

INTEGRATED BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING AND REHABILITATION OF THE STELLENBOSCH LANDFILL SITE IN STELLENBOSCH, WESTERN CAPE

Public Participation Report

By

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Members of the informal Slab Town Community located on the Stellenbosch Landfill Site in front of one of the project site notices

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- Annexure 5:** Notes of the Slab Town Focus Group Discussion of 19 September 2014
- Annexure 6:** Notes of the Resident’s Monitoring Committee Meeting of 19 September 2014
- Annexure 7:** Comments and Response Report 1

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the key deliverables and findings of the first phase of the Public Participation Process, for the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the Stellenbosch Landfill Site, and will inform the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) for this project.

During the period 29 August 2014 – 19 September 2014, a Background Information Document (BID) was circulated for comment and opportunity was given to the public to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&APs), and to provide input to the potential end-uses of the landfill site upon closure. Most of the inputs received from I&APs regarding the project and potential end-uses were sent via email as well as verbally raised during the three Focus Group Discussions that were held on 19 September 2014.

A section adjacent to the waste body (well within the buffer zone of the municipal landfill site and the adjacent wastewater treatment plant) is currently occupied by an informal community called Slab Town. Stakeholders in this project vary in their capacity and ability to engage formally with the project in terms of access to electronic and published material. The stakeholder engagement process for this project therefore includes “outreach” strategies such as the three individual Focus Group Discussions, which were held with the following groups: Stellenbosch Municipality officials, the Slab Town Community, and the landfill site’s Resident’s Monitoring Committee (RMC) consisting mostly of members of the Devon Valley Community.

Public participation in the next phase of the project will include a second round of Focus Group Discussions with these three groups as well as a public meeting, which is scheduled to be held on 11 November at 18h00 at the Devon Valley Hotel conference room.

The purpose of the public meeting is to discuss the DBAR, which will be made available to the public for review prior to the meeting.

All comments received to date were recorded in a Comments and Responses Report 1, along with responses from the project team.

2 INTRODUCTION

Stellenbosch Municipality intends to formally close and rehabilitate the Stellenbosch Landfill Site (the site) in terms of Regulations pursuant to the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008) (NEM:WA) and National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA), as the site will reach maximum capacity in a couple of years. Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed to conduct the Integrated Basic Assessment and Waste Management Licence Application process to decommission and rehabilitate the site, and have in turn appointed Sonja Pithey Consulting to conduct the Public Participation process for this project.

Public participation is a legal requirement in terms of NEMA for any development requiring Environmental Authorisation and as such, for the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the landfill site considering the affected sensitive communities and stakeholders associated with the site.

The aim of the Public Participation Process for this project includes:

- Providing the opportunity for meaningful participation of I&APs;
- Identification of issues and concerns of Key Stakeholders and I&APs with regard to the proposed landfill end-uses;
- Assist in identifying potential social and biophysical impacts associated with the project.
- Promotion of transparency and an understanding of the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts; Accountability for information used for decision-making;
- To serve as a platform for liaison and communication with I&APs; and

3 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Public Participation Process for this project has been conducted in accordance with regulations promulgated in terms of Chapter 5 of NEMA, i.e. Regulation 54 of Government Notice (GN) R543 of 18 June 2010, as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning's Guideline on Public Participation dated March 2013. The process is underpinned by the core values for Public Participation as prescribed by the International Association of Public Participation SA¹.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

4.1 Stakeholder Database

A stakeholder analysis was conducted and contact details of potential I&APs have been collated into a stakeholder database. Stakeholder contact details were also extracted from the following sources:

- An existing Stellenbosch waste management related database which was obtained from Jan Palm Consulting Engineers;
- Key authorities involved in the process, which were identified by various project team members;
- Key Stellenbosch Municipality Officials and Councillors identified by the project team,
- The current database consists of the following six categories of stakeholders:
 - Ratepayers & adjacent landowner;
 - Authorities Register;
 - Stellenbosch Municipality;
 - Residents Monitoring Committee;
 - Stellenbosch Municipality IDP distribution list;
 - Devon Valley Farmer's Association (DVFA).

¹ International Association for Public Participation SA www.iap2sa.co.za

The database is continuously updated and maintained as new I&APs register for participation on the project.

