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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Environmental Scoping Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for the Construction and Operations of a Fuel Retail Facility and Truck Port in Katima Mulilo

1. Introduction

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT), was appointed by Hallie Investment Number 475 CC to undertake an environmental assessment for the proposed construction and operations of a fuel retail facility and truck port on Portion 80, 81, 82 and 83 of Farm Katima Mulilo Townlands No. 1328 in the Zambezi Region. The proposed facility, situated along the B8 Trunk Road, will supply diesel and unleaded petrol from underground storage tanks via dispensers on a forecourt area and provide safe overnight parking and ablution facilities to the trucking sector. General operations will involve the receipt of fuel from road tankers, dispensing fuel to vehicles and day to day administrative tasks. The environmental assessment will include all activities associated with the construction and operations of the facility.

An environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the proposed construction and operational activities is required as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA). A scoping environmental assessment report (SR) and an environmental management plan (EMP) are proposed to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in support of an application for an ECC.

2. The purpose of this document

With this background information document (BID), GPT aims to provide interested and affected parties (IAPs) with information about the project and interact with them regarding it. IAPs are therefore invited to register with GPT in order to:

- ♦ Provide GPT with additional information which should be taken into account in the assessment of impacts;
- ♦ Share any comments, issues or concerns related to the project; and
- ♦ Review and comment on the reports (SR and an EMP).

3. Project Description

Activities associated with the project have been divided into the following phases: Planning,

construction, operational and the decommissioning phase. A brief outline of expected activities for each phase is detailed below.

3.1 Planning Phase

While planning for construction, operations, and decommissioning of the proposed facility, it is the responsibility of proponent to ensure they are, and remain, compliant with all legal requirements. The proponent must also ensure that all required management measures are in place prior to and during all phases, to ensure potential impacts and risk are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ♦ Obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities.
- ♦ Ensure correct location zoning, subdivision and provision for proposed operations on the site if applicable.
- ♦ Make provisions to have a Health, Safety and Environmental Coordinator to implement the EMP.
- ♦ Ensure provisions for a fund to cater for environmental incidents risks/ pollution and ecological restoration.
- ♦ Ensure all appointed contractors and employees are entered into an agreement which includes the EMP.
- ♦ Establish and / or maintain a reporting system to report on aspects of construction activities, operations and decommissioning as outlined in the EMP.

3.2 Construction Phase

Construction activities mainly include the construction of infrastructure required for the facility. This include preparation and excavation of land, installation of underground fuel storage tanks and reticulation, construction of forecourt areas with pumps, spill control infrastructure and buildings. The facility will be constructed according to SANS standards. Future construction activities will mainly include maintenance of the facility. Maintenance may include minor repairs to infrastructure and pipelines, general upkeep of buildings including painting, and servicing of machinery, etc.

