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EnAq Consulting CC - Environmental, Civil, Water & Earth Consultants

PROPOSED PETROL FILLING STATION, LOT NO. 175, ISITHEBE MANDINI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

Our Ref: En.08.08.141 EIA REF.NO

INFORMATION SHEET NO.1

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to:

- Inform interested and affected parties (I&APs) about the proposed project and to invite them to participate;
- Provide a brief background to the proposed project; and,
- Explain the aim, objectives and key activities of the Environmental Assessment.

PROJECT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: Sherpa Trade and Invest 71 Pty Ltd

PROJECT LOCATION (incl. Farm name, Plans are attached): The project is located at Isithebe, Lot 175.

GEOGRAPHICAL CO-ORDINATES(centre of site): LATITUDE: 29 06'22.62"S

LONGITUDE: 31 '25'06.55" E

<u>CATCHMENT LOCATION</u>: Thukela River Catchment <u>DISTRICT AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES</u>: Ilembe District Municipality, Mandini Local Municipality.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED

ACTIVITY(REFER TO SITE PICS-END OF

Sherpa Trade and Invest 71 Pty Ltd hereby wishes to inform all stakeholders and interested persons of the proposed Petrol Filling station, to be instated within the Mandini Local Municipality. The implicated site is that of Lot No. 175, Isithebe. Sasol Oil has registered an interest in the proposed development; whereby Sasol will fully franchise the Petrol Filling Station.

The total lot area is 18 000 m² of which 9 000m² will be leased. The proposed site is situated at the corner of Green and White Roads, which is one of the main entrances into the industrial park. There is no existing infrastructure on the site. The new infrastructure will include the forecourt, truck refuelling facility, lubricant storage facility, fast food retailer and convenience store. There will be construction of apertures for the underground storage of the fuel tanks. There will be five fuel tanks used, tanks descriptions and their capacities range from, Forecourt unleaded (23000 litres), Lead Replacement (46000 litres), Low sulphur diesel (23000 litres) and 2 diesel tanks for heavy duty vehicles (23000

litres & 46000 litres respectively). Total capacity will be 161000 litres. New pumps and piping will be used.

The surrounding commercial land use includes a Medical centre, Standard Bank, Ithala Bank and industrial park. Low cost housing is situated about 200m's west from the industrial park.

The type of vegetation typically found in the area is classified as 'Moist Coast Thorn and Palm Veld'. There are no holes, burrows, or signs of erosion on or within proximity of the site and evidence of Hydromorphic conditions. There is an attenuation pond on the site that is used for the collection of storm water. There is a drainage system that leads from the pond to the V50c tributary of the Lower Thukela River. Some exotic and indigenous trees are located along the road servitude of the site. The indigenous trees will be retained. There is a gas servitude that runs about 15m west of the proposed site. The servitude will not restrict the development of the petrol filling station.

There will be specialist studies undertaken for this project. These studies include Stormwater Management Plan, Geotechnical Study, Socio economic assessment and traffic assessment.

BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES FOR PROJECT SITE/AREA

Acocks Veld Type Bioresource group	Moist Coast Thorn	and Palm Veld
Percentage of area still as natural vegetation,	Natural: 5%	Open space
and current land use of development footprint		·
Does the proposed area and its surrounds support any fauna of conservation significance? Fauna will not be impacted upon by the project.	NO	Other (List)
	Oribi	Χ
	Otter spotted	Χ
	Striped weasel	X
	Serval	Χ

	Aardvark	Υ
		X
	Stanley's Bustard	۸
	Wattled	Χ
	crane	^
	Blue crane	Χ
	Grey	X
	crowned	Λ
	crane	
	Striped	Χ
	flufftail	
	Whitewinged	Χ
	Flufftail	
	Grass Owl	Χ
	Long toed	Likely
	frog	•
	Dwarf	Χ
	chameleon	Λ,
Are any holes/animal		
burrows situated within	No	
the proposed		
development area?		
Does the proposed		
development footprint		
display any	NO	
hydromorphic soil	NO	
characteristics i.e. any		
signs of seasonal,		
permanent or temporary		
wetness?		
Proximity of a proposed		
site to a river/stream. (m)	120m	
2.10 to 2.11101/04/04/111 (111)		
Dominant alien plant		
species:		
•		
Comment on the extent		
of the alien plant		
infestation. (High, Low,		
Moderate)		
Extent of infestation-		
LOW		
Soil erosion on, or near	NO	
close proximity to		
proposed site. If Yes,		
indicate the type,		
severity and extent.		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