The stakeholder database of registered I&APs is attached as Annexure 1 to this document.

4.2 Background Information Documentation

A Background Information Document (BID) was circulated to provide I&APs with information regarding the project, as well as the opportunity to register and comment on potential end-uses for the site. I&APs were notified of the availability of the BID via email and advertisement in two local newspapers as well as the Stellenbosch Gazette, and via personal communication with the affected Slab Town community. Two hard copies of the BID were handed to the community representative for further discussion with his community. (Refer to Annexure 5 Notes of the Slab Town Focus Group Meeting).

A copy of the BID is attached as Annexure 2 to this document.

4.3 Access to project information via website

The BID was made available for public access on the following two websites:

Stellenbosch Municipality:

- <http://stellenbosch.gov.za/general/1690-landfill-site-background-information-29aug2014/file>

Aurecon

- <http://www.aurecongroup.co.za/en/public-participation.aspx>

All future project related public participation documentation will be made available on these websites.

4.4 Newspaper Advertisements

Newspaper advertisements were produced and placed in two local newspapers namely *Die Eikestad Nuus* and *Stellenbosch Gazette*, which is circulated throughout the greater Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, Pniel and Kylemore areas. A notice was also placed in *Die Burger*, which is circulated in the greater Western Cape Province.

Publication dates for the above notices were as follows:

- *Stellenbosch Gazette*: 2 September 2014;
- *Die Burger*: 3 September 2014;
- *Die Eikestad Nuus*: 4 September 2014;

Proof of newspaper advertisements are attached as Annexure 3.

4.5 Notice Boards

Two project site notices (measuring 800 mm x 600 mm) as well as 4 x A3 notices were erected in and around the Stellenbosch Municipal area and at the landfill site on **8 September 2014**, as follows:

800 mm x 600 mm notice boards fixture:

- Placed on the fence left of the main entrance to the landfill site, off Devon Valley Road;
- At the entrance to Slab Town, off Adam Tas Road, on the right hand perimeter fence of the wastewater treatment plant.

