

14 December 2017

ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP)

COMMENTING PERIOD: 14 DECEMBER 2017 – 05 FEBRUARY 2018

GNEC Code: 20463

DEAR INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP)

INFORMING START OF 30 DAY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD:

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT ON A GRAIN SILO BAG STORAGE AREA ON A PORTION OF PORTION 8 OF THE FARM PATRYSFONTEIN NO. 228, KLEINBERG, MOSSEL BAY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

GUILLAUME NEL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS (GNEC) has been appointed by SSK – SENTRAAL SUID CO-OPERATIVE Ltd. to facilitate the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed establishment of the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area on a Portion of Portion 8 of the Farm Patrysfontein No. 228, Kleinberg, Mossel Bay.

LOCATION:

Portion of Portion 8 of Farm Patrysfontein No. 228, Kleinberg, Mossel Bay. Located between N2 and the R327 – Approximately. 5 Kilometres from Moss gas.

SITE TYPOGRAPHY & CLIMATE:

The proposed site area slopes gradually from Northeast to Southwest in the direction of the existing gravel road OB5005 between the R327 and the N2. The slope is equal to 1.80% over the entire surface area of the concerned property. The concerned portion of Portion 8 of Farm Patrysfontein No. 228 is currently an utilised ploughed grain field and completely void of any indigenous and/or sensitive vegetation.

The average annual rainfall for the area is approximately 600 mm per annum, as the concerned property is located on the transition between the winter rainfall area of the Western Cape and all-year rainfall season of the Garden Route.

PROJECT PROPOSAL:

The client – SSK – SENTRAAL SUID CO-OPERATIVE Ltd - proposes a Grain Silo Bag Storage Area to serve the Agricultural Industry on a Portion of Portion 8 of Farm Patrysfontein No. 228 in Mossel Bay. The area will be accessed through existing access points to the concerned area.

Grain Carriers will access the property through set circulation routes (gravel roads) that will also incorporate a weigh bridge. After the grain carriers have been weighed they will proceed to an area where the transported grain / produce will be stored in the associated Grain Silo Bags. The Grain Silo Bags is the most cost effective means to store large amounts of grain, as it does not incorporate solid fixed structures and can be easily dismantled and relocated as the need arises. The Grain Silo Bags are made from a waived material that is very resistant to climatic condition fluctuations (rain, wind, heat) and fauna attempting to access the grain for source of nourishment.

Numerous agricultural sectors utilize this form of storage, to store mass amounts of grain efficiently and cost effectively. The Grain Silo Bags, when the need arises, can be easily dismantled / transported, and excludes the need for hardened structures to be constructed.

The only solid structure proposed as part of this Grain Silo Bag Storage Area will be a cast concrete foundation to incorporate the necessary weigh bridge, of approximately **150m²** in footprint. No formalized tarred access roads are proposed as part of the Grain Silo Bag Area, only compacted raised gravel roads with access to be taken off the existing gravel road (OB5005) adjacent to the property.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:

To manage the post-activity stormwater runoff, in order for it to be similar to the pre-activity runoff, a retention dam of approximately 900 m³ with a bottom choking capacity of 0.627 m³/2 is proposed on the Southwestern corner of the concerned property. The stormwater flow lines fall from Northeast to Southwest with the low point of the property situated in the Southwestern corner (Slope 1.80%).

It is proposed that the Silo Bag Storage Area's layout to drain water to the sides where the new gravel access roads will be located. It is proposed that these gravel access roads be slightly raised above the adjacent soil level to serve as an edge boundary for concentrated overland stormwater runoff. The overland stormwater runoff will then flow along this edge boundary created by the raised gravel road(s) to the proposed stormwater retention dam in the Southwestern corner of the property. The sub-surface stormwater road crossing point will also require the installation of a 450 mm diameter concrete pipe to pass underneath the gravel road surface. The controlled overflow of the proposed stormwater retention dam will feed stormwater runoff to the existing grounds dam on the adjacent property. The adjacent landowner has already confirmed acceptance and expressed that the additional flows can be accepted into his dam located adjacent to the outlet point of the proposed stormwater retention dam, in the southwestern corner of the concerned property. Overflow from this existing grounds dam is directed to further storage dams along the downstream drainage route. This is deemed to be the ideal option to utilize the post-activity stormwater runoff into storage for future use as an agricultural water source.

