



GA Environment

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED MINING OF QUARRIES 4,5,6A, & 6B ASSOCIATED WITH THE UPGRADE OF NATIONAL ROAD R573 (MOLOTO ROAD), GAUTENG PROVINCE

JUNE 2020

This plan has been submitted as per the requirements of the General Provisions of Annexure 2 of the Regulations issued in terms of Section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No.57 of 2002) and published on 29 April 2020 in Government Notice No R.480 of Government Gazette No 43258 and also in terms of the directions regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences issued by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries on 05 June 2020.

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1. INTRODUCTION

It is the intention of the South African National Roads Agency Soc Ltd to establish various Quarries to provide the necessary construction materials for the proposed upgrading of national road R573-1 (K139) from Baviaanspoort Road in Tshwane (km 0,00) to the Gauteng / Mpumalanga Provincial Border (\pm 46.00 km). The upgrading of the R573 Moloto Road includes the following projects:

- Upgrading of the entire length of the R573/1 Moloto Road to a 4-lane barrier-divided dual carriageway from Stormvoël Road to the Gauteng border;
- Construction of the southern link between Stormvoël Road and Baviaanspoort Road;
- Construction of the new PWV2 link between the N1/N4 Interchange and the R573/1 Moloto Road;
- Construction of the Moloto/Sefako Makgatho Interchange;
- Construction of the Big Tree Mall Interchange;
- Construction of the De Wagendrift bypass along the R573/1; and
- Various upgrades to local roads and upgrading of intersections to small interchanges (Moepel Overpass; Baviaanspoort Road East extension; Dewar, Sakabuka and Maroela interchanges and road developments).

The SANRAL appointed KBK Engineers to provide engineering services for the proposed development. KBK Engineers appointed GA Environment (Pty) Ltd on behalf of SANRAL as independent Environmental Consultants to undertake the required Environmental approvals for the mining of four Quarries for the purpose of the proposed development. All four Quarries are situated along the R573 Moloto Road and are as follows:

- Quarry 6A;
- Quarry 6B;
- Quarry 4 and
- Quarry 5.

It is important to note that a Basic Assessment Process will be undertaken for Quarry 4 & Quarry 5 and a Scoping and EIA process will be undertaken for Quarry 6A and 6B. Four separate Environmental Authorisation applications and reports will be compiled for each site and submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). However, the Public Participation Plan (PPP) is applicable to all four Quarries as they all fall along the R573.

A pre-application meeting was undertaken on the 24th of January 2020 with the DMRE officials, Mr Nkosinathi Mahlaba, Mr Ntsundeni Ravhugoni, and Mr Muse Mangobe to discuss the application process and the DMRE's requirements.

On the 5th of June 2020, the minister issued directions regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. One of the requirements provided in the directions is that a Public Participation Plan shall be submitted to the DMRE, in instances where a case officer has been assigned to the project then the Public Participation Plan shall be submitted to the case officer.

According to Section (2)(4)(f) of the National Environmental Management Act, the participation of all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) must be promoted and all potential I&APs must be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding applications that may affect their lives or livelihood. In order to give effect to the above sections, it is essential to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate opportunity for Public Participation (PP) in decisions that may affect the environment.

The purpose of this document is to provide the competent authority with direction on the Public Participation processes to be fulfilled while ensuring that the Environmental Assessment Practitioner's (EAPs) actions curtail the threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and to alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of the national state of disaster. It is the intention of GA Environment to ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided for public participation and that all administrative actions are reasonable. While the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic are drastic, the specific measures recommended have been carefully considered to ensure that the process is transparent and participatory to all I&APs.

The NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) prescribe the minimum requirements for Public Participation as summarised in Table 1. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and in line with the section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, additional measures have been proposed in this PP Plan. The level of Public Participation required for the proposed projects has been informed by:

- the scale of anticipated impacts of the proposed project;
- the sensitivity of the affected environment and the community interest in the matters related to the project; and
- the characteristics of the potentially affected parties.

2. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (Government Notice R. 982 in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 07 April 2017) prescribes the minimum requirements for Public Participation through which all role players including potential I&APs, state departments, organs of state, and the competent authority (CA) to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the environmental impacts of the proposed activity or implications of a decision. These requirements and the sections of the report in which they have been addressed is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Minimum requirements for Public Participation

GN 982, Reference	Content	Reference in Table 2
41 (2) (a)	Fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of (i) (i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and (ii) any alternative site;	1.9

GN 982, Reference	Content	Reference in Table 2
41 (2) (b)	Giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to—	
(i)	the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site	1.3
(ii)	owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken	1.4
(iii)	the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area;	1.4
(iv)	the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;	1.6
(v)	any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and	1.7
(vi)	any other party as required by the competent authority;	1.4 & 1.7
41 (2) (c)	placing an advertisement in—	
(i)	one local newspaper;	1.8
(ii)	any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;	N/A
42 (a)	A proponent or applicant must ensure the opening and maintenance of a register of interested and affected parties and submit such a register to the competent authority	1.2
43 (1)	A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans submitted to such party during the Public Participation process contemplated in these Regulations and to bring to the attention of the proponent or applicant any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application	2.1
43 (1)	In order to give effect to section 240 of the Act, any State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment must be requested, subject to regulation 7(2), to comment within 30 days.	N/A

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

The provision of Public Participation tasks has been outlined in **Table 2**. In addition to the Public Participation requirements, mechanisms for the undertaking of Public Participation, is subjected to all the applicable health and safety and other restrictions, directions and requirements determined in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act.

Table 2: Public Participation Procedure to be followed

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
Section 1. Initial Public Participation Phase			
1.1	Pre-application meeting	A pre-application meeting has already been undertaken for the proposed project.	24 th January 2020
1.2	Identifying and approaching specific I&AP's	A register of all I&APs will be opened and maintained throughout the project.	Available on request and will be included in the DSR & the DBAR.
1.3	Written Notification of the owner or person in control of the site	Landowner details for all potentially affected landowners will be obtained. Each landowner will be contacted telephonically and informed of the project and written notification will be provided to all potentially affected landowners. A land acquisition process will also be undertaken by SANRAL and KBK Engineers.	Available on request and will be included in the DSR & the DBAR.
1.4	Written Notification of occupiers of land adjacent to the site	Written notification will be provided to adjacent landowners during the initial Public Participation phase. The distribution of electronic notification letters will be undertaken. The ward councillor will be contacted regarding the adjacent businesses, as well as community forums that shall be informed of the proposed development.	Available on request and will be included in the DSR & the DBAR.
1.5	Written Notification of the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site	The ward councillor will be contacted regarding the proposed project. A notification letter will be provided electronically to the ward councillor. Meetings between GA Environment and Ward Councillor will also be undertaken to discuss the Public Participation Plan and to obtain details of the community structure and the community forums.	Available on request and will be included in the DSR & the DBAR.
1.6	Written Notification of the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area	Notification letters will be sent through electronically to the City of Tshwane Environmental Planning and Open Space Department.	Available on request and will be included in the DSR & the DBAR.

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
1.7	Written Notification of any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity	<p>The following organs of State have been identified as Commentary Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; • City of Tshwane: Roads and Transport Department; • City of Tshwane: Environmental Planning and Open Space; • South African Heritage Resources Agency; • Department of Water and Sanitation; • Provincial Heritage Resource Agency -Gauteng <p>The above-mentioned organs of state will be informed of the proposed project. Notification letters will be submitted to them electronically.</p>	Available on request and will be included in the DSR & the DBAR.
1.8	Placing an advertisement	A newspaper advertisement will be placed in the Pretoria News, advertising the availability of the Draft Scoping Report/Draft Basic Assessment Report.	Available on request and will be included in the DSR & the DBAR.
1.9	Fixing a notice board	On-site notices presenting the project will be erected at visible and accessible locations close to the proposed study area.	Available on request and will be included in the DSR & the DBAR.
Section 2: Draft Scoping Report (DSR)/Draft Basic Assessment Report Review Phase			
2.1	Distribution of DSR/DBAR to registered I&APs and members of the public and notification of the availability of the report.	<p>The I&AP database will be maintained throughout the duration of the project. All I&APs on the database will receive an email notification on the availability of the DSR/DBAR. All registered I&APs will be informed that due to the COVID 19 pandemic electron versions of the report will be made available. All I&APs will be provided with a link whereby the report can be easily downloaded, and the report will be made available on GA Environment’s website. Hard copies of the report will be made available only to I&APs upon request in order to limit the risk of any possible contamination. The report will be made available electronically however should public venues be open during the Public review phase; the reports will be placed at the local libraries. Before the placement of the reports at the venues, GA Environment will confirm the COVID 19 measures that are in place for all visitors.</p> <p>Copies of the report will also be made available to the Ward Councillor for discussions in his committee meetings. The ward councillors will be informed by GA Environment of the COVID 19 directions that was issued by DEFF. GA Environment will engage with the councillor moving forward regarding the communication of the project and the availability of the DSR/DBAR. Proof of such communication will be included in the Final Scoping Report/Final Basic Assessment Report.</p>	The process will be undertaken in line with the directions provided by the Ministry of DEFF regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. DMRE to approve or advise regarding the way forward.

