
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

FOR THE INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENSE AND WATER USE LICENSE PROCESSES FOR THE WET FLUE GAS DESULFURISATION (WFGD) WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES FOR MEDUPI POWER STATION, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED WET FLUE GAS DESULFURISATION (WFGD) WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES FOR MEDUPI POWER STATION, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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List of Abbreviations

BID	Background Information Document
C&RR	Comments & Response Report
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DSR	Draft Scoping Report
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FSR	Final Scoping Report
I&AP	Interested and or affected Party.
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
PPP	Public Participation Process
SCP	Selahle Consultancy and Projects (Pty) Ltd
WLM	Waste Management License
WUL	Water Use License

1 INTRODUCTION

Public Participation Process (PPP) is the cornerstone of any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The PPP will form a fundamental part of the Integrated Environmental Authorisation process and will be one of the most important aspects of the EIA process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998), as well as the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, govern the EIA process, including public participation. These include the provision of sufficient and transparent information on an ongoing basis to stakeholders, allowing them to comment, and ensuring the participation of previously disadvantaged groups, including women and youth.

The process aims to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with clear, accurate, and comprehensive information about the proposed development, its alternatives, and the associated environmental impacts. Furthermore, it ensures that I&APs are given a fair opportunity to express their viewpoints, raise issues, and voice concerns regarding the proposal, its alternatives, and/or the decisions being made.

Furthermore, social risks arise as a consequence of social development and can be described as the potential for loss, conflict, or instability resulting from specific project-related activities (e.g., investments, policies, or decisions) and the responses of stakeholders who may be negatively affected by the proposed development. While social risks cannot be eliminated, they can be effectively managed to minimise adverse impacts. Therefore, the public participation process serves to address and mitigate identified negative impacts, helping to ensure that proposed projects achieve positive outcomes and contribute to long-term sustainability.

Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, emphasises the importance of public participation. In terms of the EIA regulations, the public –

- May participate in the application process.
- May comment on any written communication submitted to the competent authority by the applicant or environmental consultant.
- must comment within the timeframes.
- must send a copy of any comments to the applicant if the comments were submitted directly to the competent authority; and
- must disclose any interest that the person has in the application being granted or refused

Moreover, the principles of Public Participation are:

- Communicates the interests of and meets the process needs of all participants;
- Seek to facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected;
- Involves participants in defining how they participate;
- Ensure transparency as far as possible;
- Actively enhances the leadership capacity of community members, leaders, and groups within the community; and

- Utilises a community's diversity to deepen shared understanding and produce outcomes of long-term benefit to the whole community or society.

1.1 Project Background

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (applicant) has an existing Environmental Authorisation for the Medupi Power Station from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), previously known as the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1060), which was issued in September 2018 for the proposed development of a Wet Flue Gas Desulphurization (WFGD) retrofitting Process and Associated Infrastructure. This process is aimed at reducing the SO₂ emissions, as required by the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) and the MES Regulations. This proposed retrofit process plant will produce 3 waste by-products, namely: 1) Gypsum, 2) Chemical Salts, and 3) Chemical Sludge, and these by-products will require waste disposal facilities.

The proposed waste disposal facilities will be located near Medupi Power Station, in Ward 15, within the jurisdiction of Lephalale Local Municipality under the Waterberg District Municipality in Limpopo Province. The proposed development and associated infrastructure will be constructed in the following farm portions:

- Portion 9 of Hanglip 508 LQ
- Naaw Ontkomen 509 LQ
- Kuipersbult 511 LQ

In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, Listing Notices under Government Notice (GN) No. R324, R325 and R327), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and Category A, B, C and Norms and Standards of Section 19 (Schedule 1), of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008), the proposed development will follow an Integrated Environmental Authorisation and Waste Management License Application which will be lodged with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment. All relevant legislation will be consulted and complied with during the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

2 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The overarching aim of the Public Participation Process (PPP) is not only to comply with the relevant legislative requirements, but also to ensure that all potential stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties are given a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate. Therefore, **SCP's** approach to this process was to proactively identify the relevant I&APs, inform them of the proposed development and related procedures, involve them by affording them ample opportunity to raise issues and concerns about the proposed development and consolidate all those issues within the planning process.

