



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

**PG BISON – Thesen Sawmilling
RENEWAL OF ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS LICENCE
Erf 21710, George**

April 2018

Introduction

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ensure compliance with the relevant public participation regulations contained in the **National Environmental Management Air Quality Act** for the renewal of the existing Atmospheric Emissions Licence for the PG BISON – Thesen Sawmilling operation on Erf 21710, George.

The applicant will submit an application for the renewal of the existing wood drying facilities on site. The applicant will apply for renewal of their existing atmospheric emissions licence in terms of the National Environmental Air Quality Act (NEM:AQA) & associated regulations;

Project Proposal.

The proponent, PG BISON – Thesen Sawmilling, intend renewing their existing atmospheric emissions licence for their existing wood drying facilities on the site.

It is important to note that the proponent is not proposing any changes to the facility, but applying to renew the Atmospheric Emissions Licence for the existing activities only.

Process Description

Wood is delivered to the PG Bison – Thesen Sawmilling premises by road directly from the plantation where the logs was harvested. Untreated Sawlogs are delivered to PG Bison – Thesen Sawmilling.

Branches are removed from the logs at the plantation. Bark is removed just prior to passing through the sawmilling process where the logs are sawn into lumber, mainly for the building industry. Approximately half of the sawlog volume is processed into lumber, the balance being unsuitable for lumber and redirected as a by-product.

The lumber is subsequently dried in kilns prior to being final processed and sold. Thesen Sawmilling has the capacity to deliver 500 m³ dried lumber per month,

During the drying process the lumber moisture content of the wood is reduced from approximately 55% to approximately 12% by weight.

The non-lumber by-products can be classified as either wood chips, bark or saw dust. Wood chips are transported to PG Bison's operations in Ugie in the Eastern Cape where it is used in the manufacture of reconstituted wood products, e.g. chip board.

Thesen Sawmilling burns the remaining saw dust, wood chips and bark approximately 120 m³ per day in compacted form, in their two boilers to generate steam for the timber drying operations.

The steam generated provides more than sufficient drying energy to of the existing three drying kilns.

Description of the site

The existing sawmill is situated on Erf 21710 George, located between York Street, PW Botha Boulevard and the N2 National Highway.

The site is currently used as a sawmill constituting both a Dry Mill as well as a Wet Mill incorporating a wood drying facility. This current land use will remain unchanged with the submission of the renewal application.

Access to the property is directly from PW Botha Boulevard and no additional access or changes to the current access are proposed as part of this process.

From an ecological point of view the entire site is considered to have **low sensitivity** as it is already irreversibly transformed as part of the existing timber processing operations.

Environmental Context

According to the Vegetation Map of South Africa (2006) and BGIS 2014, the vegetation mapped to have historically occurred on the site is **Garden Route Granite Fynbos**, which is listed as a critically endangered ecosystem in terms of section 52 of NEM:BA. There are however NO remnants of this vegetation type remaining on site and as such will not be affected.

The extent of the study site does **not fall within a Critical Biodiversity Area** nor an Ecological Support Area.

The closest protected area, Witfontein Nature Reserve is situated approximately 7km North of the site.

The nearest significant residential area is approximately 380 metres to the south of the facility and the closest industrial neighbour is approximately 380 metres to the north of the facility

What is the purpose of this document?

The main purpose of this **Background Information Document (BID)** is to:

- Provide potential "Interested and Affected Parties" (I&APs) with information regarding the existing activities on the site;
- Describe the renewal process being undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act; and
- Explain the way forward.

Applicable NEMA Listed Activities

No Activities in terms of the NEMA EIA regulations are applicable to this renewal process, as no new activities are being proposed.

AEL Renewal Process

I&APs will be provided an opportunity to review & comment on this Background Information Document. Input/comments received during the commenting period will be submitted to EDEN District Municipality for consideration with the application for renewal of the facilities Atmospheric Emissions Licence.

The following steps, amongst others, will be undertaken as part of the Renewal Process:

- Identifying potential Interested and Affected Parties ("I&AP's");
- **Advertising** a 'Call for Registration of Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs)' in a local newspapers (Suid Kaap Burger & Suid Kaap Forum) with a registration period of 30-days;
- Make available this **Background Information Document (BID)** for distribution to potential and registered I&APs briefly explaining the process and project (**this document**);
- Open and maintain a **Registered Stakeholder database**;
- Notification of registered I&APs and Stakeholders of the **Decision**, and details of appeal process / period.

Alternatives

No Alternatives are under consideration, as the applicant is not making any changes to the existing activities on site.

Why and how should you get involved?

Names and details of members of the public who respond to the legal advert & notices (calling for I&APs to register) will be captured on the project **Stakeholder Register**. All written comments provided will also be recorded. According to the Guidelines on Public Participation, only those parties that submit their full contact details for registration purposes, will be registered. Documentation containing incomplete, or no contact details may not be considered.

In the event that you (or any other party you may be aware of) have an **interest** in the process, or feel that you **may be affected** by the proposed development, you are invited to **register** as an I&AP for the environmental process. A vital part of the process is **public consultation** as it provides stakeholders with an opportunity to gain an informed understanding of the proposed development and provide input thereto. In order to do so, I&APs are requested to submit their full contact details, in writing, to *Cape EAPrac* at the address provided at the end of this document.

Cape EAPrac is obliged to investigate and respond to all issues/concerns raised during the course of the environmental process. In order to do this, we will rely on professional input from various specialists if required, as well as guidance from local, provincial and national Authorities.

Please note that the main purpose of this public participation process is to gain an understanding of all issues/concerns related to the AEL renewal application.

**TO REGISTER AS AN I&AP, PLEASE SEND
YOUR REGISTRATION REQUEST, NAME &
FULL CONTACT DETAILS, AND COMMENTS
TO**

Cape-EAPrac
ATT: Mr Dale Holder
PO Box 2070 George 6530
Telephone: 044 874 0365 Fax: 044 874 0432
E-mail: Dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

All registration requests and comments must be submitted in writing.

RENEWAL OF ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS LICENCE PROCESS

PG BISON – Thesen Sawmilling

REGISTRATION / COMMENT SHEET on BID

Should you have any comments and would like to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party (“I&AP”), please complete this form and return it to *Cape EAPrac* at P O Box 2070, George, 6530. Tel: 044 874 0365, Fax: 044 874 0432, Email: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za. Registration may also be done online at www.cape-eaprac.co.za on the active project page.

TITLE & NAME	
REPRESENTING	
POSTAL ADDRESS	
TEL NO.	
FAX NO.	
CELL NO.	
E-MAIL	

NOTE: Submission of incomplete contact details may result in a person/entity not being registered. Please ensure that you complete the above table in full.

COMMENTS (please feel free to submit more pages)

1. List any **key issues or concerns** relating to the renewal of the AEL for the existing Wood Drying Facility at PG Bison - Thesen Sawmilling.

2 Describe your **reason/motivation** for participating in this environmental process (disclose any interest)

NOTE **ito the 2014 Environmental Regulations it is compulsory for I&APs to state their interest in a project/process, thus not providing reasons, may result in a person/entity not being registered.**

3 List any potential (reasonable and / or feasible) **alternatives** for the activity and **state why** you are recommended the alternative(s):

4. List **interested & affected parties** (I&APs) or Stakeholders that you feel should be registered (provide their **full contact details (name, telephone, fax, email and postal details)** and who they represent in order that we may contact them):