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
2.2	Distribution of the DSR/DBAR to organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity	A list of organs of state that will be informed of the Scoping process is included in Section 1.7. GA Environment will also make telephonic updates with the respective I&APs to confirm the process for the receipt of the DSR/DBAR. All organs of state as provided in item 1.7 will be provided with a link whereby the report can be easily downloaded.	The process will be undertaken in line with the directions provided by the Ministry of DEFF regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. DMRE to approve or advise regarding the way forward.
2.3	Public Open Day	<p>Should the comments received on the proposed project warrant the need for a public open day, the then Disaster Management Act requirements prescribed at a time of undertaking this activity will be applied. The open day will be broken up into various sessions which will limit the number of I&APs to each session, however each I&AP will be afforded the opportunity to meet the project team and obtain additional information on the project and provide their comments.</p> <p>The following alternative means are however available regarding dissemination of project information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All I&APs that provide comments will receive and acknowledgment from GA Environment. • GA Environment will set up a telephonic meeting with the I&AP to discuss their comments/concerns. The option of an online meeting will also be provided to the I&AP. • GA Environment will respond to all comments received from I&APs; • The comments and response report will be updated and made available in the Final Scoping report/Final Basic Assessment Report; • All I&APs will also be provided with the link to download an electronic copy of the Final Scoping Report/Final Basic Assessment Report. 	The process will be undertaken in line with the directions provided by the Ministry of DEFF regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. DMRE to approve or advise regarding the way forward.

No.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK TO BE PERFORMED	MECHANISM FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK	Date & Status
2.4	Focus Group Meeting with representatives of organs of state having jurisdiction	Focus group meetings will be undertaken based on the comments received from I&APs and the request of I&APs to have a meeting. The meeting could either be one on one sessions or online meetings.	The process will be undertaken in line with the directions provided by the Ministry of DEFF regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. DMRE to approve or advise regarding the way forward.
2.5	Focus Group meetings with vulnerable and marginalised groups; and	GA Environment will liaise with the Ward Councillor regarding communities other than those identified and contacted by GA Environment.	The process will be undertaken in line directions regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. DMRE to approve or advise on the way forward.
2.6	CA Site Visit	GA Environment will await the request from the DMRE regarding a site visit. Social distancing and hygiene practices will be followed.	The process will be undertaken in line with the directions provided by the Ministry of DEFF regarding the measures to address, prevent and

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			combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. DMRE to approve or advise regarding the way forward.
Section 3 EIA Phase			
3.1	Distribution of Draft EIR to registered I&APs and members of the public and notification of the availability of the report.	The I&AP database will be maintained throughout the duration of the project. All I&APs on the database will receive an email notification on the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The report will be made available electronically and on GA Environment's website. However, should public venues be open during the EIR phase the reports will be placed at the local library. Copies of the report will also be made available to the Ward Councillor for discussions in his committee meetings.	To be confirmed and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity.
3.2	Distribution of Draft EIR to organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity	The Draft EIR will be made available to organs of state electronically or should they prefer a hard copy report, such will be made available upon request.	To be confirmed and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity.
3.3	Public Open Day	Comment provided in 2.3 above will be applicable to the proposed project.	To be confirmed and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity
3.4	Focus Group Meeting with representatives of organs of state having jurisdiction	Focus group meetings will be undertaken based on the comments received from I&APs and the request of I&APs to have a meeting.	To be confirmed by DEFF and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements (if

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			applicable) prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity
3.5	Focus Group meetings with vulnerable and marginalised groups; and	GA Environment will liaise with the Ward Councillor regarding communities other than those identified and contacted by GA Environment.	To be confirmed by DEFF and will follow the then Disaster Management Act requirements (if applicable) prescribed at a time of undertaking the activity.

3 CONCLUSION

GA Environment will ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided for Public Participation and that all administrative actions are reasonable. While the COVID-19 pandemic is unique, the specific measures recommended have been carefully considered.