

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

This serves as a summary of the Public Participation Process (PPP) followed for the proposed Solids Removal and Treatment Facilities Upgrades at the Southern Waste Water Treatment Works in Merewent, KwaZulu-Natal.



At the scoping phase the PPP commenced in April 2014 where an introductory meeting was held with key active groups in the area (see minutes Introductory Meeting 14 April 2014). In May 2014, site notices were erected on site and 3000 Background Information Documents were circulated in the study area. An advert was placed in the Mercury and in the Merebank Rising Sun. The Focus Group Meeting was held on 19 May 2014 at the works and a public meeting held on 21 May 2014 at the Merebank Community Centre. The Draft Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) and Plan of Study (PoS) was compiled and the process allowed for 40 days for I&APs to raise their issues and concerns regarding the proposed activity as presented in this report, this period spanned from 23 May 2014 to 02 July 2014. The draft report was circulated to relevant commenting authorities and placed at strategic venues for review, for a 40 day comment period in which I&AP's were afforded the opportunity to raise any further issues and concerns. The final ESR was essentially the draft report which has been amended according to the comments received and the issues arising from the 40 day comment period. The final ESR was re-circulated for comment for a period of 21 days, from 05 September to 05 October 2014 before being submitted to the Competent Authority (CA), the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (edtea), which was accepted and approved by this CA in December 2014.

For the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase, the PPP commenced in January 2015 where the acceptance of ESR and PoS was communicated to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). On 29 January 2015 a meeting was held with key active groups in the area to discuss the approach to specialist studies as well as allow for a process of nomination for independent and external reviewers of those studies conducted by Royal HaskoningDHV, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) company (see minutes Specialist Studies Discussion Meeting 29 January 2015). On 16 April 2015, ten (10) site notices were erected on site and a further five (5) made available to Mrs Perumal for erection at key points. 1000 updated Background Information Documents (BID) were circulated in the study area on 16 April 2015. An advert was placed in the Mercury (08 April 2015) and in the Merebank Rising Sun (07 April 2015). The Focus Group Meeting was held on 22 April 2015 at the works and a public meeting held on 24 April 2015 at the Merebank Community Centre (Minutes to follow). The Draft EIA Report (EIAR – document at hand) was compiled and afforded 40 days for I&APs to raise their issues and concerns regarding this report, this period spans from 22 April 2015 to 31 May 2015. This EIAR was circulated to relevant commenting authorities and placed at strategic venues for review. The final EIAR will essentially be the draft report which has been amended according to the comments received and the issues arising from this 40 day comment period. The final EIAR will then be re-circulated for comment for a period of 21 days before being submitted to the CA.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AS PART OF THE SCOPING PP PROCESS

Public Notices/Site Notices

10 site notices for each of the scoping and EIA phases were displayed at the access point to the site and at areas frequently used by the public: Refer to copy of:

-  Site notice, providing the displayed detail in Appendix B3- Site Notice;
-  Photographs as proof of site notices displayed – Appendix B3.

Written Notices and Background Information Document (BID)

A background information document and notification letter with an invitation to as I&APs (refer to Appendix B4), were distributed as follows:

- ✿ 3000 BIDS physically distributed into post boxes;
- ✿ Distributed at meeting held and upon request electronically.
- ✿ Updated BIDS circulated *via* email to all I&APs during the EIA phase;
- ✿ 1000 updated BIDS distributed into post boxes for the EIA phase.

Advertisements

Advertisements regarding *inter alia* the proposed project scope of works, location, details of public meeting and details of locations and date for draft ESR and EIAR review as well as details of EAP were placed in the Mercury on 07 May 2014 and the Merebank Rising Sun on 13 May 2014 as well as on 07 April 2015 and 08 April 2015 respectively. Proof of placement of advert can be found in Appendix B2.

Meetings

An introductory meeting was held on 14 April 2014; refer to meeting documents in Appendix B5.

A Focus Group Meeting for the scoping phase was held on 19 May 2014; refer to meeting documents in Appendix B6.

A Public Meeting for the scoping phase was held on 21 May 2014; refer to meeting documents in Appendix B7.

An *ad hoc* meeting to discuss specialist studies was held on 29 January 2015, refer to Appendix B5.

A Focus Group Meeting for the EIA phase was held on 22 April 2015; refer to meeting documents in Appendix B6 (excluding minutes which will follow).

A Public Meeting for the scoping phase was held on 24 April 2015; refer to meeting documents in Appendix B7 (excluding minutes which will follow).

I&AP Communication

Refer to Issues trail within PPP section (Appendix B9) for further detail.

I&APs Comments

As a result of the advertisement, BID's and public meeting, correspondence was received from I&APs. Refer to attached comments: Appendix B9 – I&AP Correspondence, public meeting minutes and issues trail for comments and responses.

Draft and Final ESR and PoS Review

The draft and final ESR and PoS were made available for review for a period of 40 days and hard copies were placed at the following venues, as advertised:

- ✿ The eThekweni Municipality, EWS Building, 3 Prior Road, Durban Central,
- ✿ Southern Waste Water Treatment Works,
- ✿ Merebank Library, Bombay Square, 12 Natraj Lane, Merebank, Durban, 4052
- ✿ Royal HaskoningDHV website: www.rhdhv.co.za

Comments will be received and compiled into an Issues Trail.

Draft EIAR Review

The draft EIAR has been made available for review for a period of 40 days and hard copies were placed at the following venues, as advertised:

- ✿ SDCEA Offices, John Dunn House 224 Gouritz Crescent, Austerville 4052;
- ✿ Southern Waste Water Treatment Works,
- ✿ Merebank Library, Bombay Square, 12 Natraj Lane, Merebank, Durban, 4052
- ✿ Royal HaskoningDHV website: www.royalhaskoningdhv.co.za

Comments will be received and compiled into an Issues Trail.

Issues Trail

An Issues Trail, summarizing the objections and comments from the PPP has been provided in the PPP section (Appendix B9) – Issues Trail. This document will be continually updated.

Ongoing I&AP / Stakeholder communication

The project team has on-going communication with I&AP's to ensure the continued involvement of all stakeholders and I&AP throughout the EIA process and beyond.