



MEDIA

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Michael Kimberley
The Herald

Dear Michael

RESPONSE TO ENQUIRY – THYSPUNT PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

1) Why after two years of when the NNR were going to do the process originally, only start now with the public hearings?

Since receipt and acceptance of the NISL applications, the NNR has been seized with its internal technical review process of the Thyspunt site 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 Thyspunt site application and is now embarking on an external consultation process to listen to health, safety and environmental 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.

2) Has the NNR not ignored the EIA process that had no positive environmental assessment for Thyspunt with Duynefontein given the go-ahead instead?

- Nuclear Installation licensing in South Africa is subject to two primary legislative processes. The EIA was conducted in accordance with NEMA which is a legislation enforced by the Department of Environmental Affairs. The EIA process for such projects is a requirement under NEMA.
- The NISL process is an independent regulatory process implemented in accordance with the NNR Act and enforced by the NNR.
- Also note that it is the responsibility of the Applicant to obtain all relevant authorisations as required by the South African legislative framework.

What is the purpose of the public hearings if Duynefontein has been selected as the preferred site?

The NNR is considering the application as part of its regulatory review process and thus far the applicant (Eskom) has not indicated any intention or future plans to withdraw the Thyspunt license

application lodged with the NNR. The NISL process is a pre-licensing activity that could be credited in possible future applications in terms of the NNR Act.

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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