



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

South Cape Poles, Albertinia

May 2022

Introduction & Background

South Cape Poles have submitted an application for the renewal of their atmospheric emissions licence (AEL) to the licensing authority, Garden Route 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 facility.

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 facility 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.

Treating of wood poles with Creosote and CCA (Copper Chrome Arsenate) are listed in Category 3 & Sub-category 3.3 of these Regulations.

South Cape Poles is in possession of a valid atmospheric emissions licence. They are however required to apply for a renewal in terms of the legislation, every five (05) years.

The renewal application has been submitted to the competent authority.

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 **Hessequa** municipal area of the Western Cape Province of South Africa.

The facility is located at 41 Nywerheidslaan in Albertinia.

The surrounding land use is vacant land, other industrial facilities and the N2 national road.

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 treatment of wood using Creosote and CCA (Copper Chrome Arsenate). The following key stages form part of this process:

The treatment process itself involves the submersion of timber products into the respective liquids during which the liquid is pressurized to approximately 600kPa. CCA is water-soluble and treatment is at standard temperature. Creosote, however, is a tar-like substance and must be preheated to a maximum of 95°C to make it a fluid enough to penetrate the timber.

During this heating process some emissions may be released into the atmosphere, which result in such installations requiring a permit to be issued in terms of the NEM:AQA (Act 39 of 2004) by the District Municipality (Garden Route DM). The volume of each of the treatment tanks is approximately 79000 litres and 15 400 litres for the creosote and CCA respectively.

Treated timber will be stored on a hard surface to ensure that no contamination of soil takes place.

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

- Wood burning - To heat water for heating process.
- Heating Creosote - To treat the timber.

Emission Sources

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

Point Sources

- Hot Water System (7m vertical stack)
- Creosote treatment area (inside building)

The licencing 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 South Cape Poles measure Total Volatile organic compounds (TVOC) on an annual basis, and Oxides of Nitrogen (NoX) and particulate matter (PM) twice within a five year cycle.. All measurements taken to date indicate that the levels of these two pollutants are below the minimum emissions thresholds for this activity.

Complaints registered must be maintained for a period of at least five (05) years. Any complaints must be provided to the competent authority in the monthly and quarterly reports.

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 3 (Carbonization and Coal Gasification), Subcategory 3.3 (Tar processes).

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

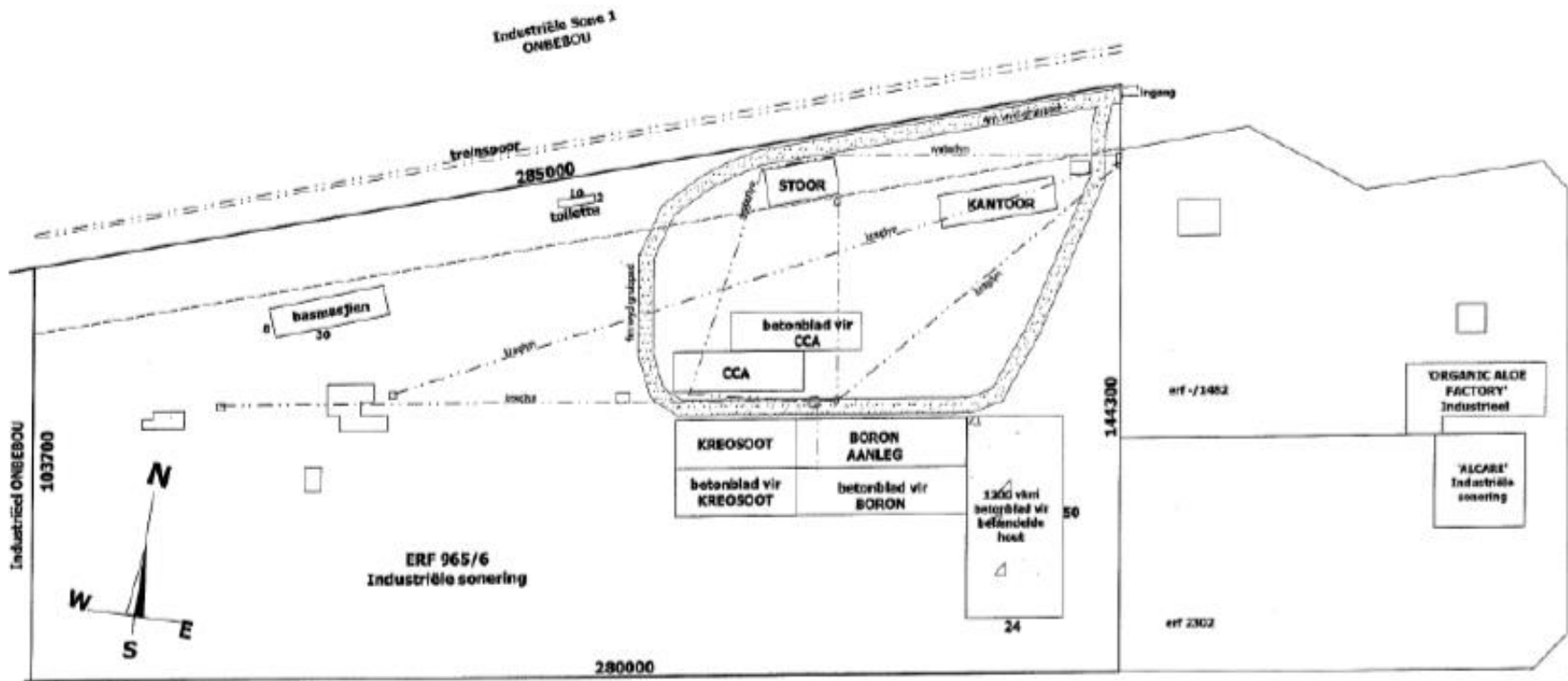
If Garden Route District Municipality decide to grant the licence, this decision will be communicated to all parties that provided comment or objection during this public participation process.

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
ATT: Dale Holder
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E-mail: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za
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Site Layout Plan 1 (preferred option)
Scale: 1:1000