and email address of the potential I&AP):

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION