

Zitholele Consulting

Reg. No. 2000/000392/07

PO Box 6002 Halfway House 1685, South Africa
Building 1, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West
c/o Allandale Road & Maxwell Drive, Waterfall City, Midrand
T : 011 207 2060 F : 086 674 6121 E : mail@zitholele.co.za

**Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries**

03 August 2020

Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia,
Pretoria,
0083

Attention: Ms Mmamohale Kabase

Dear Ms Kabase

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF THE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AT THE GRAAFWATER SUBSTATION NEAR GRAAFWATER, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

This letter is in reference to the Basic Assessment Process being undertaken for the proposed Graafwater Substation Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in the Western Cape. The letter sets out details regarding Public Participation Process for the project.

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN**

A stakeholder database for the project has been compiled. Site notices were placed on site and Background Information Documents (BIDs) to the community on the 13 February 2020.

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

In terms of the COVID-19 pandemic, new directions have been issued by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) to provide guidance on EIA and PPP processes in terms of the COVID restrictions. In terms of GN No.650 (Directions regarding measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of Covid-19 relating to National Environmental Management Permits and Licences), dated 29 April 2020 a Public Participation Plan must be compiled and submitted to the DEFF for approval prior to commencing with the PPP. It is our understanding that this PP Plan must present the anticipated public engagement process in light of the restrictions in force at the time as well as all safety measures and protocols observed.

To ensure compliance with Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended and GN No. 650 the following additional steps will be undertaken:

- An advertisement will be placed in the Ons Kontrei newspaper to notify the public of the availability of the for public review;
- The distribution of Notification letters to I&AP's and commenting authorities (notifying them of the availability of the DEIR) will be distributed via e-mail and registered mail. The

Notifications will also provide a summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment findings (the executive summary of the report);

- A3 laminated posters will be placed in various public venues and on the boundaries of the site. The aim of the posters will be to notify the I&AP's of the availability of the report on the Zitholele website, the Police station and the Local Municipality, as well as to provide a summary of the report findings (the advantage being I&APs don't have to actually touch the material).
- The draft BAR will be placed on the Zitholele website, Police Station and the Local Municipality for review.
- USB's or CD's containing the report will be sent to the commenting authorities and the affected land owners. The USB's or CD's can also be made available on request by I&AP's. In observance of the COVID 19 protocols, the CDs and USBs will be sterilised before putting them in a Ziploc bag prior to couriering it to the authorities. Each Ziploc bag will be marked with a label indicating when the content was sterilised.
- Notification to I&APs of the decision made by the Competent Authority regarding the EA and the appeals process will be distributed via e-mail and an advertainment will be placed in the Ons Kontrei newspaper.

We hope you will find the above PP Plan to be in order and we look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully



Ms Tebogo Mapinga
Senior Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ZITHOLELE CONSULTING (PTY) LTD