

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASED STORAGE CAPACITY OF THE EASIGAS LPG STORAGE FACILITY IN SIDWELL, GQEBERHA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



VNAB/RUMP

BID No: 565826

October 2021

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) serves as notice (in terms of regulation 41(2) published in Government Gazette No. R327 under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998) of the intent to increase the storage capacity of the existing Easigas Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage facility located in the Sidwell industrial area of Gqeberha.

This document will provide you with a brief description of the proposed project and the Basic Assessment (BA) Process that will be followed, as well as give you the opportunity to:

- **Register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP¹); and**
- **Provide initial comments on any environmental, social, and economic issue relating to the proposed development.**

During the BA Process which will be followed, issues of concern and potential environmental and social impacts will be evaluated. Your comments will ensure that relevant issues are evaluated and will form part of the BA.

You are hereby invited to register your interest in the proposed activity and provide your input by completing the Registration & Comment Form at the end of this document and sending it (either via email, post, or fax) to:

Abby van Nierop
SRK Consulting

Postal address: P O Box 21842, Gqeberha, 6000

Fax: (041) 509 4850

E-mail: Avannierop@srk.co.za

Your comments must reach SRK Consulting by **17h00 on 11 November 2021**, to ensure that they will be included and addressed in the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR). You may however, request to be registered as an IAP at any time during the BA process.

¹ *Notifications regarding the process and the availability of reports will only be sent to registered IAPs.*

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Easigas (Pty) Ltd proposes to double their current LPG storage capacity at their existing facility through the addition of a 400 m³ above ground LPG storage tank, to meet increasing LPG demand within the region and ensure security of supply for existing consumers. The facility is located on a brownfields site in the Sidwell/ New Brighton industrial area of Gqeberha and functions as a depot for collection and delivery of LPG by trucks. The current storage capacity on-site is approximately 400 m³ and the proposed expansion would result in total onsite storage capacity of approximately 800 m³.

Please note that more detailed information regarding the proposed project will be made available in the Draft BAR which will be available for public inspection and comment in due course. Only registered IAPs will be notified of its availability.

Who is doing the Basic Assessment?

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner must be appointed to conduct the Basic Assessment. SRK Consulting has been appointed to conduct the Basic Assessment. SRK will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity by conducting an objective and independent Basic Assessment in which all the relevant information and opinions of Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) will be collected and passed on to the competent authority (Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism). In this way an informed decision-making process can take place.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Basic Assessment (BA) process for this assessment will be conducted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended (GNR 326, of 07 April 2017).

The NEMA 2014 EIA regulations (as amended) list activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, and which consequently require environmental authorisation from the relevant competent authority. In this instance, the competent authority is the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism (DEDEAT). The

regulations further specify the assessment process, and the information that is required to enable the competent authority to make a decision regarding the activity.

The main NEMA listed activity associated with the proposed project, calling for a BA process, is the following:

- *GNR 327 (Listing Notice 1) Item 51:*
The expansion and related operation of facilities for the storage, or storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where the capacity of such storage facility will be expanded by more than 80 cubic metres.

WHAT IS A BASIC ASSESSMENT?

A Basic Assessment (BA) is a planning and decision-making tool used to identify the environmental and social consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place.

The purpose of the BA is to describe the potential consequences of the proposed development in environmental, economic, and social terms. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified timeously so that these can be recorded and responded to in the BA. All comments received in writing are included in the submission to DEDEAT for their consideration.

During the BA Process, a Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) will be released. Once the public and authorities have had adequate opportunity to review the Draft report and submit comments on its content, a Final BAR will be submitted to DEDEAT for a decision.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of NEMA govern most aspects of Basic Assessments, including public participation. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).

During the Public Participation Process, input from the proponent, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process.

IAPs will be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of the Draft BAR and findings of any Specialist studies during the specified comment period.

To receive further communications regarding the development, please register by sending the completed and signed registration sheet at the back of this document to SRK Consulting.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A flow diagram illustrating the main activities involved in the BA process, and the legislated timeframes for each, as well as commenting periods, is provided in Figure 1.

