



MEDIA

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF: 9/1/12/18

06 December 2018

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Dear Editor

NATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATOR PRE-LICENSING FEEDBACK ON PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATION SITE LICENSE APPLICATIONS (NISL) SUBMITTED BY ESKOM HOLDINGS, SOC, LTD FOR THYSPUNT AND DUYNFONTYN SITES RESPECTIVELY.

In response to the publication in the public domain of the Nuclear Installation Site Licence (NISL) applications for the Thyspunt and Duynefontyn sites, the NNR received over 25 000 representations/comments from affected parties and the general public.

The NNR considered all comments received and those which fall directly within the regulatory mandate of the NNR are highlighted as follows;

- Need for higher safety standards considering lessons learned from Fukushima Daiichi accident;
- Assessment of seismic hazards and other site characteristics;
- Impact of nuclear emergency plan restrictions on land-use planning and development;
- Evaluation of economic consequences of radiological accidents;
- Inadequate emergency and disaster management infrastructure in the country;
- Liability in case of a nuclear accident;
- Adequacy of information in the applications including lack of design specification;
- On site storage, management and disposal of radio-active waste;
- Impact on the surrounding areas due to plant operation and accidental releases;
- Risk associated with the operation of nuclear power plants;
- Manufacturing and construction concerns impacting safety;
- Lack of operational experience with Generation 3 plants;
- Potential releases to the public and environment;
- Emergency plan zoning and arrangements;

- Impact of the nuclear reactors on the marine and inland environments;
- Socio-economics and environmental impacts in general;
- Scarcity of water and impact on water resources;
- Health effects due to radiation exposure;
- Issues related to the regulatory process and adequacy of application documents.

The NNR will conduct an in-depth review and evaluation of the above issues in the next stage of its NISL review process and will decide on the need for further public consultation as appropriate.

Should you require more information, please contact me.

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Issued by:

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Background

On 10 March 2016, the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) received two Nuclear Installation Site Licence (NISL) applications from ESKOM Holdings SOC(Ltd). The sites applied for are; - Thyspunt in the Eastern Cape and Duynefontyn in the Western Cape. Both applications mentioned the applicant's intention to construct and operate multiple nuclear installations (power reactors) and associated auxiliary nuclear installations of a plant type and technology not yet identified.

The NNR completed its initial review of the NISL applications and found both applications to be compliant with relevant national policies as well as the NNR Act and associated regulations and accepted the applications for further processing. As directed by the NNR, the applicant served copies of the NISL applications on the persons, bodies, organisations, local authorities and municipalities and

published the application in the public domain in accordance with the NNR Act. In terms of Section 21(4) of the NNR Act, initial representations in the form of soliciting comment from the public relating to health, safety and environmental issues connected with the applications were made by interested and affected persons.

Key reference documents related to the applications and the NNR's review processes are available on the NNR's Web site at <http://www.nnr.co.za/applications-in-progress/>

About the National Nuclear Regulator

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is a public entity which is established and governed in terms of Section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No 47 of 1999). The fundamental objective of the NNR is to provide for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and regulatory practices suited for South Africa. To this end, the NNR provides oversight and assurance that activities related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in South Africa are carried out in a safe manner and in accordance with international principles and best practices.