

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE
RELOCATION AND OPERATIONS OF A FUEL RETAIL FACILITY
IN REHOBOTH, HARDAP REGION**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



July 2023



1 INTRODUCTION

Agra Ltd (the Proponent), requested Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd, to prepare an environmental assessment (EIA) and environmental management plan (EMP) for the relocation and operations of the existing Agra fuel retail facility in Rehoboth. The Proponent plans to relocate their fuel facility from its current location at erf 97, corner of Church and Wood Lilly Street, to Portion B of the Farm Rehoboth Town and Townlands No. 302 (Figure 1). The Proponent has and will continue to play an important role in providing fuel for the local and surrounding farming community, tourists visiting the town, and the transport sector. In addition, the facility will act as a truck port providing rest stop space and related facilities (ablutions, takeaways, etc.) for the trucking industry.

The Proponent requested Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd (GPT) to apply for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the relocated fuel retail facility. The ECC is required as per the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 (EMA). In support of the ECC application, an EIA and environmental management plan (EMP) will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

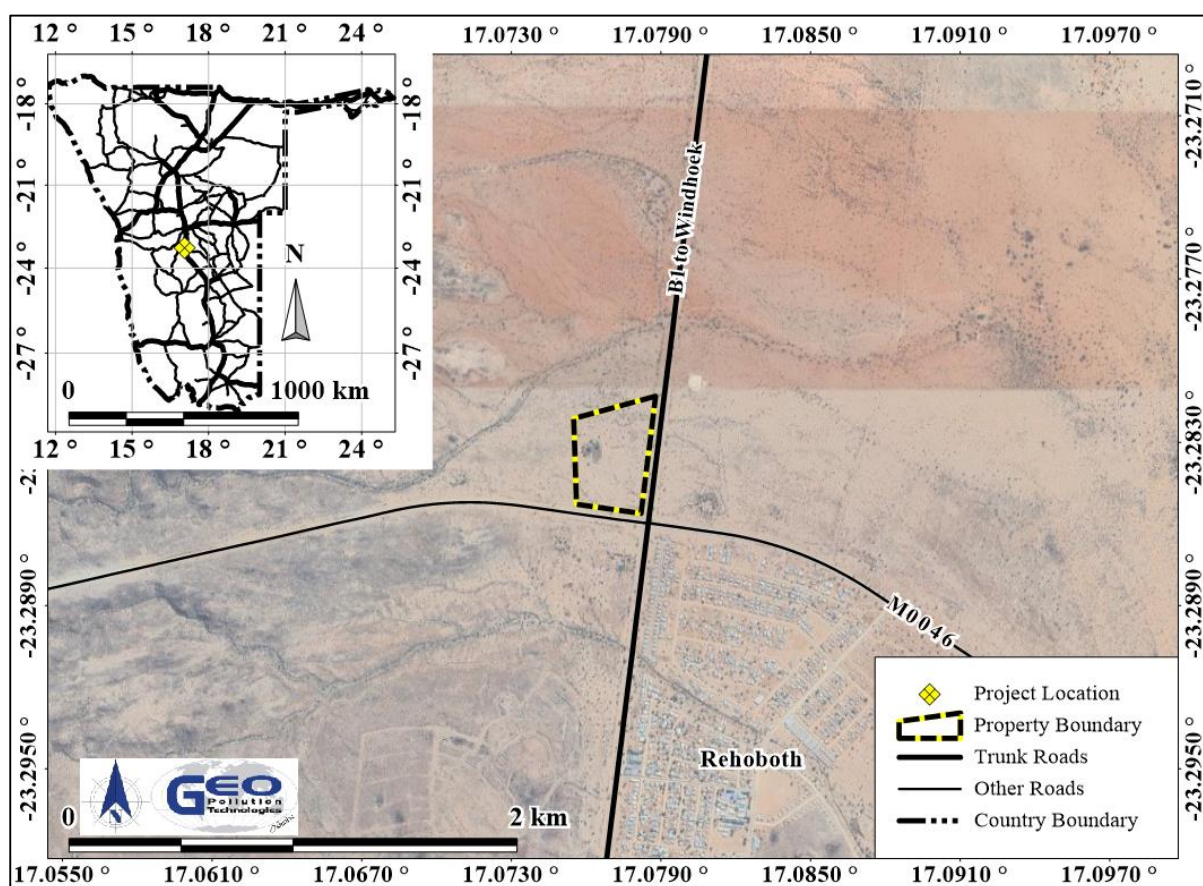


Figure 1 Project location

2 PURPOSE OF THE BID

With this background information document (BID), GPT aims to provide interested and affected parties (IAPs) with information about the project and interact with them regarding it. All IAPs are therefore invited to register with GPT for the project in order to:

- ◆ Provide GPT with additional information which should be taken into account in the assessment of impacts;
- ◆ Share any comments, issues or concerns related to the project; and
- ◆ Review and comment on the reports (EIA and EMP).