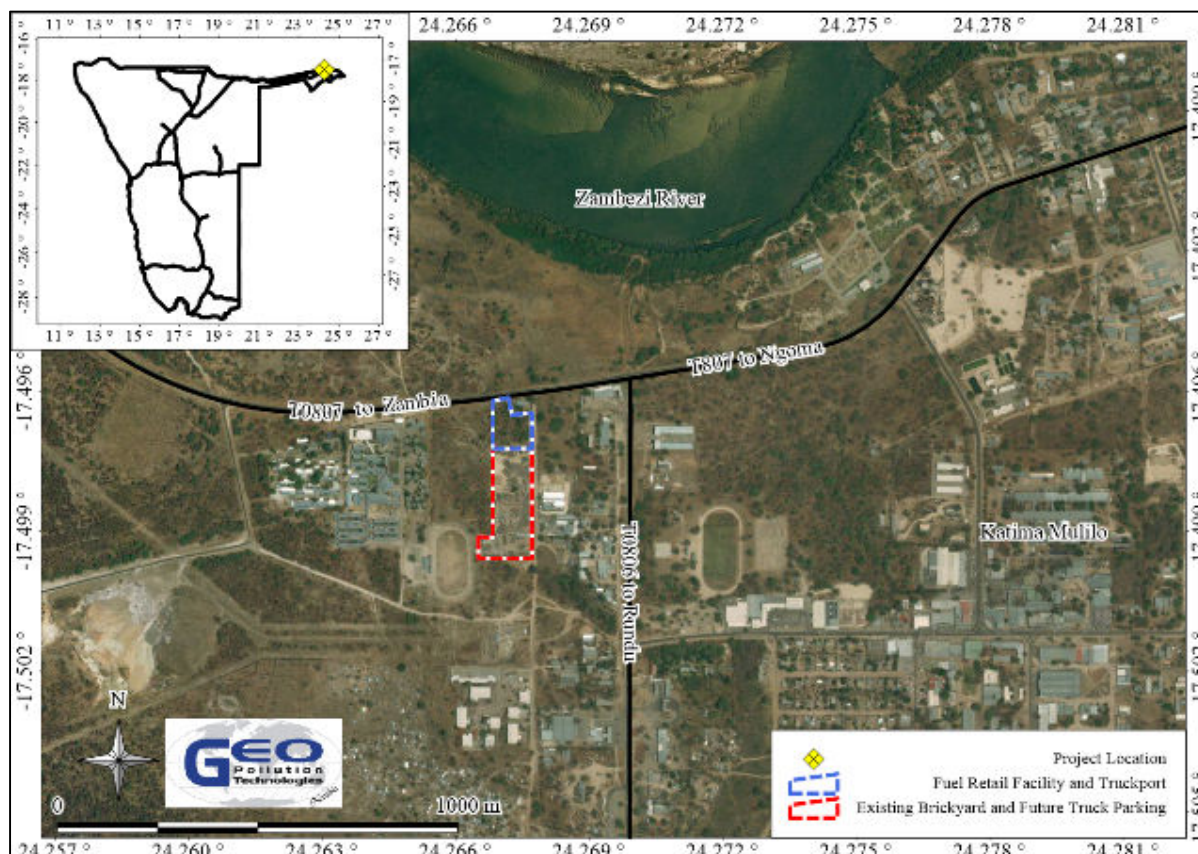


Figure 1: Proposed Location of Project

3.3 Operational Phase

Normal operations associated with a fuel retail facility and truck port will take place. This mainly involves the receipt of diesel and unleaded petrol from road tankers, storage of fuel in underground storage tanks, dispensing of fuel to customer vehicles by pump attendants, operations of the truck port, a shop, food court and daily activities involved with tank dips, fuel reconciliations and cleaning of the site.

Preliminary site plans propose that the site contain three underground storage tanks. These will allow for storage of unleaded petrol and 50 ppm diesel. Spill control infrastructure will be present on site. This will include spill control concrete slabs with drains connected to an oil/water separator on all surfaces where fuel is handled.

3.4 Decommissioning Phase

Decommissioning is not foreseen during the validity of the environmental clearance certificate. Decommissioning will however be assessed. Should decommissioning occur at any stage, rehabilitation of the area may be required. Decommissioning will entail possible removal of all infrastructure including buildings and underground infrastructure. Any pollution present on the site must then be remediated.

4. Preliminary Identified Impacts

During the environmental assessment all components of the environment will be considered, however only those components which are being impacted on significantly or are deemed to be sensitive will be assessed. These may include the following:

- ◆ Health and safety risks
- ◆ Fire risk
- ◆ Groundwater, surface water and soil contamination
- ◆ Dust generation
- ◆ Noise
- ◆ Waste generation and disposal
- ◆ Ecosystem and biodiversity impacts
- ◆ Demographic profile and community health
- ◆ Socio economic contributions
- ◆ Hydrocarbon pollution

5. Getting Involved

GPT invites all IAPs to provide in writing, any issues and suggestions regarding the project. This correspondence must include:

- ◆ Name and surname,
- ◆ Organization represented or private interest,
- ◆ Position in the organization,
- ◆ Contact details, and
- ◆ Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

All contributions become public knowledge and will be circulated along with the reports as per the EMA requirements.

The comments, inputs and suggestions will also be submitted to the DEA along with how any issues have been addressed in the SR.

The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental assessment. However, all comments and concerns should be provided to GPT to ensure incorporation into the final report.

The project team may be contacted on the contact details below.



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Your Rights as an IAP according to the Environmental Management Act, No7 of 2007, Government Notice No 30 (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations)

Section 23.

(1) A registered interested or affected party is entitled to comment in writing, on all written submissions made to the Environmental Commissioner by the applicant responsible for the application, and to bring to the attention of the Environmental Commissioner any issues which that party, believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, as long as -

(a) comments are submitted within 7 days of notification of an application or receiving access to a scoping report or an assessment report;

(b) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

(2) Before the applicant submits a report compiled in terms of these regulations to the Environmental Commissioner, the applicant must give registered interested and affected parties access to, and an opportunity to comment in writing on the report.

(3) Reports referred to in sub regulation (2) include -

(a) scoping reports;

(b) scoping reports amended and resubmitted;

(c) assessment reports; and

(d) assessment reports amended and resubmitted.

(4) Any written comments received by the applicant from a registered interested or affected party must accompany the report when the report is submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.

(5) A registered interested or affected party may comment on any final report that is submitted by a specialist reviewer for the purposes of these regulations where the report contains substantive information which has not previously been made available to a registered interested or affected party.

Section 24:

The applicant responsible for an application must ensure that the comments of interested and affected parties are recorded in reports submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of these regulations, and comments by interested and affected parties on a report which is to be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner may be attached to the report without recording those comments in the report itself.