



November 2020  
568038

## INVITATION TO COMMENT

### Sasol and Natref Joint Air Quality Offset Implementation Plan

Dear Stakeholder

Sasol South Africa Limited (Sasol) operating through its Sasolburg Operations (SO) owns and operates a petrochemical facility in Sasolburg in the Free State and together with Total South Africa (Pty) Ltd, jointly owns National Petroleum Refiners of South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Natref), South Africa's only inland crude oil refinery.

SO and Natref are required to comply with Minimum Emission Standards, 2013 (MES) as amended, published in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No 39 of 2004). In 2014 SO and Natref applied for postponements from the compliance timeframes for some of their emission sources regulated by the MES for new plant standards to be enforced by 1 April 2015. The postponement decisions were granted by the National Air Quality Officer (NAQO) for the period of 2015-2020. As part of the approvals SO and Natref were required to develop an offset implementation plan for approval by the relevant authorities, subject to an appropriate public participation process. The implementation plan was developed in 2016 and approved on 12 December 2017.

New and more stringent MES standards were to be effected from 1 April 2020 and SO and Natref would be challenged to meet the 2020 new plant standards' timeframes. Therefore, SO and Natref applied for postponements of compliance timeframes of the MES for new plant standards to allow for sufficient time to implement the required abatement technologies. The postponement decisions were granted by the NAQO in consultation with the Fesile Dabi District Municipality's Air Quality Officer. As part of the 2020 approval SO and Natref were again required to prepare and submit ambient air quality offset implementation plans to the Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), subject to a public consultation process. SO and Natref decided to again present a joint project plan for approval by the NAQO.

The public consultation process provides interested and affected parties (I&APs) with an opportunity to comment on the content of the plan. SRK Consulting South Africa (Pty) Ltd (SRK), an independent environmental consulting firm, has been appointed to conduct the above-mentioned public participation process.

This letter includes information on the following:

- **Invitation to register as an I&AP**
- **Availability of the Offset Implementation Plan for comment**
- **Subsequent steps in the process**

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**Invitation to register as an I&AP**

All I&AP's have been invited to register. Those who previously registered for SO and Natref's postponement application processes have been included in the initial notification. Should you wish to continue to receive information regarding the process please register by completing the online Registration and Comment Form located at: <https://arcg.is/1GqeHe> by **21 January 2021**.

You are welcome to forward this invitation to others who may be interested in registering as I&APs in this process.

**Availability of Offset Implementation Plan for comment**

The Offset Implementation Plan will be available for public comment until **Thursday, 21 January 2021**.

An electronic version of the report is available on the SRK website, <https://docs.srk.co.za/en/za-sasol-and-natref-joint-air-quality-offset-implementation-plan>

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic no public meetings have been scheduled and no hard copies reports will be made available at public places. Should you not have access to the online version of the plan please contact the undersigned and arrangements will be made for you to receive a copy in a suitable format.

Your comments and suggestions on any aspect of the offset implementation plan will be considered and will assist the authorities to make a decision. You are welcome to comment on the draft offset implementation plan by:

- Completing the online registration and comment form at the following link - <https://arcg.is/1GqeHe> Writing a letter or additional written submission by mail, email or fax; or
- Calling SRK.

**DUE DATE FOR COMMENTS: Thursday 21 January 2021.**

**Subsequent steps in the Process**

After the commenting period on the draft offset implementation plan has closed, SO and Natref will consider all comments received and appropriately update the plan. A Public Participation Report will be prepared to document all comments received and how they have been considered. These documents will be included as part of the submission to the relevant authorities. Registered I&APs will be accordingly notified and copies of the submission will be made available on SRK's website. Registered I&APs will also be notified of the authority's decision.

Thank you for your participation in this consultation process and we look forward to engaging with you.

Yours faithfully,

**SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd**

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