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Activities considered for the EMP have been divided into the following phases: planning, construction, operational (inclusive of maintenance) and decommissioning phases. A brief outline of expected activities for each phase is detailed below.

3.1 PLANNING PHASE

While planning for operations, construction (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the facility, it is the responsibility of the Proponent to ensure they are, and remain, compliant with all legal requirements. The Proponent must also ensure that all required management measures are in place prior to and during all phases, to ensure potential impacts and risk are minimised. Typical planning activities include:

- ◆ Where not in place, obtain permits and approvals from local and national authorities.
- ◆ Ensure compliance to land use rights and aspects such as town council consent.
- ◆ Appoint a health, safety and environmental coordinator to implement the EMP.
- ◆ Provide for a fund to cater for environmental incidents such as pollution clean-up and ecological restoration if ever required.
- ◆ Ensure all appointed contractors and employees enter into an agreement inclusive of the EMP.
- ◆ Establish and / or maintain a reporting system to report on aspects of construction, operations, and decommissioning as outlined in the EMP.

3.2 CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Construction activities will include earthworks, tank and reticulation installation, concrete works and the installation of pumps and infrastructure typical of fuel retail facilities. All infrastructure will be constructed and installed according to South African National Standards (SANS), as prescribed by Namibian legislation, to ensure a safe facility. Four 46 m³ underground storage tanks for both diesel and unleaded petrol is proposed to be installed. During operations, maintenance will continue on a daily basis and may include some minor repairs and general upkeep of the fuel retail facility and associated infrastructure as well as general upgrade activities. This may include painting, servicing and/or replacing of equipment, etc.

3.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE

Normal operations associated with a fuel retail facility will continue at the new site. This mainly involves the receipt of fuel from road tankers, storage of fuel in underground storage tanks, dispensing of fuel to customers' vehicles by pump attendants, and daily activities involved with tank dips, fuel reconciliations and cleaning of the site.

3.4 DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Decommissioning is not foreseen during the validity of the ECC. Decommissioning will however be assessed. Should decommissioning occur at any stage, rehabilitation of the area may be required. Decommissioning will entail the complete removal of all infrastructure including buildings and underground infrastructure. Pollution present on the site, if any, must then be remediated.

3.5 PRELIMINARY IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

During the preparation of the EIA and EMP, all components of the environment will be considered. However, only those components which are, or may be, significantly impacted, or are deemed to be sensitive, will be assessed. These include the following:

- ◆ Human component (employee and visitor health and safety)
- ◆ Infrastructure (aesthetics, fire, integrity, etc.)
- ◆ Neighbours (noise, aesthetics, waste, traffic)
- ◆ Groundwater, surface water and soil (hydrocarbon spills, effluent generation and disposal, waste, pollutants)
- ◆ Ecosystem and biodiversity (pollutants)
- ◆ Socio economic characteristics (fuel availability, employment, training, skills, revenue)

4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Geo Pollution Technologies invites all IAPs to provide in writing, any issues and suggestions regarding the project. This correspondence must include:

- ◆ Name and surname.
- ◆ Organization represented or private interest.
- ◆ Position in the organization.
- ◆ Contact details.
- ◆ Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application.

All contributions by IAPs become public knowledge and will be circulated along with the reports as per the EMA requirements. The comments, inputs and suggestions will also be submitted to the DEA along with how any issues have been addressed in the EIA. The public participation process will remain ongoing during the environmental assessment. However, all comments and concerns should be provided timeously to ensure incorporation into the final report existing sites.

For any additional information the project team may be contacted at:



Your Rights as an IAP according to the Environmental Management Act, No7 of 2007, Government Notice No 30 (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations)

Section 23. (1) A registered interested or affected party is entitled to comment in writing, on all written submissions made to the Environmental Commissioner by the applicant responsible for the application, and to bring to the attention of the Environmental Commissioner any issues which that party, believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, as long as -

- (a) comments are submitted within 7 days of notification of an application or receiving access to a scoping report or an assessment report;*
- (b) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.*
- (2) Before the applicant submits a report compiled in terms of these regulations to the Environmental Commissioner, the applicant must give registered interested and affected parties access to, and an opportunity to comment in writing on the report.*
- (3) Reports referred to in sub regulation (2) include (a) scoping reports; (b) scoping reports amended and resubmitted; (c) assessment reports; and (d) assessment reports amended and resubmitted.*
- (4) Any written comments received by the applicant from a registered interested or affected party must accompany the report when the report is submitted to the Environmental Commissioner.*
- (5) A registered interested or affected party may comment on any final report that is submitted by a specialist reviewer for the purposes of these regulations where the report contains substantive information which has not previously been made available to a registered interested or affected party.*

Section 24: The applicant responsible for an application must ensure that the comments of interested and affected parties are recorded in reports submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of these regulations, and comments by interested and affected parties on a report which is to be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner may be attached to the report without recording those comments in the report itself.