

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT FOR A DIESEL  
RETAIL FACILITY IN WALVIS BAY**

**ERONGO PETROLEUM CC**



**Erongo Petroleum CC**

July 2020

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Erongo Petroleum CC (the Proponent) intends to construct and operate a diesel retail facility (generally referred to as a customer own collection facility or COC) on erf 4448, Rössing Street, Walvis Bay (Figure 1). The facility will sell diesel in bulk and clients will mainly include the trucking and construction industry who typically purchase more than 200 litres of diesel for filling of trucks or bowzers. The Proponent has requested Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT) to apply for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the proposed facility. The ECC is required as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA). In support of the ECC application, an environmental scoping assessment and environmental management plan (EMP) will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

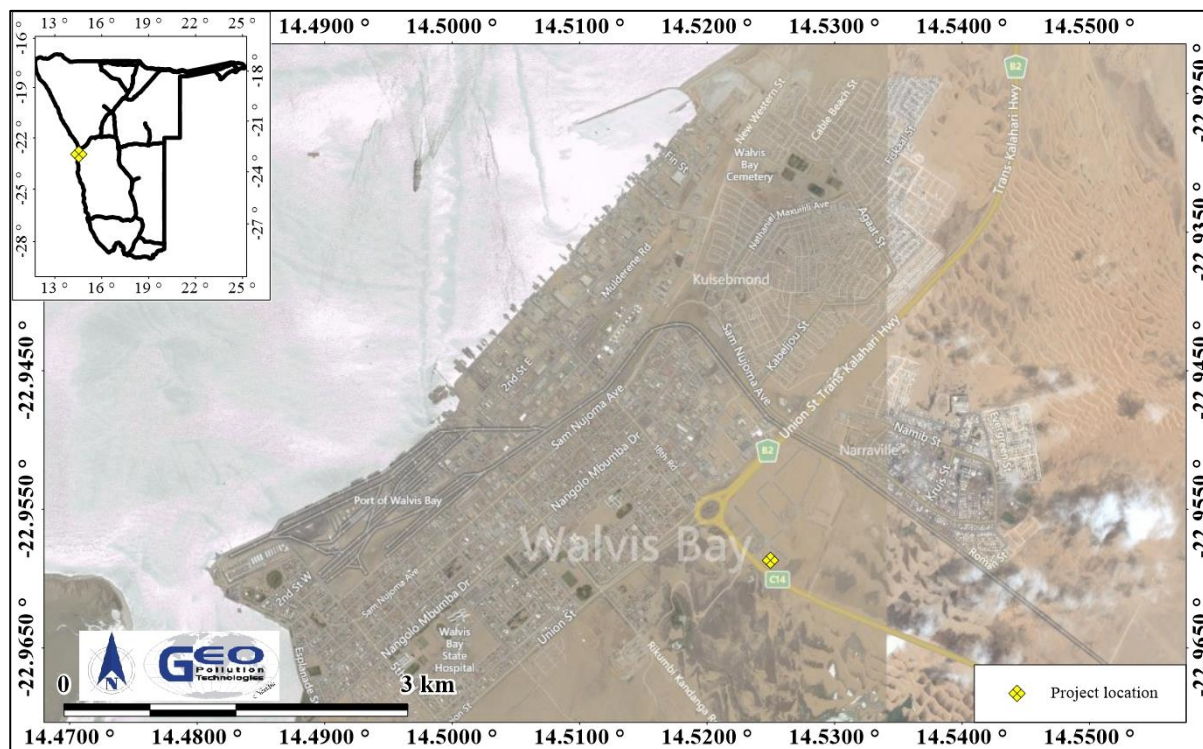


Figure 1. Project location

## 2 PURPOSE OF THE BID

With this background information document (BID), GPT aims to provide interested and affected parties (IAPs) and authorities with information about the proposed facility and to register the ECC application with the DEA. The proposed terms of reference is also presented to the DEA for approval.

## 3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Activities considered for the scoping assessment and EMP have been divided into the following phases: planning, operational, construction (including future maintenance) and a decommissioning phases. A brief outline of expected activities for each phase is detailed below.

### 3.1 PLANNING PHASE

During planning for construction, operations and decommissioning activities at the facility, it is the responsibility of the 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 risks and impacts are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ◆ Obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities including Ministry of Mines and Energy (fuel retail licence).
- ◆ Ensure correct zoning and subdivision of the property, if applicable.
- ◆ Make provisions to have a health, safety and environmental coordinator to implement the EMP.
- ◆ Ensure provisions for a fund to cater for restoration or rehabilitation activities in the event of environmental incidents or pollution.
- ◆ Ensure all appointed contractors and employees enter into an agreement with the Proponent which includes the EMP.
- ◆ Maintain a reporting system to report on aspects of operations construction and decommissioning as outlined in the EMP. This is a requirement of the DEA.

### **3.2 CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE**

Construction activities will involve the installation of the fuel tank, dispensing pump and spill control. Namibian law requires all fuel installations to be constructed according to South African National Standards (SANS) 10089, or better. The tank will be an aboveground, horizontal steel tank of 30 m<sup>3</sup>, situated inside a concrete bund area with a volume of at least 110 % of the capacity of the tank. A concrete slab with a spill catchment pit will be constructed on which fuel deliveries and collection will occur. Infrastructure required for normal operations of the facility will be installed according to accepted industry standards. These include water and electricity supply, sewer connections, security fencing, administrative building and ablutions. During operations, maintenance and minor repairs will be performed as required. This may include painting, servicing and / or replacement of equipment.

### **3.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE**

Normal operations associated with fuel retail facilities will involve the receipt of diesel from road tankers, storage of the fuel in the aboveground tank, and dispensing of fuel to clients via the dispenser. Regular tank dips and reconciliations will be performed to ensure there are no product losses and that fuel deliveries are scheduled on time. Administrative tasks, site security and cleaning of the premises will continue on a daily basis to ensure the effective operation of the facility.

### **3.4 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE**

Decommissioning of the entire facility is not foreseen during the validity of the ECC. Decommissioning will however be assessed, since activities like the removal of the old infrastructure during maintenance activities forms part of decommissioning. Where decommissioning occur, rehabilitation of the area may be required. Decommissioning will entail partial or complete removal of all infrastructure, including buildings and underground infrastructure. After decommissioning, any pollution present on the site must be removed or remediated.

### **3.5 PRELIMINARY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS**

During the preparation of the environmental assessment and EMP, all components of the environment will be considered. However, only those components which are, or will be, significantly impacted, or are deemed to be sensitive, will be assessed. These include the following:

- ◆ Human component (employee and visitor health and safety)
- ◆ Infrastructure (aesthetics, fire, integrity, etc.)
- ◆ Neighbours (noise, aesthetics, waste, traffic)
- ◆ Groundwater, surface water and soil (effluent generation and disposal, waste, pollutants)
- ◆ Ecosystem and biodiversity (birds, pollutants)
- ◆ Socio economic characteristics (employment, training, skills, revenue)

## **4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

In line with the requirements of the EMA and its regulations, GPT invites all IAPs to register for the environmental assessment process. Registered parties can provide, in writing, a brief summary of any concerns, suggestions or support that he / she may have regarding the intended project. This correspondence must include:

- ◆ Name and surname
- ◆ Organization represented or private interest
- ◆ Position in the organization
- ◆ Contact details
- ◆ 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 of these issues have been addressed in the assessment report. The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental assessment. However, all correspondence should be provided to GPT in time to ensure incorporation into the final report. As such, all communication should reach our office by 17 August 2020. The project team may be contacted at:



**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.*