

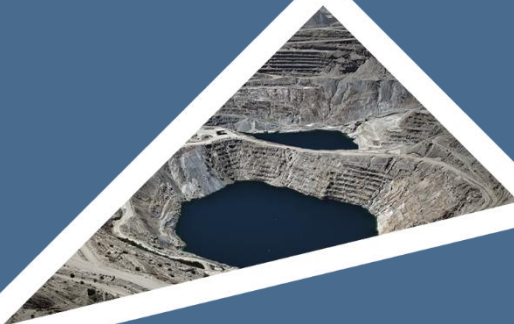


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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

MOTUOANE PRODUCTION RIGHT





**EIMS REFERENCE:** 1709

**DOCUMENT TITLE:** PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT FOR: MOTUOANE PRODUCTION RIGHT

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## Abbreviation List:

ATNS:	Air Traffic and Navigation Services
CER:	Centre for Environmental Rights
CSA:	Conservation South Africa
DALRRD:	Department Of Agriculture, Land Reform, And Rural Development
DFFE:	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DMRE:	Department of Mineral Resources & Energy
DWS:	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA:	Environmental Authorisation
EAP:	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS:	Environmental Impact Management Services
EWT:	Endangered Wildlife Trust
FSE:	Federation for a Sustainable Environment
I&APs:	Interested and Affected Parties
MACUA:	Mining Affected Communities United in Action
MEJCON-SA:	Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network South Africa
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Act
NERSA:	National Energy Regulators South Africa
PASA:	Petroleum Agency South Africa
PPP:	Public Participation Process
PSSC:	Free State Provincial Shared Services Centre
SACAA:	South African Civil Aviation Authority
SAHRA:	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANBI:	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANDF:	South African Defence Force
SANRAL:	South African National Roads Agency Limited
SAWEA:	South African Wind Energy Association
VEJA:	Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance
WESSA:	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa





# 1 INTRODUCTION

Motuoane Energy (Pty) Ltd (Motuoane) (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amendment for the following listed activity - GNR 984 Activity 20.
- Water Use Licence (WUL) in accordance with the National Water Act – NWA (Act 36 of 1998).
- Waste Management Licence in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act- NEM:WA (Act 59 of 2008).
- Atmospheric Emissions Licence variation in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act- NEM:AQA (Act 39 of 2004).

Details of the applicable listed activities and/or water uses will be provided in subsequent opportunity for registered interested and affected parties (I&AP's) to participate during the process.

The applicant wishes to convert a portion of their existing Exploration Right area (ER315) into a Production Right (PR). The proposed extraction and production will target helium and methane gas, and will consist of up to 43 production wells, gas gathering pipelines, a helium recovery and gas processing plant (CNG or LNG) and associated infrastructure. In addition, ongoing exploration activities will include drilling of exploration wells, seismic and/or audio magnetotelluric surveys.

The proposed project falls within the Masilonyana and Matjhabeng Local Municipalities, in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province. The application area covers approximately 14 440 hectares (ha), and the approximate centre point of the site is located at 28°14'38.37"S and 26°57'54.97"E. The site boundary is ~15km south east of the town of Virginia, ~28km south east of the town of Welkom, ~13km south west of the town of Ventersburg and ~21km north east of the town of Theunissen.

## 2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as...*"a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"*<sup>1</sup>. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

During the Environmental Authorisation:

- Verify that their issues have been recorded;
- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and



- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs during the call to register period from the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

### 3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

### 4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, and Windeed searches were conducted to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;



- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer to **APPENDIX 1** for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

## 4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- African Carbon Energy (Pty) Ltd
- AgriSA
- Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)
- Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Free State Regional office
- Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
- Eskom Soc Ltd
- Lejweleputswa District Municipality
- Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- Free State Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
- Free State Department of Police, Roads, and Transport
- Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure
- Free State Department of Water and Sanitation
- Free State Development Corporation
- Free State Heritage Resources Authority
- Free State Provincial Shared Services Centre (PSSC)
- Lejweleputswa Development Agency
- Lejweleputswa District Municipality
- Masilonyana Local Municipality
- Matjhabeng Local Municipality
- National Department of Agriculture
- National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, And Rural Development (DALRRD)
- National Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)
- National House of Traditional Leaders
- Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA)
- PetroSA
- Presidential Climate Change Commission
- SA PGM & Gold Operations
- Sedibeng Water
- Seriti Green
- Sibanye Stillwater
- Sola Group
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Defence Force (SANDF)
- South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL)
- South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
- Subsolar Energy (Pty) Ltd
- Tetra4
- Transnet Freight Rail
- Transnet Pipelines
- Transnet Soc Ltd
- Vaal Central Water