Based on the above approach, the following methodology was used to ensure that a complete I&AP communication process was achieved:

- Consultation with Landowners, Stakeholders and the Organ of State.
- Compile a Background Information Document (BID), including all information and describing the process, including a map of the area affected by the proposed development.
- Advertise the project in the prescribed newspapers, put up site notices, identify all authorities and adjacent landowners, and send them a BID (according to the legal requirements).
- As I&APs respond to the advertisements and notices, register them on an I&AP database.
- Communicate relevant information to all registered I&APs throughout the process, in order for them to respond.
- Address the issues raised in a Comment and Response Report (CRR).
- Determine the need for a public meeting and, if required, arrange, advertise, and hold public meetings, and record all issues raised; and
- This report provides a description of the methodology followed and includes detailed appendices as proof of the procedure followed.

3 OVERVIEW OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The PPP for Scoping Report was initiated on Monday, **18 May 2026**. The stages that formed part of the public participation process to date are reflected in the figure below:



Figure 1: Public Participation Process to date.

Members of the public who wished to be registered on the database as an I&AP were able to do so via telephone and email.

On-going consultation with key stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, relevant government departments, local businesses etc.) and identified I&APs ensured that I&APs were kept informed regarding the Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment process and any key changes regarding the project.

Networking with I&APs will effectively continue throughout all Scoping & EIA phases until the Draft Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Waste Management License (WML) and Water use License (WUL) Applications are submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) respectively. Where required, stakeholders and I&APs will be engaged on an individual basis.

The pre-identified Stakeholders that were consulted during the first phase of the public participation process of the IEA Application by submitting and circulating Background Information documents, Notification letters and Comment Forms are, but not limited to:

Type of Interested and Affected Party	Directorates
Local communities and residents	Ward Councillors Marapong and Onverwacht Communities
Government Departments (Organs of State)	- Waterberg District Municipality - Lephalale Local Municipality - Limpopo Department: Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism - Road Agency Limpopo - Transnet - Limpopo Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (LIHRA) - South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) - Limpopo: Department of Minerals - Limpopo: Department of Energy - South African Civil Aviation Authority - Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development - Department of Defence (DoD)
Competency Authority – Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	- Biodiversity and Conservation - Climate Change and Air Quality - Chemicals and Waste Management - Environmental Advisory Services - Forestry Management - Legal, Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement (LACE)
Business owners and industry groups	- Exxaro Mine - Local Businesses (Contractors & subcontractors)
Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)	- Earthlife Africa, Greenpeace, Centre for Environmental Rights - BirdLife South Africa - Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) - GroundWork - Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) - Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)

Type of Interested and Affected Party	Directorates
Traditional leaders and landowners	- Tribal Authorities – Mokolo Traditional Authority

The figure below indicates the next steps to be undertaken during the continuation of the PP process.



Figure 2: Public Participation going forward

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS TO DATE

4.1.1 Stakeholder Mapping

A 20km radius mapping was used to be able to identify stakeholders who would be potentially impacted by the proposed development. This was also aimed at identifying key stakeholders directly impacted by the proposed project. In addition, this map was also used to identify locations for placing site notices, BID distribution and public meeting venues. Figure 3 below is a stakeholder map.

