



MEDIA

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Dear Marianne

RESPONSE TO ENQUIRY – THYSPUNT PUBLIC HEARINGS

Your email enquiry as reference; Noting your questions, the NNR responds as follows:

1) Why are these public hearings held now? I understand the Energy Department already in May 2018 paid the NNR some R16,5-million for the licence on the Thyspunt nuclear project site.

Since receipt of the NISL application, the NNR has been seized with its internal technical review process of the application, which is a lengthy and thorough process focusing on technical, scientific and onsite assessments amongst others.

The reason for holding NNR public hearings during this time is that NNR has completed its internal review process of the application and is now embarking on an external consultation process to listen to health and safety concerns related to the application from interested and affected parties. The NNR embarks on this process to ensure that its regulatory decision making is independent, robust and transparent.

All nuclear licensing fees are gazetted by the Department of Energy annually; however these fees are paid by authorisation holders or applicants of nuclear related activities (in this case Eskom) and not by the Department of Energy.

2) Are the public hearings the first step towards the project taking off (i.e. construction)?

The NNR public hearings is limited to the site licence application received and does not include construction. Should the applicant wish to construct, then a new application to construct is required by the NNR. This will also require an internal review process and public consultation by the NNR.

Please explain the reason why persons wanting to make submissions must first register. And what happens to someone who is interested to make a contribution, but may not have the money to either be there in person - and the data, means and monies to email registration documents - or for data to send written submissions?

To clarify, the NNR public hearings for the NISL application is held to specifically listen to representations from interested and affected parties on health and safety concerns pertaining to the application. For this reason, the NNR Public Hearings is a structured process inviting representations on health and safety concerns based on the Public Information Document (PID) . This structured process ensures that the NNR listens to relevant safety and health risks which may assist the NNR in its decision making of the application. Furthermore, the NNR will review and consider all written submissions on health, safety and environmental concerns relevant to the application. For special interested and affected parties with special needs (i.e. no money to purchase data for access to the internet) we encourage these parties to leverage on existing services and infrastructure available at their local municipalities, for example, some public libraries and community centres are equipped with free internet or alternatively contact the NNR for advice on how to participate.

3) How does the NNR view this project, particularly as the latest IRP draft still has not been finalised? What is the role of the NNR; does the regulator have the power to veto this project?

The NNR licensing process is governed by the NNR Act which establishes the NNR as an independent statutory body. The NNR is mandated to confine its licensing decisions to issues relating to health, safety and environmental concerns connected with the application. Once the NNR has received an application, it has a mandate to process the application independent of any procurement decision. The NNR can only refuse the application based on issues relating to health, safety and environmental concerns.

4) Has the NNR been informed by Eskom, and/or others, of the purpose for Thyspunt nuclear project at this stage? On 13 October 2017 Eskom indicated it would no longer go ahead with this Thyspunt nuclear project as a licence had been issued for Dyunefontein, at the existing Koeberg nuclear power station

The NNR receives ongoing feedback from the Applicant (Eskom) as part of the licensing process. Thus far Eskom has not communicated any intention or future plans to withdraw the license application lodged with the NNR.

To track the progress and latest information on the application, please visit www.nnr.co.za

Should you require more information, please contact me.

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Issued by:

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