

**CONSTRUCTION OF A CONSUMER FUEL INSTALLATION AND PHOTOVOLTAIC
PLANT FOR THE OPERATIONS OF SUPER SAND AT ARIS, KHOMAS REGION
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**



Prepared by



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Prepared for



1 INTRODUCTION

Kachas Industrial T/A Super Sand (the Proponent) plans to construct and operate a consumer fuel installation and a 100 kVA photovoltaic (PV) plant on the industrially zoned portion; Krumhuk FMK/00030/005/A at Aris, Khomas Region. These infrastructure components will be constructed as supporting infrastructure to the Proponent's main sieving and brickmaking operations. The consumer fuel installation and photovoltaic plant will play an important role in daily operations providing fuel to roll sieves, fleet vehicles as well as operation equipment and electricity to administrative buildings and brick manufacturing machines. The consumer fuel installation will conform to South African National Standards (SANS) as prescribed by Namibian legislation and the Proponent will apply for a Consumer Fuel License from the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy. Due to the relatively small size of the solar plant and the Proponent's intention to generate electricity only for its own consumption on the premises, the plant is exempted from obtaining a generation licence from the Electricity Control Board (ECB).

The Proponent requested Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT) to apply for an ECC for the operations of the consumer fuel installation and solar plant. An ECC for the operations of the facility is required as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA). In support of the ECC application, an environmental assessment report or an environmental management plan (EMP) will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

