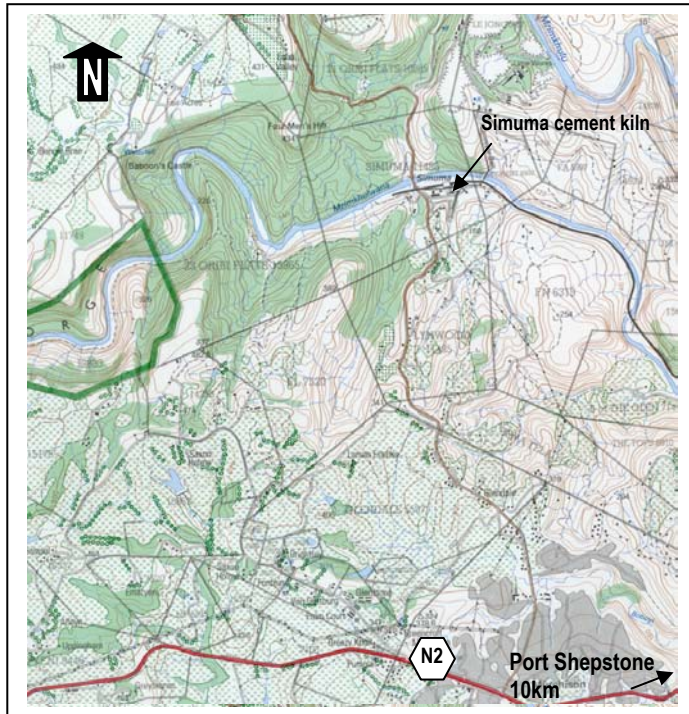


Time table of tasks

At this stage it is envisaged that scoping will be undertaken during the course of August, September and October 2003. The trial burns will only be initiated after the first public meeting, to be held at 17h00 on the 18th of September 2003, at the Marburg Haven.

Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs)

A broad range of IAPs has been identified thus far. If you or your organisation would like to contribute, or if you identify an individual/organisation that should be contacted, please contact BME as per contact details below.



Should you require any additional information or have comments about the proposed development please contact **Shirleigh Strydom of BME** at:

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED STORAGE AND UTILISATION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND RAW MATERIALS (AFR) AT NATAL PORTLAND CEMENT'S (NPC) CEMENT KILN, SIMUMA.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is intended to share information about the environmental impact assessment being undertaken for the proposed storage and utilisation of alternative fuels and raw materials at NPC's cement kiln Simuma, KwaZulu-Natal.

Introduction

NPC proposes to store and utilise alternative fuels and raw materials at their cement kiln in Port Shepstone, Simuma. Carefully selected solid, liquid and possibly gaseous wastes, that have an energy value and / or suitable mineral component, will be utilised alongside the current kiln fuel, coal in the process of manufacturing clinker, an intermediate product in the cement production process.

Background Information - The Cement Process

In manufacturing cement, raw materials (lime, silica, alumina and iron compounds) are heated to very high temperatures in a rotary kiln to produce a fused material called clinker. Currently at NPC, the energy source for this process is coal, introduced into the rotary kiln with the raw materials. Internationally the cement industry has embarked on a programme of replacing the use of this fossil fuel with the utilisation of alternative fuels and other materials. NPC are therefore investigating the viability of replacing a portion of the coal and raw materials used with alternative fuel and other materials to generate the energy required and supplement the minerals component at their kiln. In order to determine the suitability of the materials in terms of energy generation, mineral composition and impact on the environment, NPC has appointed SRK Consulting (SRK) to undertake an environmental impact assessment (EIA). As part of this process, BM Environmental (BME) will undertake the public involvement component and the Community Internship and Development Centre (CIDC) the social impact assessment. During the course of the EIA process it is proposed that trial burns will be undertaken and existing online emission monitoring equipment, the "OPSIS" utilising the Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (DOAS) technique will be utilised to monitor the emissions. An independent company will also be commissioned to do direct stack emissions measurements during the trial burns of specific materials in order to determine the impact on ambient air quality at the cement plant as a result of utilising alternative fuels.

Proposed Development

Undertaking the proposed alternative fuels programme involves the following activities:

- Installing temporary structures and equipment for storing the alternative fuels and for facilitating trial burns;

- Trial burns would be undertaken with some of the fuels that will potentially be used in order to determine their suitability both from a technical perspective, in terms of their impact on the quality of the cement produced, as well as an environmental / emission perspective;
- Depending on the success of the trial burn process, and based on the outcome of the EIA, permanent structures would then be erected and equipment installed.

Requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations

As detailed, SRK has been commissioned by NPC to undertake the necessary environmental investigations in order to ensure that the requirements of Section 22(1) of the Environment Conservation Act, (No. 73 of 1989) are met.

The EIA process includes the following steps:

- Hold a pre-application consultation meeting with the relevant authorities to identify any issues and concerns associated with the proposed development and to determine the potential impacts associated with the development;
- Prepare and submit a Plan of Study for Scoping outlining the scope of work and proposed methodology for undertaking the EIA to the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) for approval;
- Compile and distribute a Background Information Document (BID) describing the proposed project, in English and Zulu, including a response form;
- Undertake a Social Impact Assessment, including a literature review and consultation with key stakeholders;
- Identify and contact interested and affected parties (IAPs) to identify their concerns;
- Place an advertisement in the press informing IAPs of the proposed activity and inviting them to a public meeting and to register their interest in the project with the consultants;
- Identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity and trial burn process;
- Compile a Scoping Report reflecting all the issues and concerns raised by IAPs and provide information on the potential environmental effects of the project; and
- Circulate a Draft Scoping Report to IAPs for comment, prior to submitting the Final Scoping Report to the authorities.

Based on the findings of the Scoping Study the authorities will take a decision on whether the project should proceed or not, as well as the need for a comprehensive EIA. Should an EIA be required, specialist studies would be undertaken to provide the additional information required to assess potentially significant impacts identified and / or concerns raised.

Public Involvement Process (PIP)

The following PIP will be undertaken in order to identify IAPs concerns with the project:

- A Social Impact Assessment, the objective of which is to focus the public involvement process on relevant stakeholders and communities;
- Engaging and interacting with stakeholders identified, including both district and local municipality officials and councillors, government departments and surrounding communities;
- Lodging an advertisement in both English and Zulu in appropriate newspapers, informing IAPs of the proposed development and requesting them, should they so wish, to register their interest in the project;
- One-on-one discussions with IAPs to identify issues and concerns. Thus far IAPs identified with whom meetings will be held include the following:

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism;
- Department of Agriculture & Environmental Affairs;
- Department of Water Affairs and Forestry;
- Department of Minerals and Energy;
- NGOs and CBOs;
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife; and
- Farmers Association / Co-operatives.

- Public meeting to discuss the EIA and proposed alternative fuels process and the nature and time-frame for the trial burns;
- Circulation of a Draft Scoping Report to IAPs for comment, a copy will also be placed at Simuma and local libraries for review;
- Public meeting to discuss the Draft Scoping Report;
- Finalisation of draft report and submission of the Final Scoping Report to the DAEA for a decision on the project;
- Feedback to IAPs. A letter will be sent to IAPs, informing them of the Record of Decision as issued by the DAEA on the project i.e. whether the project may proceed or whether further information is required.

Technical Scoping

Potential environmental impacts identified thus far that will need to be considered in the Scoping Report include:

- Impacts due to emissions from the stack;
- Stormwater issues associated with the storage facilities;
- Occupational health and safety; and
- Impacts due to construction.

Additional issues may be identified during the course of Scoping.