

Application for a Water Use Licence in terms of Section 40 of the National Water Act, 1998 (ACT 36 OF 1998), Land Parcel 13273 of the Minor Region ELLISRAS, Portion 1 of FARM Altoostyd Land Parcel 506 of the Major Region LQ, Construction of Water Evaporation Pond at Altoostyd Substation and Switching Station.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

### DWS REF NO: WU20980

#### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) has been structured to provide all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with a concise overview of the proposed project activities as well as the associated Water Use Licensing Process. Furthermore, this BID intends to provide I&APs with information relating to the manner in which I&APs can voice any issues concerning the proposed project. The compilation and distribution of this BID forms part of the Public Participation Process for the project.

This BID provides I&APs with the opportunity to register as stakeholders in this process, as well as to comment on the proposed project. When you complete and return the registration form included with the BID, you will be included in the stakeholder database and receive further documents for review and comment/s. Your comments will ensure that all issues of concern are incorporated. To raise your concerns, please complete the enclosed registration sheet, write a letter, telephone, or e-mail the public participation office. All project documents will be available on the internet at [www.ourbiosphere.co.za](http://www.ourbiosphere.co.za).

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#### 1. BACKGROUND

Eskom is the South African utility that generates, transmits, and distributes electricity. Eskom supplies about 95% of the country's electricity and about 60% of the total electricity consumed in Africa. Eskom plays a major role in accelerating growth in the South African economy by providing a high-quality supply of electricity.

Ourbiosphere Environmental (Pty) Ltd (Ourbiosphere) has been appointed by Eskom (Limpopo Operating Unit) to undertake an assessment of water uses as well as a process for the Application for a Water Use Licence Application (IWULA).

#### 2. DISCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Altoostyd Substation and Switching Station were constructed in 2014. They are located on Farm Altoostyd 506-LQ, in Waterberg District within Lephalale Local Municipality.

During construction, it was identified that the substation experiences problems since the location of the substation is subjected to flooding and underground perched water table, where it is situated the water table is shallow causing flooding during rainy seasons.

The application will include the WULA for the proposed water uses. Altoostyd Substation and Switching Station is located approximately 8 kilometres west of Lephalale Main City Centre, Limpopo Province. The Altoostyd Substation and Switching Station is Located withing the Farm Altoostyd 506 LQ. The project is located within the Mokolo Water Management Area (WMA).

The water uses that will be taking place at the Substation and Switching Station involves Discharge of ground and storm water, which may Impact to the groundwater and surface because of the construction and operation of the Water Evaporation Pond. Accordingly, this WUL application which include the new water use licence (WULA) to have the water uses authorised is required.

#### 3. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed IWUL application triggers the following water uses defined in Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA):

- Section 21 (c) – impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse:
- Section 21 (i) – altering the bed, banks. course or characteristics of a watercourse:
- Section 21 (j) removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary for the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of people:



FIGURE 1: SOME OF THE SITE PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE SITE VISIT ON APRIL 2021







## 4. WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS

### Water Use Licensing Process

The Water Use Licence Application (WULA) process will comprise of technical reporting and public participation, and will take into consideration the following Act, legislations and/or guidelines:

- NWA;
- NWA's associated schedules:
  - General Authorisation in terms of Section 39 of NWA for water uses as defined in Section 21 (c) or 21 (i) published in Notice 509 of 2016 in Government Gazette No. 40229 on 26 August 2016, as well as;
  - Revision of General Authorisation for the taking and storing of water published in Notice 538 of 2016 in Government Gazette No. 40243 on 2 September 2016;
- Water Use Generic Guidelines:
  - External Guideline: Generic Water Use Authorisation Application Process published by Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in November 2007;
- Water Use Specific Guidelines; and
- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act no 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA) and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations.

### Technical Reporting

The technical reporting will include the following:

- Comments report from public participation
- Dam design and report including a method statement and water balance
- Environmental Management Plan Report
- Method statement of proposed intervention
- Public Participation Advert Notice
- the monitoring programme.
- The quality and quantity of water to be discharged must be determined
- Water Use Licence Application Water Resource Report

### Public participation

As an important element in undertaking the WULA process for the underway process, 1Ourbiosphere Environmental will also conduct the Public Participation Process (PPP) as set out in Regulations 39 to 44 of the NEMA and EIA Regulations 2014. This component will enable stakeholders to become involved in the process and comment on the WULA. The steps of the PPP component are outlined below:

- Placement of advertisements in a local newspaper circulating within the project area;
- Placement of a site notice board at the project site (conspicuous to and accessibly by the public);
- Notifying Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) (as identified) of the proposed application (including adjacent landowners);
- Documenting stakeholder comments submitted on the WULA within the Comments and Responses Report (CRR); and Notifying stakeholders of the DWS's decision (WUL) as well as where and how objections may be lodged.

