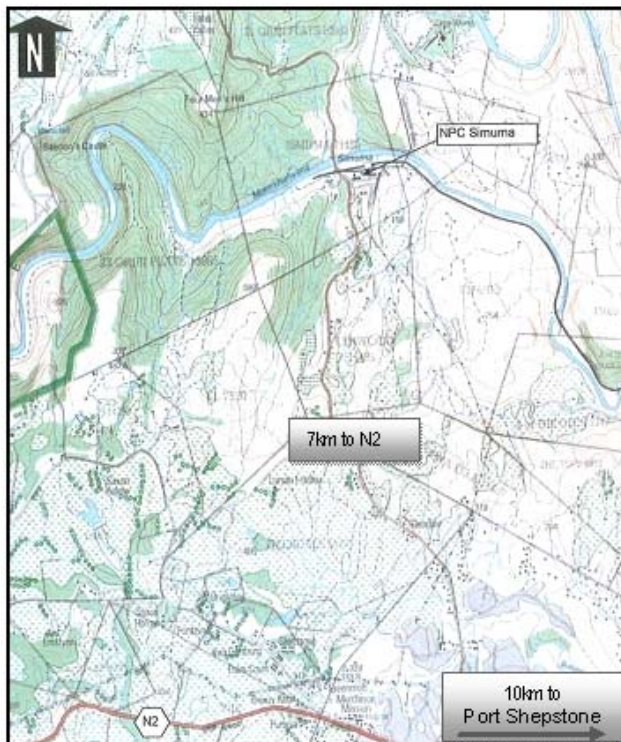


## Background Information Document for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a Second Cement Mill at NPC – Cimpor, Simuma Facility, near Port Shepstone, KwaZulu-Natal

### 1. Introduction to the Project

NPC - Cimpor (Pty) Ltd. (NPC - Cimpor) currently operates two clinker kilns, one cement mill and a storage and packaging facility at their existing Simuma operations near Port Shepstone, KwaZulu-Natal (**Figure 1: Locality Map**). NPC - Cimpor proposes to expand its operations at Simuma by constructing a second cement mill.

The proposed expansion constitutes a listed activity as specified in Government Notice 386 in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and thus requires a Basic Assessment (BA). In addition, as Simuma is classified as a mine, the EIA is also to be undertaken in compliance with Section 24(7) of NEMA, as required by the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No. 28 of 2002 (MPRDA). Authorisation is therefore required from both the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA), and the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) before the development may proceed. As such, NPC - Cimpor have appointed SRK Consulting (SRK), as their independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the BA & ensure compliance with the MPRDA.



**Figure 1: Locality Map**

### 2. Purpose of this Document

This document, the Background Information Document (BID), is intended to provide information about the BA being undertaken for the proposed development and provides:

- A description of the proposed project and potential environmental issues;
- An overview of the legislative context;
- A description of the manner in which the BA will be undertaken;
- An overview of the technical evaluation to be undertaken during the BA;
- An indication of how interested and affected parties (IAPs) may become involved in the project; and
- Contact details where IAPs may submit their issues and concerns associated with the project.

### 3. Project Description

The Simuma Facility currently produces clinker in two kilns. The clinker is stored in silos and then inter-ground with limestone and gypsum in an existing single on-site cement mill to form four grades of cement, the cement is then stored in a silo and later packaged and distributed directly to clients from Simuma. The proposed expansion of the Simuma Facility includes the addition of a second cement mill.

The second cement mill is proposed to be constructed to the east of the existing cement mill and to the north of the existing packing plant. The total floor area of the existing cement mill is 240m<sup>2</sup> and the new cement mill will occupy a similar floor space.

The discharge points of the existing raw material conveyors feeding the existing cement mill feed section will be modified to enable the diversion of the raw materials to the new mill feed section.

The existing conveying system consists of a series of conveyors transporting clinker from storage silos, as well as a conveyor system transporting limestone and gypsum from covered storage stockpiles.

The new mill feed section will consist of 3 raw material steel bins (with the provision to install a fourth bin at a later stage) on concrete supports. Material from each bin will be discharged onto a weighfeeder and then transferred onto the conveying system feeding the cement mill.

The raw material steel bins will include the following:

- One 500 ton bin for clinker storage;
- One 150 ton bin for limestone storage; and
- One 80 ton bin for gypsum storage.