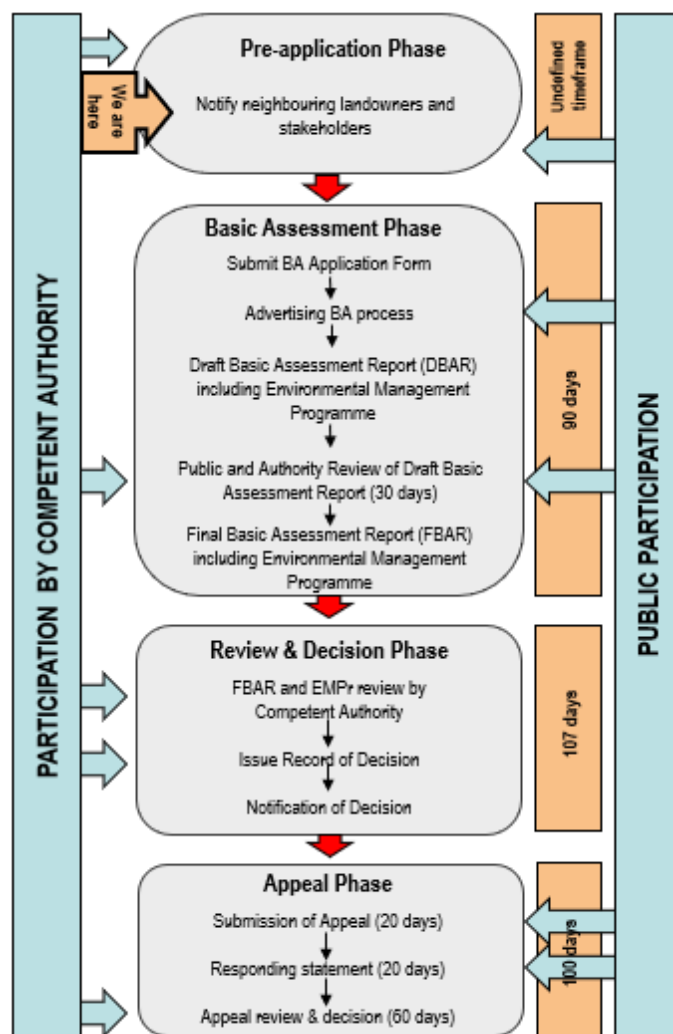


Figure 1: The BA Process

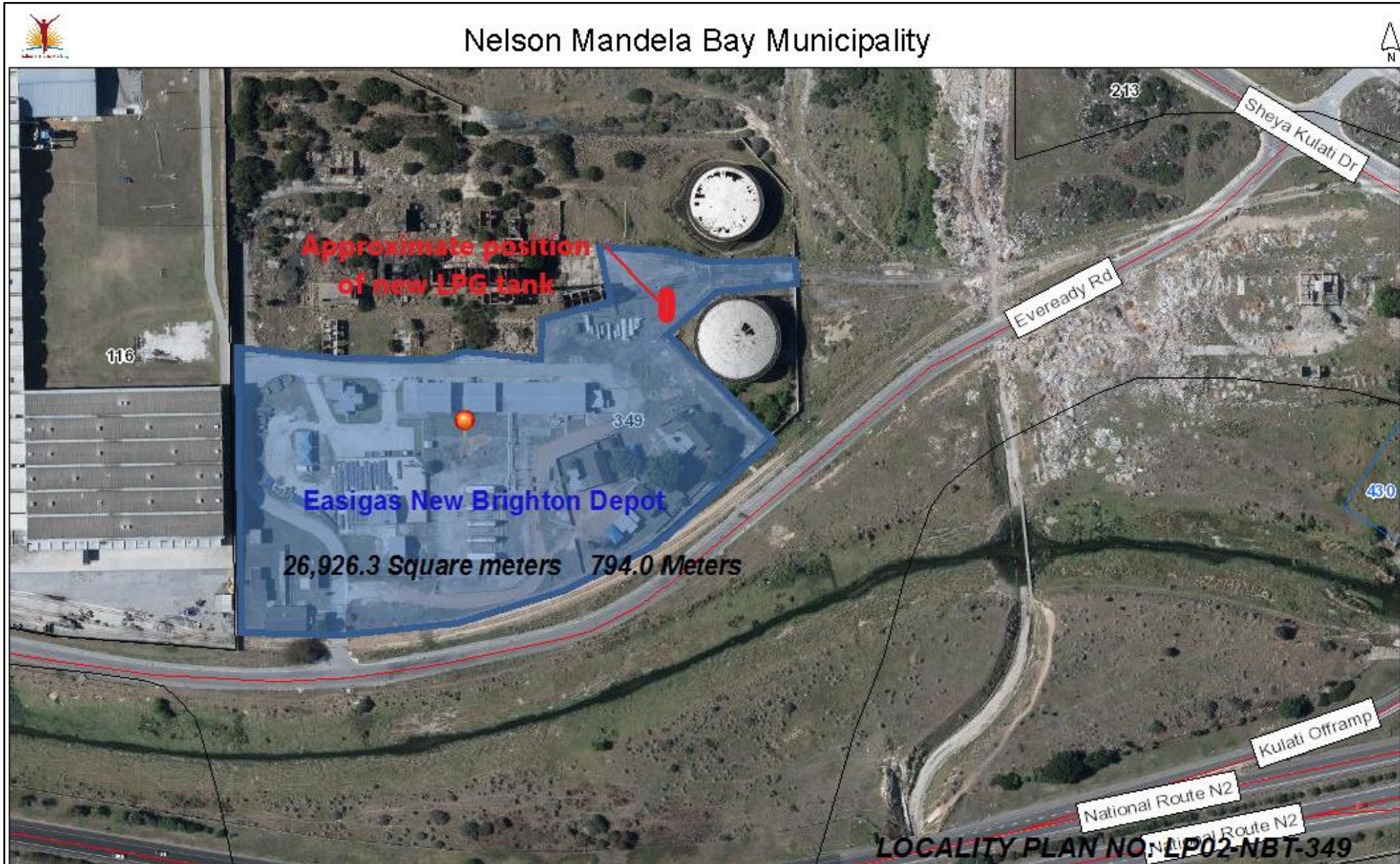


Figure 2: Site locality map (provided by NMBM), showing the Easigas lease area (in blue) and approximate position of the proposed 400 m³ LPG tank



REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE INCREASED STORAGE CAPACITY OF THE EASIGAS LPG STORAGE FACILITY IN SIDWELL, GQEBERHA

Attention: **Abby van Nierop**

Fax No: 041—509 4850

Email: Avannierop@srk.co.za

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected party and/or bring to the attention of SRK Consulting the following comments.

Contact Information:	
Title:	Name:
Organisation:	Nature of Interest*:
Postal Address:	Telephone Number:
	Facsimile Number**:
	Mobile Number:
	Email**:

*The NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), require that an IAP discloses any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest in the approval or refusal of the application.

**Preferred method of communication. The absence of email / facsimile facilities may result in a delay in receipt of IAP notifications. Please write clearly.

Comments (please use additional sheets of paper if required):

I understand that, in the event of an appeal being submitted in response to the Competent Authority's decision to grant / refuse Environmental Authorisation, the appellant may require SRK to provide my contact details for purposes of IAP notifications as required by the National Appeal Regulations.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Disclaimer

The Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013 (POPIA), which aims to promote protection of personal information, came into effect on 1 July 2021. The EIA Regulations, 2014 require, inter alia, transparent disclosure of registered stakeholders and their comments. In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, stakeholders who submit comment, attend a meeting or request registration in writing are deemed registered stakeholders who must be added to the project stakeholder database. By registering, stakeholders are deemed to give their consent for relevant information (including contact details) to be processed and disclosed, in fulfilment of the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and the National Appeal Regulations, 2014.

Thank you for your participation