## 4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners.
- African Conservation Trust
- AfriForum
- Birdlife South Africa
- Botanical Society of South Africa
- Centre for Environmental Rights (CER)
- Conservation South Africa (CSA)
- Corona Energy (Pty) Ltd
- Council for Geoscience
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
- Federation for a Sustainable Environment (FSE)
- FrackFree South Africa
- Free State Wetland Forum
- Gersteen Trust
- Green Connection
- GroundWork South Africa
- GUBICO
- Hennenman Farmers Union
- MaterEnergia Group
- Matjhabeng Ratepayers Association
- Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA)
- Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network South Africa (MEJCON-SA)
- Natural Justice
- Optavit Boerdery
- Pele Green Energy
- Red Rocket Energy (Pty) Ltd
- South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA)
- Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute
- Tara Wildlife South Africa
- The Green Connection
- Thebelele Energy Facility (RF)(Pty) Ltd
- Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA)
- Warburtons Attorneys
- Wesboerdery
- Wildlife and Environmental Society South Africa (WESSA)

## 5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

### 5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 with an initial call to register notification. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

#### 5.1.1 FAXES, REGISTERED MAIL AND EMAILS

Notification letters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either faxes, SMSs, registered mail, and/or emails on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2025.



The notification documents included the following information:

- Authorisations required;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties;
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Contact details of the EAP.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 2** for initial notification and proofs.

### 5.1.2 NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) describing the proposed project and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process were placed in the Vista Newspaper with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2025. The Gazette Notice was placed in the National Government Gazette on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2025. The newspaper and Gazette Notice adverts included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 3** for proof of the advert and gazette notice placed.

### 5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Fifty (50) A1 Correx site notices including Seven (7) Posters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were placed at fifty seven (57) locations around the proposed project study area from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2025. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 4** for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.



## 5.2 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notification (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the Scoping Report for public review and comment will be provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs. The notifications will be distributed through either email, registered mail, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details are available.

Contact details will be provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

Hard Copies of the Scoping Reports were placed at the Welkom and Virginia Public Libraries for a period of 30 days, from 23 January 2026 to 23 February 2026. An electronic copy of the Scoping Report will be made available on the EIMS Public Participation Website from 23 January 2026.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 5** for proof of Scoping Report Availability notification.

## 6 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities

Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
Initial Call to Register	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMSs and/or post.	19 November
	Placement of site notices.	Fifty (50) A1 Correx site notices and Seven (7) Posters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were placed at 57 locations in and around the proposed project study area.	17 to 19 November



Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
	Newspaper advertisement and Gazette Notice.	Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) describing the proposed project and EIA process were placed in the Vista Newspaper.	20 November 2025 (Newspaper)
		The Gazette Notice was placed in the National Government Gazette	14 November 2025 (Gazette Notice)
Availability of Scoping Report for public review	Placement of hard copy Scoping Report.	One(1) hard copy of the report will be placed at each public library, namely Welkom Public Library and Virginia Public Library where members of the public can access the reports.	23 January 2026
	Placement of Scoping Report electronic copy.	An electronic copy of the report will be placed on the EIMS website. A data free service will be made available to anyone who has limitations with respect to data downloads.	23 January 2026

## 7 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received:

- I&AP registration
- I&APs requested for map files for the proposed project
- An I&AP requested for the proposed project description and related documentation
- An I&AP asked for the project expected timeline



- Transnet pipelines have no objections to the proposed project

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in **APPENDIX 6**. Please refer to **APPENDIX 7** for proof of correspondence.

## 8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The comments received during the initial call to register period were used to inform the compilation of this PPR.



## 9 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: I & AP DATABASE

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or [popia@eims.co.za](mailto:popia@eims.co.za)

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## APPENDIX 2: INITIAL NOTIFICATION PROOF

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## APPENDIX 3: NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE NOTICE PROOF





## APPENDIX 4: SITE NOTICE PROOF



## APPENDIX 5: SCOPING REPORT AVAILABILITY NOTIFICATION

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## APPENDIX 6: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE



## APPENDIX 7: CORRESPONDENCE DOCUMENT

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