

Our Ref: J27035

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Attention: Michael and Cecelia Ravenscroft  
Owners - Kleynkloof Private Nature Reserve  
Portion 28 of Farm No 321 Kleyn Hagel Kraal

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## **ESKOM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA:12/12/20/944) FOR A PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE: COMMENTS ON THE REVISED PLAN OF STUDY FOR EIA**

Your correspondence to Ms. Bongzi Shinga of ACER (Africa) entitled "REVISED PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT" refers.

Arcus GIBB acknowledges receipt of the above-mentioned letter. We thank you for your valuable comments and your participation in the Eskom Nuclear Power Station (NPS) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to date. Your questions concerning the Nuclear-1 EIA process have been noted.

Responses to your comments / questions are as follows:

### Your comment (1)

As Interested and affected parties with property in the Pearly Beach area, we would like to comment on this latest proposal.

As a result of this latest change to the procedure, any comment or objection could be taken as referring to the three sites with the resultant diffusion and loss of impact. We, like most other registered parties, only feel competent to deal with the selection of one of the sites. If the decision to accept or reject this plan has to be all or none, then this is a blatant manoeuvre by the applicant to weaken and confuse any opposition and the result cannot be in the best interest of a sound solution.

### Response (1)

*Your comment is noted. The competent authority (in this case the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism), can authorise one, two or all three sites if deemed suitable for a NPS. The decision to authorize any of the three sites included in the proposed combined application for Nuclear-1, -2 and -3 will be assessed and the decision taken independently by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), based on the information made available before the Authority in the Final Environmental Impact Report. Interested and Affected Parties will be provided with detailed information on each site. Since each site will receive a separate decision, I&APs can choose to comment on each one.*

### Your comment (2)

The choice of Bantamsklip on the farm Groot Hagel Kraal, a National Heritage site, was flawed from the start. Identified by the previous regime with typical disregard for a national gem and the area's tourism potential. Even back in the 1980s it was recognised as a hotspot of biodiversity and a source of an interconnected wetland. Since then its reputation has been growing steadily and has become a popular venue for botanical study and research. It is recognised part of the internationally famous Cape Floral Kingdom, now continually under threat from development.



#### Response (2)

*Your comment is noted. Arcus GIBB and DEAT are aware that the Bantamsklip site falls within a National Heritage Site as declared by Eskom in the mid 1980's following the organizations purchasing of the farms. Section 2.4.7 of DEAT Letter of Approval of the FSR states that "The Bantamsklip Site is a Protected Area, as well as a Natural Heritage Site and falls within the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative...." . The proposed site and the environment (which has resulted in the site having gained it's status) will be assessed by all the appointed specialists in the EIA process and a recommendation made to DEAT regarding the construction, operation and decommissioning of a NPS at the site.*

#### Your comment (3)

A nuclear power plant, the size of the one being envisaged, together with the radiating transmission lines and periphery development, will devastate, not only the important floral and marine species that are found here, but also the historic heritage that is evident in the limestone cliffs a short distance away from the site. The S.A. Museum have researched the caves on our reserve and found remains of Khoi inhabitants and middens, evidence of the people who inhabited the area in the past.

#### Response (3)

*Your comment is noted. This information will be passed on to the Heritage and Flora Specialists that have been appointed to undertake specialist work as part of the EIA.*

#### Your comment (4)

We are fortunate that South Africa's generous coastline allows us to avoid the last remaining sensitive natural areas, such as the fynbos of the Western Cape and the indigenous forests around Knysna, and protect them from destructive development. We firmly believe that in the financial calculations for this project, the cost of permanently losing any part of these treasures has not been correctly assessed. Future generations will be puzzled and appalled by the wrong decision.

#### Response (4)

*Your comment is noted and will be referred to the relevant specialists.*

In conclusion, the project team would like to assure you that Interested and Affected Parties comments are important to us and that your continued involvement in this process as an I&AP is valued. Your comments/questions will be captured in the draft EIR that will be submitted to the decision-making authority in due course.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any stage should you require any additional information regarding this proposed project.

We thank you for providing us the opportunity to respond to these questions and look forward to your ongoing involvement in the project.

Yours sincerely  
For and on behalf of Arcus GIBB (Pty) Ltd

Jaana-Maria Ball  
EIA Project Manager