

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (EIA)

Expansion of the Sishen - Saldanha Railway Line to 93 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) Iron Ore Export Capacity

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 4(6) of the Regulations published in Government Notice No. R1183 under Section 26 of the Environment Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989), of intent to carry out the following activity:

Activity:

Spoornet (a division of Transnet Ltd) is investigating a possible increase in the ore carrying capacity of the railway line between Sishen (Northern Cape) and Saldanha (Western Cape) from the current approved 41MTPA to 93MTPA, to meet the increasing transport demands of iron ore exporters.

The increase in capacity could be achieved by a number of interventions, among others:

- the running of longer and heavier trains (420 wagons), and / or more frequent trains,
- the extension of crossing loops including associated infrastructure such as roads, bridges and culverts where required,
- the provision of additional lines and maintenance facilities in certain yards,
- the upgrade of associated railway infrastructure including communications, signalling systems and electrical traction power supply required to support the railway system, and
- the possible doubling of the line or sections thereof.

Location:

In the Western Cape there are 5 crossing loops from Salkor yard (Saldanha), including Dwarskersbos (Loop 1) to Saggiesberg (Loop 5). There are also 14 crossing loops in the Northern Cape between the Loeriesfontein area in the South (Loop 6) and Sishen (Erts) to the North. The 861 km iron ore railway line and specifically the crossing loops are the focus of this EIA.

Proponent:

TRANSNET Ltd, trading as SPOORNET.

Consultant: SHE Cape Environmental (CC), P.O. Box 471, Paarden Eiland, 7420.

Fax: 021 – 553 1851. Email: info@shecape.co.za

In order to ensure that you are identified as an interested and/or affected party, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact consultant as given above not later than **4 December 2006**.