The location for the proposed Silo Bag Storage Area has been carefully considered to allow the agricultural industry to access the property from several different routes (agricultural areas), as illustrated in the image(s) below:



BIODIVERSITY:

The concerned portion of Portion 8 of Farm Patryfontein No. 228 is currently an utilised plowed grain field and completely void of any indigenous and/or sensitive vegetation. Hence no significant impacts to sensitive Biological Aspects are expected as a result of the establishment of the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area.

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM:

No existing Aquatic Ecosystems are present on the concerned property (Portion of Portion 8 of Farm Patryfontein No. 228, Kleinberg, Mossel Bay). Hence no significant impacts are expected on aquatic ecosystems as a result of the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC:

Social impact refers to economic changes, i.e. what impact would the proposed activity have on the existing community as well as what associated economic improvement would occur.

In this regard it is clear that the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area will be utilised to benefit the Agricultural Industry in the surrounding areas, with respect to food security – thus contributing to a positive social impact.

From an economic side, employment opportunities are added to the market (thus contributing to the freedom of choice principle), thus having a positive economic impact.

NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999)

The following sections of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) have been triggered by the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area on Portion of Portion 8 of Farm Patryfontein No. 228 in Mossel Bay.

Section 38(1)(c): Any development that will change the character of a site –

(i) exceeding 5000m² in extent

Subsequently a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) has been submitted to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) for assessment. Formal response from Heritage Western Cape (HWC) was received on 27 October 2017, stating the following:

You are hereby notified that, since there is no reason to believe that the proposed development will impact on heritage resources, no further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required.

Extract from response to Notification of Intent to Develop: Final (HWC dated 27 October 2017)

NEED AND DESIRABILITY:

FORWARD PLANNING LEGISLATION

The existing Land-Use Rights of the concerned Portion of Farm Patryfontein No. 228 in Mossel Bay does not allow for the establishment of the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area. An application for a 5 year Consent Use will be applied for by the Local Authority to allow for the legal establishment of the Grain Silo Bag Storage Area. In this regard it is clear that the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area will be utilised to benefit the Agricultural Industry in the surrounding areas, with respect to food security – thus contributing to a positive social impact.

From an economic side, employment opportunities are added to the market (thus contributing to the freedom of choice principle), thus having a positive economic impact.

COMPATIBILITY WITH SURROUNDING LAND USES

The concerned Portion of Farm Patryfontein No. 228 in Mossel Bay is bordered on all sides by similar Land-Use (Agricultural Farms).

IMPACT ON EXTERNAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

It is not expected that the proposed establishment of the Grain Silo Bag Storage Area on a Portion of Portion 8 of the Farm Patryfontein will negatively impact on existing engineering services.

IMPACT ON SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

It is not expected that the proposed establishment of the Grain Silo Bag Storage Area on a Portion of Portion 8 of the Farm Patryfontein will negatively impact on the safety, health and wellbeing on the surrounding agricultural community.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Notice is given in terms of the NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998), In terms of GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NO. 38282 and read with Government Notice No. R 983 of 04 December 2014 (**Activity No.28**), that a **Basic Assessment Process** is required as set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations made under section 24(5) of the NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT No. 107 of 1998)

GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO. R 983 OF 04 DECEMBER 2014:

ACTIVITY NO. 28

Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:

- (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or
- (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;

Excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.

DEFINITION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a good planning tool to assist in the identification, evaluation and assessment of potential positive and negative impacts of a proposed development/activity on the environment. It also recommends ways to avoid or reduce negative impacts, and ensure that developments are sustainable without affecting people's lives and the environment adversely. As mentioned, an EIA in the form of a Basic Assessment is undertaken in terms of the NEMA, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA EIA Regulations.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Potential environmental issues that will be addressed in the assessment include inter alia:

- Noise pollution:

Minor noise impacts will occur during the construction/establishment phase of the proposed activity, as a direct result of construction/establishment activities. However these impacts are not expected to be significant, as the impact will only be temporary in nature, and can be adequately mitigated by the implementation of the legally binding Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

- Heritage impact:

It is not foreseen that National and Cultural Heritage will be disturbed by the development proposal, as confirmed in the formal response (ROD) from Heritage Western Cape (HWC) following submission of a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID):

You are hereby notified that, since there is no reason to believe that the proposed development will impact on heritage resources, no further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) is required.

