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environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: 12/12/20/110

Enquiries: Mr. DWJ Smit

Tel: 012 310 3659 Fax: 012 320 7539 E-mail: dsmit@deat.gov.za

Coastal & Environmental Services
PO Box 934
GRAHMSTOWN
6140

For attention: Maura Andrew
Fax: 046-622-6564

PLAN OF STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PoS FOR EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED KNYSNA NATIONAL ROUTE (N2) TOLL HIGHWAY – DECISION REGARDING THE PoS FOR EIA

The plan of study for an environmental impact assessment (POS for EIA) dated 16 May 2007 submitted in terms of the requirements stipulated in GN No. R. 1183 regulation 7(1) (as amended) for the above project refers.

The Department has considered the PoS for EIA dated 16 May 2007. With regard to the legal fulfilment of the requirements of the EIA Regulations (GN 1183, as amended), the following refer:

The PoS for EIA meets the legal requirements of a plan of study for environmental impact assessment as stipulated in regulation 7(1) of the EIA Regulations.

Environmental issues identified during scoping that may require further investigation and assessment were adequately described.

Feasible alternatives identified during scoping that may be further investigated were adequately described.

An indication of additional information required to determine the potential impacts of the proposed activity on the environment was provided.

The proposed methods of identifying these impacts were adequately described, and

The proposed methods of assessing the significance of these impacts were adequately described.

The Department therefore, in terms of regulation 7(2) of GN No. R. 1183 (as amended) accepts the PoS for EIA dated 16 May 2007 for the proposed Knysna National Route (N2) Toll Highway.

In addition, this Directorate finds the inclusion of a feasible third bridge alternative necessary for inclusion as part of the environmental impact report. It is the view of this Directorate that should the bridge alternatives not be adequately investigated, the integrity of the EIA process could be undermined. A third alternative allows for more informed decision-making in this regard. Further, this Directorate recommends that a bridge with an ecological footprint and associated impact lower than the

proposed two alternatives be investigated as an additional third alternative. Bridges for consideration could be; beam, arch, or suspension type bridges. A motivation is requested as to the rationalisation of the selected third alternative.

The proposed date for the public and authority reviewing of the EIR is indicated as 'over the end of year holiday season'. Due to the magnitude of the proposed activities, this Directorate recommends that any proposed public participation measures be undertaken during regular working and schooling days.

To assist this Directorate in reaching conclusions regarding the application promptly, please submit separate sensitivity maps for each alternative and/ or combinations thereof.

The convention for assigning significance ratings to impacts, as described on page 27 of the PoS for EIA dated 16 May 2007, is acceptable.

Please incorporate the provincial comments dated 14th August 2007 submitted to you into this decision.

You are requested in terms of regulation 8 of GN No. R1183 of 5 September 1997, as amended; to submit an environmental impact report to this Department and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. The environmental impact report must comply with the requirements of regulation 8.

Yours sincerely



Ms Pam Yako

Director – General

Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

Letter signed by: Mr. DWJ Smit

**Designation: Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation: Sensitive Environments,
Antarctica & Islands**

Date: 21/08/2007.

Copies to: Mr A Oosthuizen (DEA & DP)
044-874-2423 (Fax)