Dust generated at conveyor transfer and discharge points will be collected using bag filters and all conveyors will be protected by housing to minimize the impact of weather conditions i.e. wind and rain.

The raw materials will be extracted from the storage bins in the required proportions by the weighfeeders and fed via the conveyors to the new cement mill.

The proposed new cement mill will have a nominal capacity of 100 tons per hour, dependant on the final product produced.

NPC – Cimpor are considering different milling technology alternatives that are available. Such technologies will be considered in the BA process.

The product from the proposed cement mill will be transported by existing bucket elevator and airslides to an existing high efficiency separator / classifier. Oversize material from the separator / classifier will be returned back to the mill to obtain the desired fineness as stipulated by quality requirements.

The fine product from the separator is to be extracted via a bag house, with the final product from the baghouse being transported to an elevator and feeding system, supplying an existing 12000 ton 5 compartment cement storage silo.

Current proposed mitigation measures to limit any potential impact on air quality include the following:

- All conveyor, airslide and bucket elevator transfer and discharge points will be de-dusted by suitable bag filters; and
- All conveyors will be enclosed with housing to limit emissions and also protect material from the predominant rain bearing winds.

The mill and feed buildings will consist of concrete floor and steel column structures with roofing.

The current objective is for the mill to operate on a 24 hour / 7 day a week cycle for 320 days per annum.

Key potential environmental issues as identified to date included:

- Dust emissions to the atmosphere;
- Noise generation; and
- Traffic and transportation.

Additional environmental issues may be identified during the course of the BA.

## 4. The Legal Context

The proposed construction of a second cement mill constitutes the following listed activity in terms of Listing Notice, GNR 386 of the EIA Regulations promulgated under NEMA:

- GNR 386 No. 25: *“The expansion of or changes to existing facilities for any process or activity, which requires an amendment of an existing permit or license or a new permit or license in terms of legislation governing the release of emissions, pollution, effluent”.*

Given NPC-Cimpor will require an amendment to their existing air quality permit for the proposed project, the above activity has reference.

As noted previously, the regulating authority in terms of implementation of the EIA Regulations in KwaZulu-Natal is the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA). Thus to undertake the aforementioned listed activity, the applicant (NPC - Cimpor) is required to undertake a BA. Further to this, under NEMA, the assessment must be undertaken by an independent environmental assessment practitioner on behalf of the applicant.

In addition, as NPC - Cimpor is categorised as a mine, the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) are an additional regulating authority in terms of the Mineral & Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) No. 28 of 2002. In this regard an Amendment to NPC - Cimpor's Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPR) is required.

Thus NPC - Cimpor are required to undertake two separate processes, i.e. a BA and an amendment to the EMPR, which are to be submitted to the individual regulatory authorities, the DAEA and the DME respectively. NPC - Cimpor, through SRK, will be required to obtain authorisation for the proposed new cement mill from both of these authorities before construction and operation may commence.

## 5. The Basic Assessment Process

The objectives of the BA are to:

- Develop an understanding of the project area;
- Develop an understanding of the proposed development and how it's related activities may potentially impact on the surrounding environment;
- Identify relevant authorities and IAPs to engage in the Public Participation Process (PPP);
- Facilitate the dissemination of information to the relevant authorities and IAPs and provide them with an opportunity to raise issues or concerns related to the project;
- Identify potential issues and environmental impacts;
- Assess the significance of the potential environmental impacts identified;
- Describe and investigate alternatives that have been and / or could be considered; and
- Provide feasible mitigation measures to address any significant impacts identified.

The results of the BA will be presented in a Basic Assessment proforma template which will be made available for public comment prior to finalisation and submission to the DAEA and DME.

### 5.1 Technical Evaluation

The technical evaluation and the PPP continue throughout the Basic Assessment process and, while they are closely linked, for ease of explanation they are discussed separately in this document.

The technical evaluation will identify the environmental issues and impacts associated with the proposed construction of the new cement mill. More specifically it will involve an assessment of the potential environmental impacts associated with the environmental issues identified, including mitigation measures as may be required. In addition, an assessment of feasible alternatives is also necessary.

Based on past experience of similar projects and a previous Environmental Impact Assessment, which was undertaken by SRK in November 2004, for the construction and operation of the first cement mill, the storage and packaging facility and the second clinker kiln at the Simuma facility, at this stage it is proposed that specialist input be obtained on issues associated with air quality, noise, and traffic and transportation.

