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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Centurion, Pretoria, 17 March 2023 –*

**NATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATOR (NNR) UPDATE: APPLICATION TO OPERATE THE KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER STATION BEYOND THE TIMEFRAME ESTABLISHED IN NIL-01, VARIATION 19.**

The NNR announced that the 60 day time period for receiving written representation from members of the public on the Application to operate the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station beyond the timeframe established in NIL-01, Variation 19 closed on 16 March 2023.

“After considering the written representations received, the NNR will in due course announce whether further public debate relating to health, safety and environmental issues is necessary and the process the regulator will follow before it can conclude on the matter”, stated Mr Orion Phillips, NNR Executive Nuclear Power Plants.

The NNR would like to thank members of the public and stakeholders for their interest and input received during this stage of the NNR licensing process.

Enquiries: Gino Moonsamy – 082 535 5365

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**About the National Nuclear Regulator**

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is an independent regulatory body established as a juristic person in terms of section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No.47 of 1999). The NNR ensures the effective oversight of nuclear safety and radiation protection to protect people and the environment from the risks of ionizing radiation associated with nuclear power plants, nuclear technology, radioactive waste and naturally occurring radioactive materials.

The authority vested in the NNR is enshrined in national legislation, which gives it the ability to permit (or deny) siting, design, construction, operation, manufacture of component parts, and decontamination, decommissioning, and closure of nuclear installations.