



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) **Atmospheric Emissions Licence Renewal Process**

Geelhoutvlei Timbers

January 2020

Introduction & Background

Geelhoutvlei Timbers have submitted an application for the renewal of their atmospheric emissions licence (AEL) to the licensing authority, Eden District Municipality.

This application was submitted in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) for the existing activities at the sawmill. Please Note: This application is for the renewal of their existing AEL and that no expansion or changes to any of the current activities at the sawmill are proposed.

Why is this application process necessary?

Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act have listed a number of activities which result in emissions and which may have a significant detrimental effect on the environment.

Any industry that undertakes any of these "listed activity" must be in possession of a valid atmospheric emissions licence from the licencing authority.

Wood Burning, Drying and the Manufacture of Wood Products are listed in Category 9.5 of these Regulations.

Geelhoutvlei Timbers is in possession of a valid atmospheric emissions licence. They are however required to apply for a renewal in terms of the legislation, namely the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act.

Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac) have been appointed, as independent environmental assessment practitioners (EAP), to facilitate the legally required public participation process for this renewal process.

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 facility;
- Describe the process being undertaken;
- Provide I&APs with the opportunity to raise issues or concerns regarding the renewal of this licence;
- Provide information on the way-forward for the remainder of the process.

Description of the site & surrounding environment

The site falls within the **Knysna** municipal area of the Western Cape Province of South Africa.

The sawmill is situated Hoofstraat 1, Karatara in the Knysna Municipal Area.

The surrounding land use is mainly open space with limited intensive and extensive agricultural Activities.

What is being proposed?

This application is for the renewal of an existing Atmospheric Emissions Licence for an existing facility. **Changes** to or **expansion** of the facility **do not** form part of this application process.

The specific activity under consideration as part of this renewal process relates to the drying of wood that takes place as part of the integrated sawmill operations. The following key stages form part of this process:

Raw material consists of round logs which are fed through a bark stripper [de-barker] before entering the sawmill. Bark will be a by-product in this process. Logs are processed into 19 and 25mm board, within the sawmill. Off cuts go through a chipper and wood chip is produced, stored in a bin and thereafter sold. Sawdust is conveyed to the furnace/boiler and used as a pulverized fuel for combustion in the boiler. The combustion in the boiler heats water to steam which is used in the process.

Upon exiting the sawmill, the product (board) will be stacked and kiln dried after which the boards will be bundled, stored and sold. Secondary processing will then utilize a percentage of the board and produce various molded products. The sawmill handles approximately 5000 m³ raw material per month of which 50% is recovered as product.

The following unit processes form part of the activities at Geelhoutvlei Timbers:

- Saws - Used to cut logs into boards.
- Log de-barker machine - Stripping bark from round logs.
- Chipper - Produce wood chip from off cuts.
- Furnace/Boiler - Burning of sawdust (used as fuel) and the production of steam.
- Kiln - Drying of boards Continuous Process
- Dry store - The unpacked and bundle of wood

- Moulders - Produce moulders products
- Treatment plant Treatment (CCA) of wood products
- Store - Store products before dispatch

Emission Sources

The following emissions were identified and will be considered by the licencing authority when considering the application:

Point Sources

- Boiler Stack (17m vertical stack with a 1.01m diameter)

The stack is fitted with a grid arrester cyclone to reduce emissions.

The licensing authority, GARDEN ROUTE District Municipality, may impose additional conditions for improvement of air quality as part of their licence review process.

Reporting Requirements.

The licencing authority requires that Geelhoutvlei Timbers measure Oxides of Nitrogen (NoX) and particulate matter (PM) n an annual basis. All measurements taken to date indicate that the levels of these two pollutants are below the minimum emissions thresholds for this activity.

A copy of the October 2017 Emission Survey Report is included with this BID. Please note that the facility burnt down in 2018 and has only become operational again in 2020. As such there are no other surveys available for the previous 5 year period.

What legislation applies?

This application process is undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004) Ito the above Act, the following listed activities are applicable:

Category 9.5, Wood Burning, Drying and the Production of Manufactured Wood Products.

Why and how should I get involved?

In the event that you have an **interest** in the project, or feel that you **may be affected** by the issuing of this licence, you are invited to provide comment / objection to the renewal of this licence.

All comments must be submitted in writing to Cape EAPrac.

What does the remainder of the process entail?

Cape EAPrac will formally respond to all comments received during the comment period. Where necessary, specialist input will be sought to inform responses.

On completion of the public participation process, Cape EAPrac will submit a comment and response report to Garden Route District Municipality.

Based on all available information, Garden Route District Municipality will take a decision on whether or not to grant (renew) the licence.

If Garden Route District Municipality do decide to grant the licence, this decision will be communicated to all parties that provided comment or objection during this public participation process.

An atmospheric emissions licence if issued will contain conditions for emissions monitoring to ensure that the minimum emissions standards are complied with. Any necessary improvements required to address air quality issues will also form part of the licence conditions.

ONLY THOSE PARTIES THAT FORMALLY REGISTER WITH CAPE EAPrac or SUBMIT COMMENT / OBJECTION WILL BE KEPT INFORMED (RECEIVE PROJECT RELATED INFORMATION) THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PROCESS.

Please make sure to send any comments / objections, in writing, to:

Cape EAPrac
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