### Submission

- All relevant documentations will be submitted to the DWS to inform decision making in the WULA

## 5. Decision-making (WUL)

Based on the information provided in the WULA, the Competent Authority (DWS, Limpopo, Polokwane Branch) will make a decision of whether or not to grant the WUL..

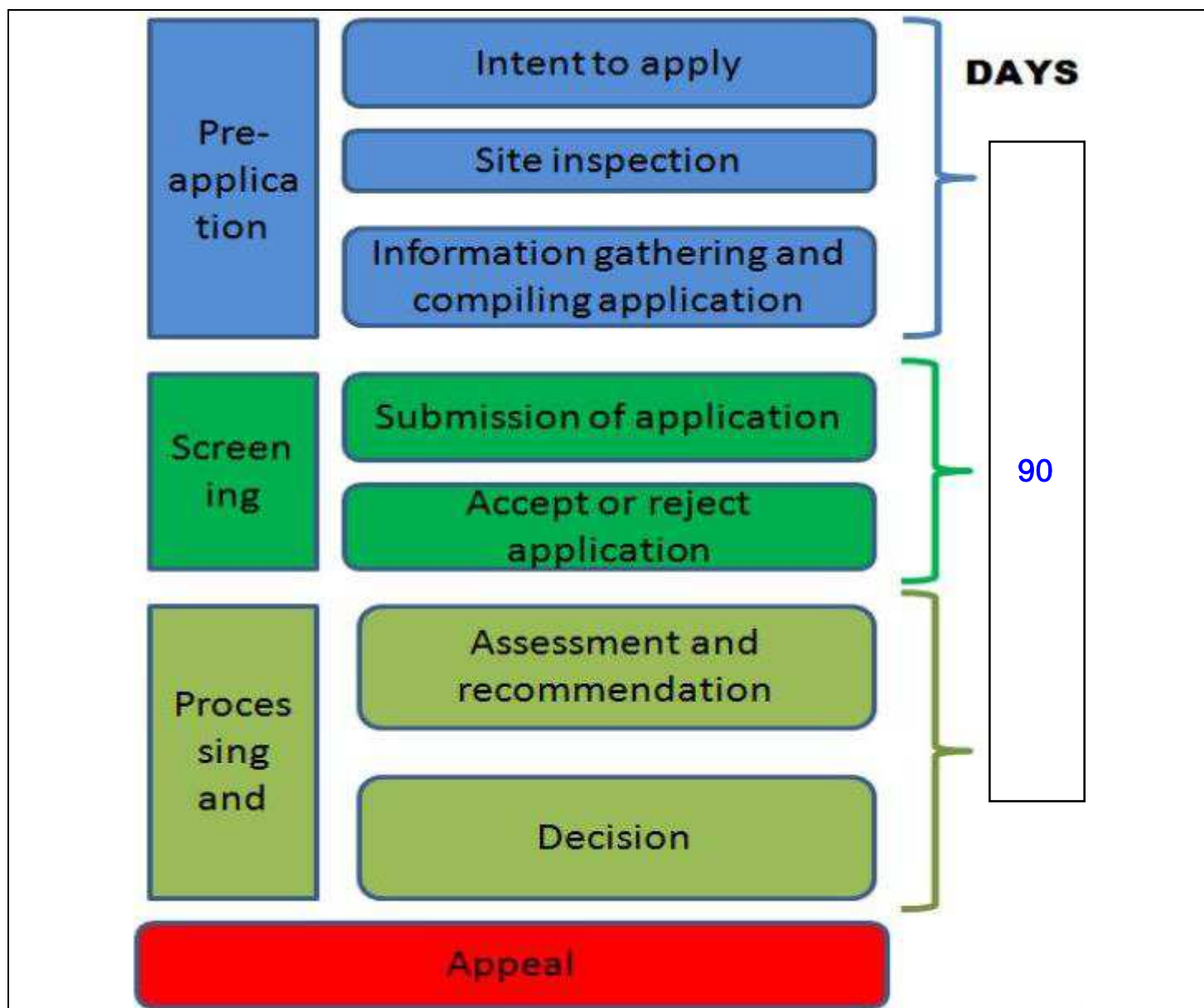


Figure 2: Water Use Licence Application Process

## 6. PROJECT LOCATION MAP