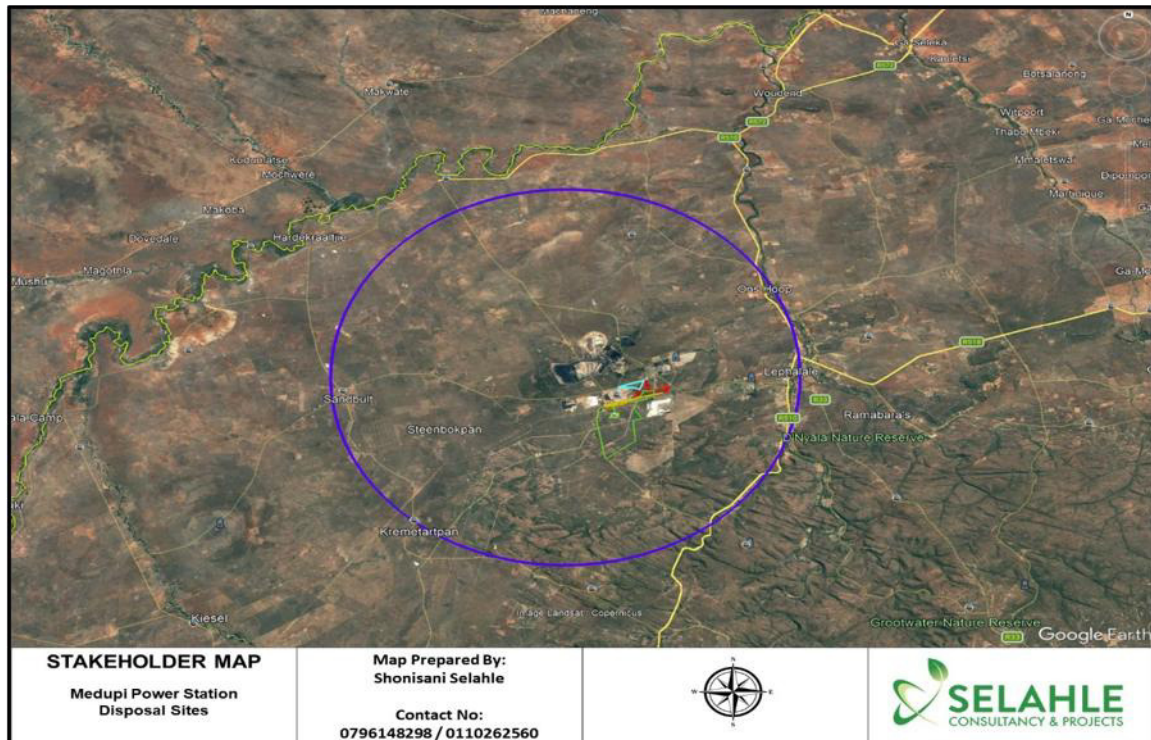


Figure 3: Medupi WFGD Disposal Facility Sites Stakeholder Map

The Stakeholder Risk Mapping (SRM) method was also employed to identify, analyse and prioritise stakeholders based on the level of risk they might pose in the proposed development. This is to ensure that appropriate engagement manages stakeholder concerns, expectations, influence, and potential impacts on project outcomes.

Table 1: Stakeholders Risk Mapping

IDENTIFIED RISKS	- Potential complaints from landowners - Community Unrest - Lack of stakeholder interest or participation in the process. - Increased Crime - Public resistance and lobbying efforts against the project - Low attendance at public meetings and consultation sessions - Misinformation or misunderstanding of project information - Unrealistic stakeholder expectations regarding project outcomes and benefits - Language and communication barriers - Community distrust towards the project proponent or authorities - Community opposition to the project - Failure to identify all relevant stakeholders
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MITIGATION MEASURES	- Engage directly with affected landowners early in the process and address concerns promptly. - Maintain continuous and transparent communication with affected communities throughout the project lifecycle. - Use multiple communication channels to encourage stakeholder participation. - Collaborate with local authorities and community structures to monitor and address security concerns. - Provide clear and factual project information to address concerns and reduce misconceptions. - Schedule meetings at convenient times and locations for stakeholders. - Disseminate accurate and easy-to-understand project information through the official communication channel - Clearly communicate the project's scope, limitations, and anticipated benefits. - Translate key project information into the locally spoken language - Ensure transparency and provide regular feedback throughout the public participation process - Engage stakeholders early to identify and address concerns before they escalate. - Conduct a comprehensive stakeholder identification and mapping exercise at the outset of the process
LOCAL SPOKEN LANGUAGES	- English - Afrikaans - Sepedi
NEWSPAPER	Mogol Pos

4.1.2 Placement of Site Notices

Approximately 60 A2 site notices were placed within a 20 km radius of the Project Area of Influence (POIA). This was aimed at introducing the project to all Interested and Affected Parties in the Medupi area. The areas that were covered are:

- Lephalale town
- Onverwacht
- Steenbokpan

4.1.3 Circulation of Background Information Document

Background Information Document, together with a Comment Form in three languages (English, Afrikaans and Sepedi) were distributed around the PAOI. Comment forms were also provided for

all Interested and Affected Parties to complete and return to the SCP Public Participation Office. Furthermore, the same BID, Notification Letters and Comments forms were sent via email to all pre-identified stakeholders, landowners, and Organs of State.