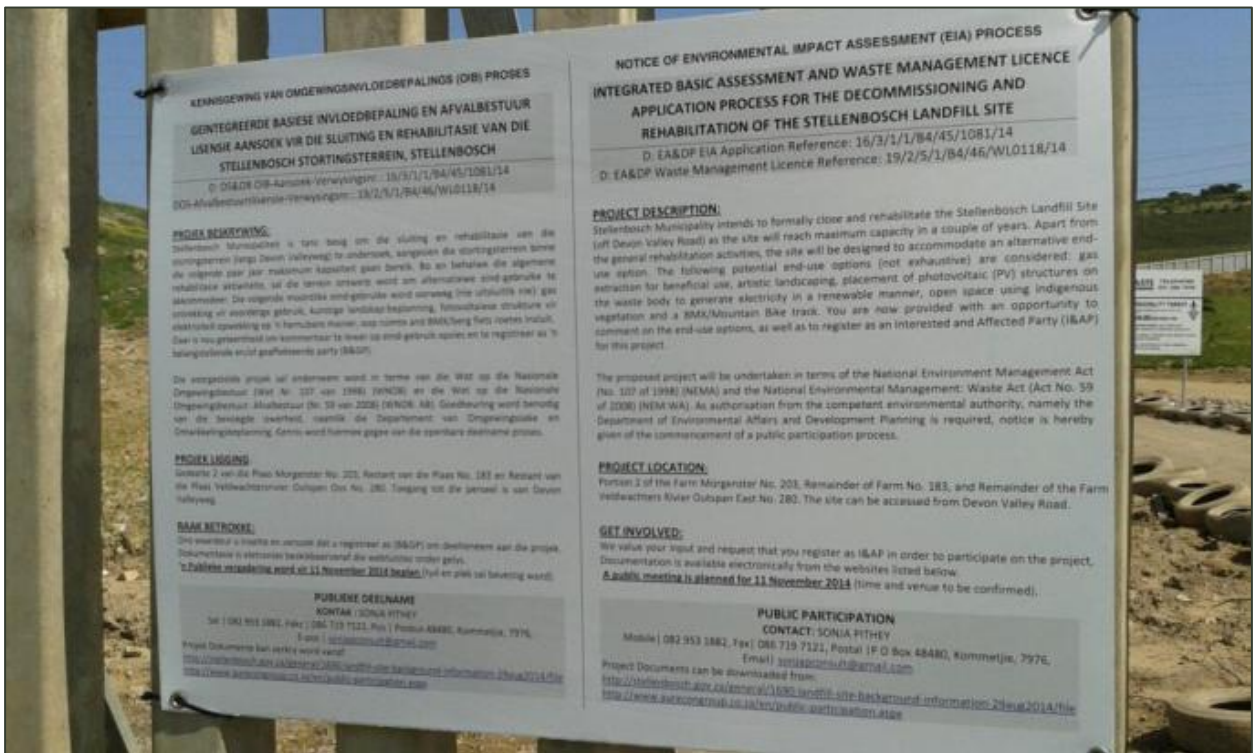


Figure 1: Site notice erected on fence at access point to landfill site off Devon Valley Road



Figure 2: As above



Figure 3: Notice board erected at entrance to Slab Town Community off Adam Tas Road

A3 Notice Boards

- On the burglar bars of the office building and toilet facility at the landfill site;
- On the notice board outside of the Stellenbosch Library, Plein Street;
- On the notice board inside the Stellenbosch Library, in Plein Street; and
- One copy was handed to the official in charge of approving notices for display in the official Neelsie display board on the Stellenbosch University campus, who undertook to put the notice up in the following week, when the students returned from their break. No proof was obtained that the notice was erected.



Figure 4: Stellenbosch Landfill site office



Figure 5: Erected outside on Stellenbosch Library notice board



Figure 6: Erected inside on Stellenbosch Library notice board

4.6 Stakeholder engagement activities to date

The first round of stakeholder meetings was held on **19 September 2014**, with the following key focus groups:

- Stellenbosch Municipality Inter-Departmental Focus Group Discussion: **Annexure 4**
- Slab Town Community Focus Group Discussion: **Annexure 5**
- Stellenbosch Municipality Residents Monitoring Committee Focus Group Discussion: **Annexure 6**

Attendance registers and key outcomes of the focus group discussions are attached in Annexures as indicated above. Initial stakeholder engagement activities provide meaningful input to the project, whilst ensuring initial buy-in and identification of 'red flag' issues.

Stakeholder engagement during BID circulation had raised the following key issues:

- Slab Town community re-location and potential marginalisation
- Project delay due to unresolved housing/relocation issues
- Future development proposal in buffer zone by Steinhoff Properties
- Pollution of the Veldwagters River and Water Quality Monitoring
- Need for Waste minimisation and beneficiation
- Uncontrolled access to site and disharmony amongst waste pickers
- Concerns and issues of neighbouring Devon Valley farmers and Resident's Monitoring Committee
- Project integration with and ownership by other key line functions in the Municipality
- Eskom requirements and limitations.

5 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

A Comments and Response Report (CRR) has been produced to summarise all I&AP inputs (email, written, verbal or any other) to the project. The large number of comments received along with the depth of input received, indicates the sensitive and potential controversial nature of this project. The strategy to engage with key stakeholders in the three Focus Group Discussions proved to be the most significant technique to extract detailed issues and concerns from a broad spectrum of stakeholders with potentially conflicting opinions. Comments and/or issues received during these Focus Group Discussions were also included in the CRR.

The CRR 1 is attached as Annexure 7.

6 WAY FORWARD

The public participation process for the next phase should continue to engage with I&APs and the key Focus Groups already identified, to ensure inclusive planning by all key stakeholders identified to date.

The next phase of public participation will entail the following:

- Informing registered I&APs of the availability of the DBAR for a 40 day comment period, 30 days for state departments and 60 days for the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation;
- The DBAR will be made available at the Stellenbosch Public Library, Stellenbosch University and at the Stellenbosch Municipal offices;
- The DBAR will also be accessible from the Aurecon website (<http://www.aurecongroup.co.za/en/public-participation.aspx>) and the Stellenbosch Municipality website (www.stellenbosch.gov.za click on Have your Say);
- Additional meetings to be held with the three Focus Groups on 11 November 2014, prior to the public meeting;
- A Public Meeting will be held on 11 November 2014 at the Devon Valley Hotel in Stellenbosch at 18:00;
- Incorporating comments received from registered I&APs on the DBAR into the Final BAR.