

**WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE APPLICATION, SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR ESKOM BRACKENFELL REGAN PLANT WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE  
(DFFE Ref. No.: To be issued)**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION LETTER AND NOTIFICATION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF SCOPING  
REPORT**

**July 2022**

**Overview of the proposed project**

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) was issued with an Environmental Authorisation (EA Ref 14-12-16-3-3-223), for an Oil Recycling facility approving Activity 51 of Listing Notice 1 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations for the expansion of capacity of the existing transformer oil recycling facility. The oil recycling facility is located within an existing utility complex used for waste management processes on Portion 0 of Erf 22473, within the City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, Western Cape Province.

The facility treats an annual average of approximately 300 000 litres of spent oil from other Eskom facilities within the Western Cape. Eskom now proposes to recommission another Fluidex oil regeneration plant (the old plant) and Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs) that were previously in operation at the site. The purpose of the project is to increase (double) the capacity of the facility, to serve as back-up oil regeneration and storage infrastructure for occasions when the new infrastructure is out of service (e.g., during maintenance) and for training purposes.

Eskom undertakes mobile servicing of their electrical transformers by replacing oil in the field. Degraded oil is replaced with virgin or recycled oil, collected, and brought to the Eskom complex in Brackenfell. To recover this oil and reduce the Eskom's demand for new transformer oil (and therefore to save costs of operation) Eskom operates an oil treatment / recycling facility. The facility includes a (new) Fluidex oil regeneration plant and new ASTs. Eskom does not currently have the capacity to treat all the oil that they recover from transformers, and this oil is currently scrapped.

Another identical Fluidex oil regeneration plant that is installed at the facility (the old plant) was disconnected in January 2016 because the plant was experiencing extended downtimes (the plant was under maintenance for longer periods than it was operational). When the old plant was disconnected, the ASTs for the storage of untreated oil that are connected to this plant were also disconnected. The previous plant and ASTs were replaced by the new plant and new ASTs with the same capacity as the previous infrastructure. Old infrastructure was not removed from the site.

Eskom now proposes to reconnect the old plant and ASTs to increase the treatment capacity, throughput and used oil storage capacity at the facility.

By reconnecting the old infrastructure, Eskom will increase the capacity of the facility to treat used transformer oil to 90 m<sup>3</sup> per month, increase the used transformer oil storage capacity to 240 m<sup>3</sup>, and the throughput by up to 600 000 litres per annum.

## **Aim of this background information letter**

This document aims to provide you, as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP), with:

- » an overview of the Eskom Brackenfell Regan Plant which requires a waste management licence (WML).
- » an overview of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process being undertaken in support of an application for the required WML.
- » details of how you can become involved in the S&EIA process, receive information, or raise issues, which may concern and/or interest you.

## **Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

In terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014 (as amended), the application for WML is subject to the completion of a Scoping and EIA (S&SEIA) process.

An EIA is an effective planning and decision-making tool. It allows for potential environmental consequences resulting from a proposed activity to be identified and appropriately managed during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of development. It also provides an opportunity for the project applicant to be forewarned of potential environmental issues and allows for the resolution of impacts identified and reported on as part of the S&EIA process, as well as provides opportunity for dialogue with key stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

Savannah Environmental has been appointed by Eskom SOC Holdings Limited as the independent environmental consultant responsible for managing the application for WML and undertaking the supporting EIA process required to identify and assess potential environmental impacts associated with the project, as well as propose appropriate mitigation and management measures to be contained within the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). Based on the nature and extent of the proposed project and the location of the project within an already established site, limited impacts are expected. I&APs will be actively involved in the S&EIA process through the public participation process.

## **Public Participation Process**

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the S&EIA processes from the outset. Comments and inputs from I&APs during the S&EIA processes are encouraged in order to ensure that all potential impacts are considered within the ambit of the study. The public participation process aims to ensure that:

- » Information containing all relevant facts in respect of the applications are made available to I&APs for review.
- » Participation by potential I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the applications.
- » Adequate review period is provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the Scoping and EIA reports and supporting documentation.

## **Your responsibilities as an I&AP**

In terms of Section 24J of NEMA and the Department of Environmental Affairs Public Participation Guideline 2017, as part of the BA process, an I&AP has the responsibility to:

- » provide comment regarding the proposed project within the specified timeframes (if the I&AP wishes to comment);
- » submit written comment directly to the Public Participation team; and
- » disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that I&AP may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

### **How to become involved**

1. By responding (by phone, WhatsApp, fax and/or email) to our invitation for your involvement which has been advertised in a local newspaper and on site.
2. By returning the attached Reply Form to the relevant contact person.
3. By attending the virtual meetings to be held during the course of the BA process.
4. By contacting the consultants with queries or comments.
5. By reviewing and commenting on the scoping report within the stipulated 30-day review period.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for the WML process for the Eskom Brackenfell Regan Plant, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to provide comment or raise those issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, and about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key element of the BA process.

### **AVAILABILITY OF SCOPING REPORT FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT**

As a registered I&AP, you are hereby notified that the scoping report is available for your review and comment from **Wednesday, 27 July 2022** until **Monday, 29 August 2022**. The BA Report is available on the Savannah Environmental website at <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/waste/>. You can also request that an electronic copy of the scoping report be sent to you via file transfer services such as WeTransfer or Dropbox. Please submit your written comments on the scoping report by **Monday, 29 August 2022**.

#### **Comments and queries**

Direct all comments, queries, or responses to:

**Savannah Environmental**

Nicolene Venter

P.O. Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237 / Fax: 086 684 0547

Mobile: 060 978 8396 (also includes please call me)

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

Website: <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/waste/>

**Documents attached:** Registration and Comment Form  
Locality Map



**Eskom Brackenfell  
Oil Regeneration Plant  
Western Cape**  
Locality Map

**Legend**

- Towns
- Existing Substation
- Main Road
- Existing Power Line
- Facility Complex
- Eskom Oil Regeneration Facility

Scale: 1:12,251  
 Projection: UTM, 48Q, 1984  
 Map ref. Eskom Brackenfell Locality Map

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