5 PHASE 2 OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5.1 Review of Draft Scoping Report

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be made available in hard copy at Public Libraries, as well as at other locations identified for document placement. Electronic copies will be distributed via email to all stakeholders identified above, affected landowners, and registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Access to the DSR will also be provided through scanning the QR code below and via the SCP website (www.scprojects.co.za).

The Draft Scoping Report and its associated annexures will be made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 calendar days, from **29 June 2026 to 29 July 2026**. The DSR can be reviewed at the following venues:

Table 2: Venues to Review the Draft Scoping Report

VENUE	CONTACT DETAILS	QR CODE
Lephalale Local Municipality, Civic Centre, Onverwacht, Cnr Joe Slovo and Douwater Road, Lephalale	Tel.: 014 762 1409	
Marapong Community Library, 143 Chris Hani Street, Marapong	Tel.: 014 768 3927	
Lesedi Tshukudu Thusong Centre, Steenbokpan, 0533	Tel.: 082 927 2399/ 079 321 3150	
Lephalale Farmers' Association, NTK Building, 1 Jan Louis Botha Avenue, Lephalale	Tel.: 014 763 1888 Cel.: 082 820 5228	
SCP Website – Public Documents https://www.scprojects.co.za/publicdocuments.html	Tel.: 011 026 2560 Cel.: 079 569 5277	

5.2 Public Meetings

As part of the public participation process, public meetings will be undertaken in the Scoping Phase and also in the EIR phase. Three (3) Public Meetings are scheduled during the review and comment period of the DSR. This will take place two (2) weeks from the date the DSR will be released for public review.

The public meeting aims to provide I&APs with information regarding the proposed development and invite I&APs to raise any comments and/or concerns that they may have. All comments and

concerns made during the public meeting will be recorded and appended to the Final Scoping Report (FSR). Comment and Response Report (CRR), which includes all issues raised and corresponding responses, will also be appended to the FSR and submitted to the competent Authority.

Public meetings will be held in the late afternoon starting from 17:00 to accommodate various community groups. Table 3 below contains details of the public meetings:

Table 3: Public Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	VENUE
14 July 2026 Tuesday	17:00 – 19:00 (Registration from 16h30)	Lesedi Tshukudu Thusong Centre, Steenbokpan, 0533 Tel: 082 927 2399
15 July 2026 Wednesday	17:00 – 20:00 (Registration from 16h30)	Mogol Function Hall George Wessels St, Lephalale, Tel: 014 763 2427
16 July 2026 Thursday	17:00 – 19:00 (Registration from 16h30)	Ditheku Primary School Mosetla St, Marapong Tel: 084 427 2248

6 COMMENT AND ISSUE RESPONSE REPORT

A Comment and Response Report (CRR) would be developed during the Draft Scoping Report public review period. All comments, issues, and concerns that would be raised by the I&APs will be recorded and duly responded to by the EAP and project managers should the queries be too technical. The I&APs will also be afforded to review these comments during the Final Scoping Report (FSR).

7 CONCLUSION

Selahle Consultancy and Projects Pty Ltd has duly concluded phase 1 of the public participation process and will commence with the second phase in July 2026. All registered and identified Interested and Affected Parties, Organs of State, Stakeholders and communities will be contacted and afforded an opportunity to review and comment.

The project database will be kept active until the end of the project life cycle.

Public Participation Process in Draft Scoping Report will be found in **Appendix F**, sub-appendices of the PP will follow this order:

Appendix F: Public Participation Information

- Appendix F1 – Proof of Site Notice Placement
- Appendix F2 – Background Information Document (BID)
 - Appendix F2(i) – BID Distribution List
 - Appendix F2(ii) – Comments from I& APs
- Appendix F3 – Project Announcement Notification letters
- Appendix F4 – Proof of Correspondence
 - Appendix F4(i) – To Interested and Affected Parties
 - Appendix F4(ii) – To Organs of State
 - Appendix F4(iii) – To Stakeholders
 - Appendix F4(iv) – To Landowners
- Appendix F5 – Database
- Appendix F6 – Public Meeting Invitation