

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING OF A BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BULK STORAGE FACILITY FOR LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS, WINDHOEK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



Prepared by:



Prepared for:



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1 INTRODUCTION

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Vivo Energy Namibia (Pty) Ltd (the Proponent) to undertake an environmental assessment for the decommissioning of a bulk fuel storage facility and the construction of a bulk storage facility for liquefied petroleum gas, on erf 7997, Northern Industrial area, Windhoek (Figure 1-1). The Proponent intends to remove all infrastructure on erf 7997 associated with the bulk fuel storage facility and construct a new facility for the bulk handling and storage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The assessment is required to address the decommissioning, construction and operational activities planned on the site, in order to improve operational and safety standards.

An environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the operations 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, Forestry and Tourism's Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in support of an application for an ECC. The environmental assessment will include all decommissioning, construction, and operational activities associated with the facility.

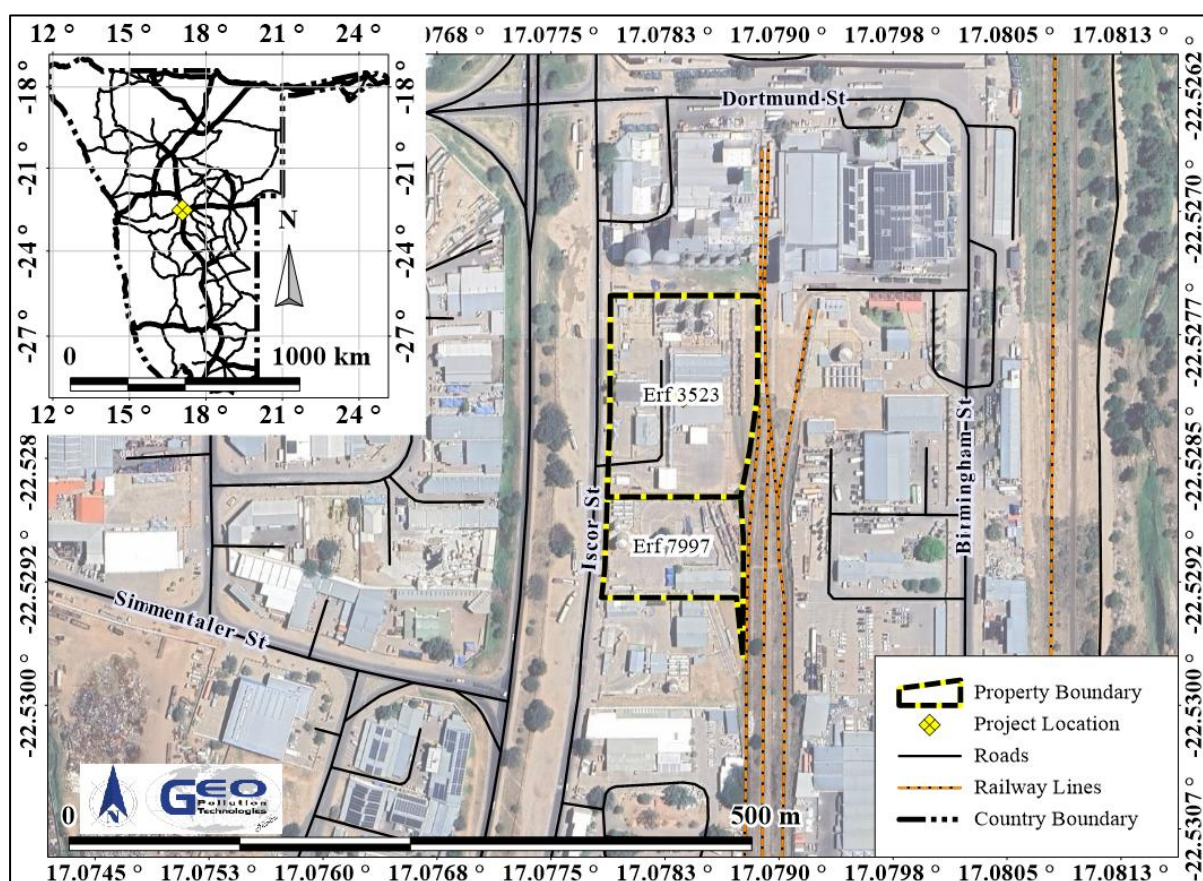


Figure 1-1 Project location

2 PURPOSE OF THE BID

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. All IAPs are therefore invited to register with GPT for the project 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 EMP).

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Activities associated with the facility was divided into the following phases: decommissioning of existing bulk fuel storage infrastructure, planning, construction, operational and the decommissioning phase of the gas storage infrastructure. A brief outline of expected activities for each phase is detailed below.

3.1 PLANNING PHASE

While planning for initial decommissioning, construction (upgrades and maintenance), operations, and potential future decommissioning of 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 impacts and risk are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ◆ Where not in place, obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities.
- ◆ Ensure compliance to land use rights and aspects such as town council consent.
- ◆ Appoint a health, safety and environmental coordinator to implement the EMP.
- ◆ Provide for a fund to cater for environmental incidents such as pollution clean-up and ecological restoration if ever required.
- ◆ Ensure all appointed contractors and employees enters into an agreement which includes the EMP.
- ◆ Establish and / or maintain a reporting system to report on aspects of construction, operations, (maintenance) and decommissioning as outlined in the EMP.

3.2 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

All existing infrastructure will be decommissioned and removed. This includes the previously used aboveground storage tanks, offices, workshops, store rooms, oil storage, a laboratory and the railway siding. Two LPG storage tanks will be installed (initially one 114 m³ storage tank, with another similar tank to be installed in future), a LPG loading and unloading gantry will be constructed as well as a LPG cylinder storage and filling area. To allow for sufficient backup firewater availability, firefighting infrastructure will be installed and one firewater storage tank and one water pump house will be constructed on the adjacent Vivo Energy Bulk Fuel Storage facility on erf 3523. Support infrastructure will also be put in place, including cylinder washing and repair area, as well as offices with ablution.

3.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

Normal operations associated with a bulk LPG storage facility and filling operations will continue on the new developed site. This mainly involves the receipt of LPG from road tankers, its storage in bulk tanks and dispensing of the LPG into smaller cylinders supplied to customers. Daily activities involves filling of cylinders, gas sales and cleaning of the site.

Maintenance will continue on a regular basis to ensure the facility remains safe and may include some minor construction activities. Maintenance include minor repairs to infrastructure, general upkeep of the bulk storage facility and associated infrastructure, including painting, servicing of equipment, etc.

3.4 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Decommissioning of the newly constructed site is not foreseen during the validity of the ECC. Should decommissioning occur, it will entail the complete removal of all equipment and waste. Any pollution present during the decommissioning of the current site must be remediated at such time. Prior to decommissioning, the EMP must be updated to accommodate all activities associated with this phase and to provide preventative and mitigation measures for any potential impacts that may occur.

3.5 PRELIMINARY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

During the preparation of the EIA and EMP, all components of the environment will be considered. However, only those components which are, or may 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, explosion, integrity, etc.)
- ◆ Neighbours (noise, aesthetics, waste, traffic)
- ◆ Groundwater, surface water and soil (waste, pollutants)
- ◆ Ecosystem and biodiversity (pollutants)
- ◆ Socio economic characteristics (LPG availability to locals, employment, training, skills, revenue)

4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Geo Pollution Technologies 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.
- ◆ Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

All contributions by IAPs 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 EIA. The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental assessment. However, all comments and concerns should be provided timeously to ensure incorporation into the final report.

For any additional information 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.