POTENTIAL IMPACTS				
ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS			
PLANNING	-	Aesthetics		
	-	Access		
	-	Socio-economic		
CONSTRUCTION PHASE	•	Geotechnical considerations		
	-	Surface/groundwater		
	-	Stormwater		
	-	Fauna/flora		
	-	Waste production		
	•	Safety and security, risk aspects		
	•	Access/haulage routes		
	-	Visual, aesthetics		
	-	Erosion		
	-	Dust, noise		
POST	•	Landscaping		
CONSTRUCTION	-	Site restoration		
	•	Fire control		

SEA,EMF,SCAP,WHS,PA

SEA(Strategic	NO
Environmental	
Assessment)	
EMF(Environmental	NO
Management	
Framework)	
SCAP(Special Case	NO
Area Plan)	
WHS(World Heritage	NO
Site)	
PA(Protected Area)	NO
VIEWSHED PA/WHS	NO

NEED AND DESIRABILITY

This project will benefit both the local community as well as the industrial sector. The petrol filling station is convenient to both cars and trucks in the area as it situated at the entrance of the industrial park. The closest filling station is 3.3km away. This project will provide convenience such as the 24-hour convenience store and fast food outlets, which are currently unavailable in the area. These eateries will provide thousands of employees as well as the local community with options when purchasing food. The convenience store is fully franchised and therefore includes a bakery, coffee offer and the core range of products. The proposed filling station is ideally situated, as it is centrally located in Isithebe, which enables it to meet the needs of the different sectors. This venture will create some much needed employment opportunities, as well as permanent jobs during operation.

APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

In order to comply with South Africa's environmental legislation, Sherpa Trade and Invest 71 Pty Ltd requested that EnAq Consulting cc carry out an Environmental assessment for the proposed project. The main aim of this Study would be to identify any limitations that the environment may impose on the proposed development.

The activity's that are triggered by the proposed project are as follows: "the above ground storage of a dangerous good, including petrol, diesel....in containers with a combined capacity of 1000 cubic meters...." And "the construction of filling stations....including petrol. Diesel. Liquid petroleum gas or paraffin." (as per R387 of GN R385, Chapter 5 of NEMA. 1998).

The proposed project should ultimately be acceptable and sustainable from a financial, biophysical and social point of view. Furthermore, this study should provide the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) with enough information to a make decision regarding the need for any further environmental studies.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

The following process will be followed:

➤ IDENTIFICATION OF IMPACTS & ALTERNATIVES

Environmental issues, concerns, development constraints and possible development alternatives will be identified using professional judgement, project information, experience of similar projects, a review of available literature, site visits and consultation with authorities and the public.

> EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

The significance of environmental issues will be evaluated and mitigation and management measures will be identified and recorded.

> AUTHORITY DECISION

The Environmental Assessment is to be used as a basis of the decision by DAEA on whether the project should be approved or not. DAEA can refuse permission, grant unconditional permission, or grant permission with conditions.

YOUR INVITATION TO COMMENT

The need for public input and involvement is of critical importance and all interested persons and/or organisations are invited to comment on the proposed development and on the information presented here. You can do this by sending your comments in writing to the address shown below. All comments received will be addressed and incorporated in the Environmental impact Assessment that will be made available for comment. Following this, the final report will be submitted to DAEA for its consideration.

Please ensure that all comments have been sent to us by the <a>04 November 2008

Contact name and address for comments:

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Title: First name: Surname: Initials: Organisation: Designation: Address: Postal Code: Tel No: Cell No: Fax No: E-mail: **COMMENTS:** 1. The following issues must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development Please add the following persons to your list of interested and affected parties: Name: Organisation: Telephone: Address: Name: Organisation: Telephone: Address: 3. Any other comments/issues of concern/suggestions: Thank you for your participation!

Figure 1: Locality Map



SITE PICS (attached)