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Attention: To Whom It May Concern

Update on the Berth Deepening EIA, Cape Town Harbour

As part of a programme for expansion of the Port of Cape Town, the National Ports Authority of South Africa (NPA), a division of Transnet Limited (“Transnet”), proposes to deepen the Ben Schoeman Dock (BSD) and to implement alterations to berths 601, 602, 603 and 604 of the BSD. Various shipping lines that form part of the South African European Communities Service Conference have indicated that they will be investing in new generation container liner vessels. Some of these new vessels have working draughts in excess of that available at the Cape Town Container Terminal. As such, new infrastructure has to be created to accommodate these vessels (i.e. greater basin depth). In addition, due to the under beam width of these new container vessels, ship to shore gantry cranes with longer reaches are required. Present quay width structure can not accommodate these new generation gantry cranes.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations promulgated under section 21 of the Environment Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989)¹, the proposed activities are listed and therefore require environmental authorisation from the relevant authority prior to commencement. The EIA assessing the above activities will be referred to as the “Berth Deepening EIA”.

In 2005, NPA commissioned Shangoni Consulting to undertake the Scoping Phase of the Berth Deepening EIA. The Scoping Study was concluded and submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in April 2005. The Scoping Report was accepted by DEAT on 9 June 2006.

This letter is intended to provide stakeholders of the Berth Deepening EIA project with an update of recent developments on the project.

¹ Since the EIA application was lodged prior to the promulgation of the new EIA Regulations issued under the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), the remainder of the process is to be completed in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989).

06-11-20 IAP EIA update letter



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1 Change of Consultant

In August 2006, Transnet appointed SRK Consulting (SRK) to undertake the EIA phase of the Berth Deepening EIA.

Ms Sharon Jones of SRK is the project manager and can be contacted by email on sjones@srk.co.za, by phone on 021 659 3060 or at the postal address provided above.

2 Change in Scope of Works

Since the submission of the Scoping Report to DEAT, the scope of activities and alternatives to be assessed in the Berth Deepening EIA has been amended as follows:

- At the time of compilation and submission of the Scoping Report, the proposed activities investigated in the Berth Deepening EIA were linked to the proposed Container Terminal Expansion project. The two projects have since been separated, and will be considered as separate applications, dealt with in two separate EIA processes. As a result of the new container vessels being purchased, the berth deepening and quay alterations are required irrespective of whether the Container Terminal Expansion project receives DEAT authorization to proceed. The scope of works for the Berth Deepening EIA is thus limited to the activities and impacts associated with the deepening of the Ben Schoeman Dock and alterations to the berths.
- The previous linkage with the Container Terminal Expansion project gave rise to a number of alternatives that were to be assessed in the EIA. These alternatives are no longer applicable in light of the change of the scope of works and will no longer be assessed in the Berth Deepening EIA.

The Scoping study identified several alternatives for the disposal of material dredged from the BSD, including surf zone, near-shore and deep water options. However, the anticipated environmental impacts associated with the surf zone and near-shore alternatives have resulted in them being screened from the EIA process in favour of alternatives likely to generate fewer adverse impacts. Two deep water alternatives at 40m to 70m and 70m to 100m will therefore be considered. The following options and alternatives will thus be assessed in the EIA phase, as laid out in the Plan of Study:

- The “no development” alternative;
- The current project proposal including:
 - Berth extension: extending the quay 10m into the basin;
 - Dredging of the basin using standard dredging equipment;
 - Blasting of rock in the basin using buried multiple small charges
 - Disposal of dredge spoil at one of two alternative off-shore sites
- Alternative dredge disposal sites:
 - Dredge disposal at ~40m to 70m depth; and
 - Dredge disposal at ~70m to 100m depth.

3 Approval of Plan of Study

The Plan of Study for the EIA Phase, reflecting the above changes, was submitted by SRK to DEAT in August 2006, and was accepted by DEAT on 31 October 2006. A copy of this Plan of Study as well as DEAT's approval thereof can be obtained from Sharon Jones on request. The EIA is currently proceeding in line with the approved Plan of Study.

4 The Way Forward

The final scoping report for the Berth Deepening EIA identified issues requiring further specialist investigation. Taking due cognisance of the changes in scope of works, SRK has commissioned the following specialist studies in order to assess the potential impacts of the proposed activities:

- Integrated Marine Study (to include Dredging & Disposal of dredge spoil, Shoreline Dynamics and Sediment Toxicology & Marine Ecology);
- Noise, Vibration and Shock Study;
- Traffic Study;
- Maritime Archaeology Study; and
- Visual Study.

Upon completion, these specialist studies will be incorporated by SRK into the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will lay out the potential impacts of the project, their significance and proposed mitigation measures for environmental management of the proposed project.

It is proposed that the Draft EIR will be released for public comment in January/February 2007 for a period of 30 days. All stakeholders on SRK's database for the Berth Deepening EIA (including all stakeholders previously registered as stakeholders during the scoping phase) will be informed of the release of the Draft EIR and opportunities to comment.

If you do not wish to be involved in this project any further kindly inform Ms Sharon Jones, who will remove your contact details from the database.

Please do not hesitate to contact SRK if you have any queries in this regard.

Kind regards,

SRK Consulting



Sharon Jones
Environmental Consultant