### 5.2 Public Participation Process

Public participation is an integral part of the BA and aims to involve IAPs in the process by notifying them of the proposed project and encouraging them to raise their issues and concerns. The PPP proposed for undertaking the BA has been designed to ensure that interaction with IAPs is focused and comprehensive.

The following section details the manner in which SRK proposes engaging IAPs as part of the PPP during the Basic Assessment.

### 5.2.1 Notification

Advertisements notifying IAPs of the proposed construction and operation of the cement mill, and a proposed public meeting and calling for IAPs to register with SRK is to be published in the South Coast Herald and Isolezwe newspapers. In addition, IAPs will be notified of the project and opportunities for interaction by means of:

- Notices on-site and at key areas;
- Distribution of notices and BIDs to identified IAPs; and
- Telephonic discussions.

### 5.2.2 Interaction with IAPs

It is important that IAPs are afforded ample opportunity to understand the technical issues associated with the project so they can meaningfully participate in and contribute to the BA. At this stage of the project, other than the BID, the following is proposed:

- Holding a public meeting;
- A key stakeholder workshop if required;
- One-on-one meetings with key authorities and IAPs where required; and
- Compilation of the Draft and Final Basic Assessment Report to be made available for public review and comment.

The following organisations have been identified as key stakeholders in the project:

- Enzinqoleni Local Municipality;
- Ugu District Municipality;

- Department of Water Affairs and Forestry;
- Department of Minerals and Energy;
- KZN Department of Transport;
- Department of Labour;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Housing and Traditional Affairs;
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife;
- Owners and occupiers of land adjacent to and 100m from the site;
- Local farmers;
- The Ward Councilor;
- NGO organisations;
- Idwala Carbonates; and
- Local Tourism industry/association.

Additional IAPs will be identified during the environmental process.

### 5.2.3 Feedback

Feedback to IAPs comments will be provided in the form of a Comments and Response table to be attached to the Basic Assessment Report.

IAP comment and feedback can be provided in different ways. These include:

- By direct written (facsimile, email, post) and telephonic submission;
- By completing the Response Sheet circulated by SRK; or
- Through providing input during meetings.

### 5.3 Submission to DAEA

Following receipt of IAPs comments on the Draft Basic Assessment Report, the Application for Environmental Authorisation, along with the Final Basic Assessment Report and associated documentation will be distributed to the DAEA and DME for a decision on the project. Once a decision has been made, all registered IAPs will be notified of this.

Should you require any additional information or have comments about the proposed development please contact Mrs. Vanessa Weyer or Ms. Liz Allan of SRK Consulting at:

Tel: 031-279 1200 PO Box 1969  
Fax: 031-279 1204 Westville, 3630  
Email: [VWeyer@srk.co.za](mailto:VWeyer@srk.co.za) / [lallan@srk.co.za](mailto:lallan@srk.co.za)

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A SECOND CEMENT  
MILL AT NPC–CIMPOR, SIMUMA FACILITY, NEAR PORT SHEPSTONE,  
KWAZULU-NATAL**

**RESPONSE SHEET: SEPTEMBER 2008**

Please complete Section A of this form for our database purposes and detail your comments and questions with regard to the proposed development in Sections B to E. Please attach additional pages of comment to this document if sufficient space has not been provided.

**A Your Contact Details**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Postal Address</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	
<b>Cell Phone Number</b>	
<b>Fax Number</b>	
<b>E-mail Address</b>	
<b>Organisation/Department that you represent</b>	
<b>Position within Organisation/Department</b>	
<b>Property name and portion number if you are a resident/property owner in the area</b>	

**B What is your interest in the project?**

---



---



---



---

**C Do you have any comments or concerns about the proposed project?**

---

---

---

---

---

**D Do you require further information? If so, please indicate the type of information.**

---

---

---

**E Other Contacts:** If you know of anyone else who should be informed about this project, please could you provide their details in the table below (space has been provided for an additional two contacts):

<b>Name</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>		
<b>Postal/e-mail address</b>		
<b>Contact number</b>		

Thank you for taking time to comment on this project. Please fax, post or e-mail this document and any accompanying pages to Vanessa Weyer / Liz Allan at P.O. Box 1969, Westville, 3630, Fax: (031) 279 1204, email: [VWeyer@srk.co.za](mailto:VWeyer@srk.co.za) / [lallan@srk.co.za](mailto:lallan@srk.co.za).