Extract from response to Notification of Intent to Develop: Final (HWC dated 27 October 2017)

- Traffic impact:

Minor traffic impacts will occur during the construction/establishment phase of the proposed activity, as a direct result of construction/establishment activities, as construction vehicles utilizing the surrounding road networks. However these impacts are not expected to be significant, as the impact will only be temporary in nature (construction phase), and can be adequately mitigated by the implementation of the legally binding Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

- Visual impact:

Minor visual impacts will occur during the construction/establishment phase of the proposed development (visual alteration of the concerned property through construction/establishment activities). However these impacts are not expected to be significant, as the impact will only be temporary in nature, coherent with the surrounding Agricultural character and can be adequately mitigated by the implementation of the legally binding Environmental Management Plan (EMP). No significant visual impacts are expected during the operational phase of the proposed development either, given that the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area will be coherent with the surrounding Agricultural Nature of the area.

- Impact on fauna and flora:

The property have been utilised as a plowed grain field for numerous years subsequently completely void of indigenous/sensitive vegetation. The concerned portion of the parent farm has hence been transformed from the historical natural vegetation state. Hence, it is not expected that the establishment of the proposed Grain Silo Bag Storage Area will have any significant negative impact to fauna and flora.

As mentioned, the Basic Assessment Report will identify measures to reduce identified negative impacts, and optimise positive impacts.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In terms of the NEMA, Public Participation forms an integral part of the environmental assessment process. The Public Participation Process provides people who may be affected by the proposed activity with an opportunity to provide comment and to raise issues of concern about the project or to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project.

Comments and issues raised during the Public Participation Process will be captured, evaluated and included in a Comment and Response Report (CRR). These issues will be addressed and included in the Final Basic Assessment Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), to make a decision on whether to approve the application (issue Environmental Authorisation) or not.

DELIVERABLES

The environmental assessment will culminate in the compilation of a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The Basic Assessment Report will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), the Regulatory Authority responsible for the review of the report. The DEA&DP has to reach a decision as to whether, and under what conditions, the project may proceed, based on environmental considerations. An [Environmental Authorization \(EA\)](#) may be issued based on the information provided in the Basic Assessment Report. Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) who have registered will be notified of the Environmental Authorisation (EA)

TIMEFRAMES

The table below provides an **indication** of the proposed timeframes for the project.

Activity	Estimated Timeframe
Compilation of Formal EIA Application	Pending
Submission of Formal EIA Application to DEA&DP	Pending
Compilation of Notification Intent to Develop (NID)	Completed
DEA&DP to issue AOR (Acknowledgement of Receipt) and Acceptance of the Formal EIA Application	Pending
Submission of Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) to Heritage Western Cape (HWC)	06 October 2017
HWC to Respond to the NID and issue Record of Decision (ROD) 38(1)(c) of the NHRA	27 October 2017
Submission of Notification of Intent to submit and EIA Application (NOI) to DEA&DP	05 October 2017
Compilation of first draft Basic Assessment Report, including Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	14 December 2017
First Round Public Participation Process and submission of first draft Basic Assessment Report – Notification of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) 30 day commenting period	December 2017 – February 2018
Amend first draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	Post February 2018
Second Round Public Participation Process and submission of draft final Basic Assessment Report – Notification of registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) 30 day commenting period.	Pending
Amend draft final Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	Pending
Submission of Final Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to DEA&DP	Pending
DEA&DP to issue AOR for Final Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan	Pending
DEA&DP to decide whether to grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation and inform the applicant and EAP of its decision	Pending
Commencement of Activity	Pending

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (GNEC) was appointed as an independent Environmental Consultancy by SSK – SENTRAAL SUID CO-OPERATIVE Ltd. to facilitate the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation Processes for the proposed activity. We would like to invite and encourage all stakeholders to [submit any comments to:](#)

GNEC

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DEA&DP REF NO: 16/3/6/7/1/D6/29/0176/17

Additionally, please note, that a hardcopy of the 1st draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available at the **Mossel Bay Public Library** situated at **100 Marsh Street, Mossel Bay Central**, for viewing purposes.

Contact Person: **Ms. Xoliswa Frans**

Tel: 021 606 5171/72

Email: xfrans@mosselbay.gov.za

Additionally also note that ALL relevant documentation will also be made available to download from our Website at: <https://www.gnec.co.za>

Please refer to the "Documents of Review" tab on the left-hand side of the screen and select the folder with code **20463**. All project specific documentation will be available within this folder for download and viewing purposes.

Please endeavour to submit comments to GNEC by no later than:

Monday 05 FEBRUARY 2018

Yours sincerely



Dietmar de Klerk

For GNEC