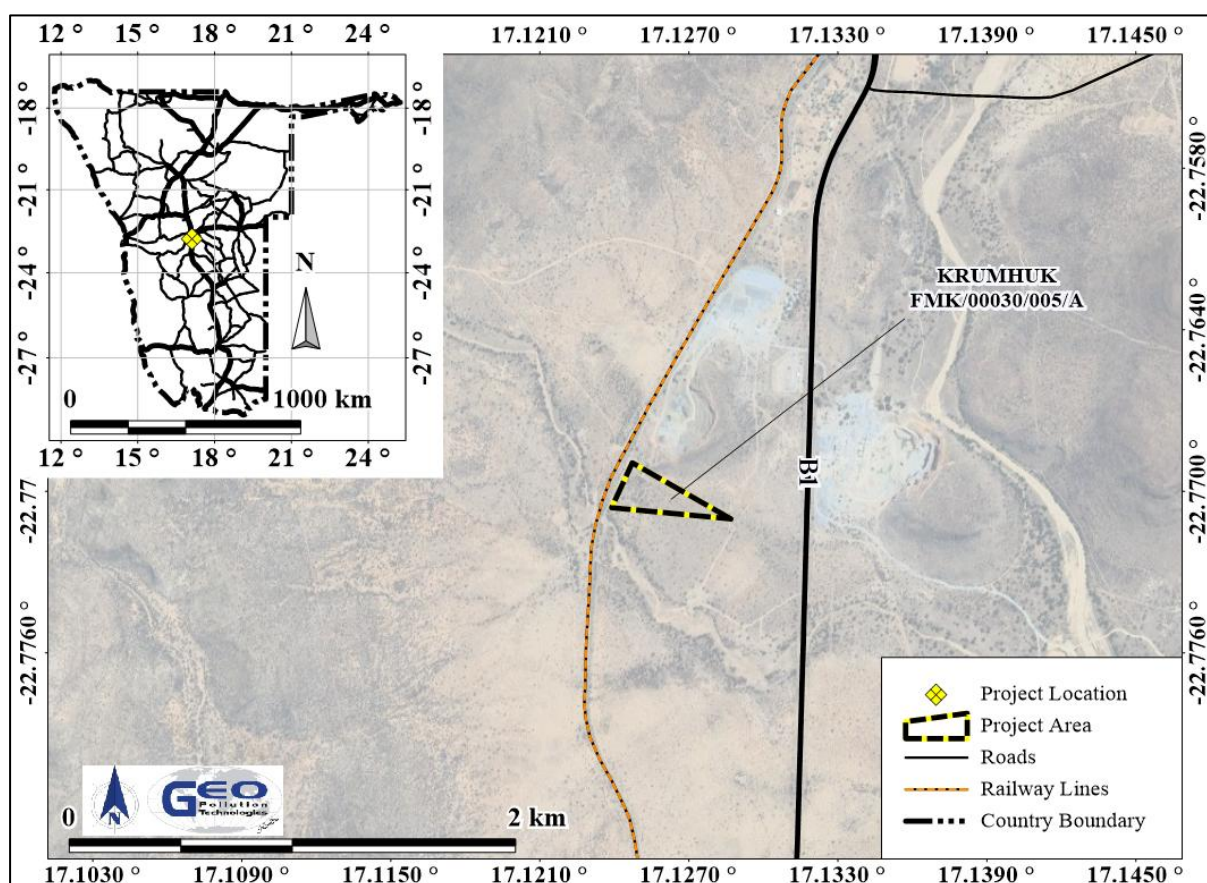


Figure 1 Project location

2 PURPOSE OF THE BID

With this background information document (BID), GPT aims to provide the DEA, authorities and interested and affected parties with information about the facility, and to register the ECC application with the DEA.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Activities associated with the facility have been divided into the following phases: planning, operational and the decommissioning phase. A brief outline of expected activities for each phase is detailed below.

3.1 PLANNING PHASE

While planning for operations and decommissioning of the 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:

- ◆ Where not in place, obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities. This includes the consumer installation certificate from the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy.
- ◆ 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 outlined in the EMP. This is a requirement of the DEA.

3.2 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The Proponent plans to construct a 23 m³ aboveground, steel diesel tank. Namibian law requires all fuel installations to be constructed and maintained according to South African National Standards (SANS) 10089 and 10131, or better. Construction activities will entail the installation of the tank inside a suitably bunded area. A concrete spill slab will be cast in areas where fuel will be offloaded and dispensed. Both the bund area and spill slab will have sumps to collect any spilled fuel for safe disposal. During operations, maintenance and minor repairs will be performed on infrastructure as required. This may include painting, servicing and / or replacement of equipment.

In terms of the solar plant the Proponent plans to construct a 100 kVA grid connected PV plant using solar panel technology. Solar panels will be installed on mounting racks to form solar panel arrays. Construction activities will entail some earthworks to prepare the area for the installation of the mounting racks and support infrastructure. A short aboveground power line will be required and its construction will entail installation of pylons and the stringing of transmission cables to the brick making plant. Concrete works will be required to cast the foundations to which the mounting racks will be secured. Solar panels will be fixed to the mounting racks and all cabling will be installed to connect the solar panels to each other to form the solar array and to connect the solar array to the inverters and ultimately to the aboveground power line.

Once operational, maintenance and minor repairs will be performed on infrastructure as required. This may include servicing and replacement of solar panels, parts and equipment.

3.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

Operations associated with the consumer fuel installation will continue on a daily basis. This will mainly involve the receipt of fuel from road tankers (monthly), storage of fuel in the aboveground storage tank, dispensing of fuel to operational equipment and fleet vehicles, and daily activities involved with tank dips, fuel reconciliations, maintenance and cleaning of the site. Firefighting drills will be performed and equipment is serviced and tested to ensure their optimum performance.

Limited operational activities are required for a PV Plant. Operations will mainly entail regular inspection of all infrastructure components, as well as cleaning of the solar panels to ensure continued optimal functioning.

3.4 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Decommissioning of the facility may occur once the Proponent no longer requires it. Decommissioning will entail the complete removal of all equipment and infrastructure involved with

solar plant and consumer fuel installation. The tank will be scrapped or transported to another location for re-use for the same purposes of fuel storage. Solar panels may also be scrapped or be re-used for power generation at another location. All waste material at the site will be removed and disposed of at a registered waste disposal facility or re-used / recycled where possible. For example, demolished concrete can be used to backfill holes made for the mounting racks. Any hydrocarbon polluted soil present on the site at the time of decommissioning must be disposed of at a hazardous waste disposal facility, or remediated if possible.

3.5 PRELIMINARY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

During the drafting of the EMP, all components of the environment are considered. However, only those components which are being impacted on significantly, or are deemed to be sensitive, are assessed. These include the following:

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

4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation is an integral part of all environmental assessments. Geo Pollution Technologies thus invites all interested and affected parties (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 become public knowledge and will be included in the environmental report. The environmental report will be circulated to all registered IAPs for review 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 environmental assessment.

The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental assessment. However, all comments and concerns should be provided to GPT timeously, to ensure incorporation into the final report. For any additional information the project team may be contacted at:



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