



LEAP

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT:

Diepsloot X8 Development (Draft EIA)

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GDARD
PO Box 8769, Johannesburg, 2000

On behalf of
Valumax Nothern Farms (Pty) Ltd
P.O Box 78772, Sandton

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LEAP has been appointed by Valuemax Northern Farms (Pty) Ltd to assist with the requirements of the Scoping (EIA) Assessment Procedure is in process under the NEMA 2006 legislation and a Notice of Intent was lodged with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD). Application for authorisation will be made in respect of NEMA activities listed in Government Notice No. 543, 544, 545, 546 and 547 of June 2010. An Environmental Impact Assessment will be followed for this application. The application will be submitted to GDARD to this effect and the application reference number received is GAUT002/012-13/E0070

This document explains the proposed project and the regulatory processes that will have to be complied with, while providing I&APs with the opportunity to:

- Register as stakeholders in the public participation process; and
- Make initial comments on and contributions to the proposed project.

This report provides a chronological account of the PPP followed. It also provides a complete record of communication, advertisements, registration of Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) and subsequent meetings held. Furthermore the report is also annexed with all related documentation to this process.

2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The PPP forms a fundamental part of the Scoping EIA procedure and is one of the most important aspects of the environmental authorisation process. Its aim is to provide an opportunity for all interested and affected parties (I&AP's) to obtain clear, accurate and comprehensive information about the proposed development, its alternatives or the decision and the environmental impacts thereof. In addition, the process provides I&AP's with the opportunity to indicate their viewpoints, issues and concerns regarding the proposal, alternatives and / or decisions. Inputs from the public, interested and affected groups are considered in the planned project development. As a result, a clear recording of all issues raised and comments made is maintained in the register of comments and responses. This register is updated as and when new comments and concerns are raised.

The process culminates in the undertaking to present the proposed development to registered I&AP's and to provide them with the opportunity to comment and raise issues and concerns with regards to the proposed development. These issues, concerns and comments as raised by the I&AP's are then recorded and considered

3.0 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The overarching aim of the PPP is not only to adhere to the required legislation, but also to give as many stakeholders as possible an opportunity to be actively involved in this process. Therefore LEAP's approach to this process was to pro-actively identify the relevant I&AP's, inform them of the proposed development and related procedures, involve them by affording them ample opportunity to raise issues and concerns about the proposed development and consolidate all those issues within the planning process.

Based on the above approach, LEAP engaged in the PPP using the following methodology in order to ensure that a complete I&AP communication process was achieved:

- Draft a Background Information Document (BID), including all factual information and describing the process including a map of the area affected by the proposed development;

- Advertise the project in the prescribed newspapers, put up site notices, identify authorities and adjacent land owners, and send them a BID (according to the legal requirements);
- As I&AP's respond to the advertisements and notices, register them on a I&AP database;
- Communicate relevant information to registered I&AP's throughout the process, in order for them to respond and comment on the proposal;
- List the issues raised in a Comment and Response Report;
- Determine the need for a public meetings and If required, arrange, advertise and hold public meetings, and record all issues raised; and
- Once the draft Report has been compiled, put the document out for public comment, and systematically inform all registered I&AP's of the opportunity to comment.

This report provides a description of the methodology followed and includes detailed appendices as proof of the procedure followed.

4.0 ADVERTISEMENTS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

The following procedures were undertaken to inform I&AP's about the proposed development and also to invite them to be part of the process.

4.1 Background Information Document (BID) and Map

A detailed BID was drafted that clearly informed potential I&APs of the following:

- The background of the project;
- What the proposed development will entail;
- Where the proposed development is located;
- How I&AP's can become involved in the process;
- Contact details of the relevant contact person at LEAP;
- A locality map of the proposed development area; and
- A registration form for I&AP's.

A map was also prepared that indicated the positions of the adjacent landowners and properties relative to the development. This is in order to identify landowners and occupiers of land in a vicinity of 100m from the proposed development, to register them as affected parties and inform them of the proposed development.

A copy of the **BID**, as per the EIA process, is attached in **Appendix 2** of this report.

4.2 Site Notices

Detailed site notices were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and were placed at the following places:

- At strategic and visible places alongside the property on which the proposed development will take place.

A copy of the site notice and proof of placement is attached as **Appendix 1** of this report.

4.3 Newspaper Advertisements

Newspaper advertisements were placed in the following newspapers;

- The Beeld newspaper on 18 June 2012

A copy of the abovementioned Newspaper Advertisement (as proof) is attached in **Appendix 3** of this report.

4.4 Adjacent Landowners

The legal requirements are very specific that adjacent landowners and occupiers of land adjoining the boundary of the property where the activity is proposed, should be informed regarding the intentions to submit an application, and should be given the opportunity to register as I&AP's and raise issues and concerns on the matter.

The following procedure was followed to identify the landowners and occupiers of adjacent properties:

- Relevant I&AP's surrounding the property were identified;
- Available details of the landowners and occupiers were registered in an I&AP database.

A BID document was sent to adjacent landowners and occupiers of adjacent properties in order to inform them of the intended application and development. The BID was distributed in the following manner:

- Notices were sent via e-mail, to landowners and I&AP's whose e-mail addresses could be obtained through the above process;
- Notices were sent via fax, to landowners and I&AP's whose fax numbers could be obtained through the above process;
- Notices were hand delivered to those landowners who couldn't be reached by other means.

Copies of notices to I&APs are attached in **Appendix 4** to this report.

4.5 Ward Councillor and Community Organizations/Non-Governmental Organisations

The Ward Councillor is one of the key community representatives within the area of development. Therefore he/she should be informed, and be given an opportunity to provide comments and input into the process. Notifications was sent to

- Ward Councillor Hlengani Makhube (Ward 95), JHB area will be kept informed of the proposed development at all times at Hlenganim@joburg.org.za (076 493 6376)

A copy of the above-mentioned e-mail is attached in **Appendix 4** of this report.

4.6 Local Authority and other State Organs

Several local authority departments such as Engineering Services, Traffic and Planning, National Department of Roads & Transport were contacted by the various specialists.

Please refer to **Appendix 4** for these communications.

5.0 I&AP REGISTRATION AND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

The procedure to inform the public and I&AP's regarding the process has been described in detail under the previous item.

As I&AP's became aware of the project, they were requested to register as I&AP's and to submit any initial comments or issues to LEAP.

The above procedure has been recorded as follows:

- The complete Comment and Response Register is appended as **Appendix 6** of this report;
- I&AP Registration forms and letters with initial comments have been included in **Appendix 4** of this report.
- The complete I&AP Database is attached as **Appendix 9** of this report.

6.0 INFORMATION TO I&AP'S AND MEETINGS

I&AP's were registered during the initial phases of the project, as described under item 3 and 4 above, and provided with a BID that described the background of the project. This chapter describes how information was disseminated to all the registered I&AP's for comment.

6.1 Public Meetings

An Public Meeting will be conducted on the 17th of July 2012 at Verwey Golf Range, 127 William Nicol Drive (R511), Diepsloot / Fourways, following the drafting of the initial I&AP list. A detailed presentation was compiled to be made available during the public meeting.

The purpose of the public meeting was to:

- Discuss the proposed development with I&AP's;
- Discuss the Environmental Process and the Development Initiative processes;
- Provide all I&AP's with the formal opportunity to raise issues of concern and to comment on the proposed development;
- Register more I&AP's and discussed the way forward.

The attendance at this meeting was primarily made up of surrounding landowners and community members.

All responses, issues and comments raised by I&AP's during the above meetings have been recorded in detail in the **Comments and Response Register (Appendix 6)**.

Records of the meetings are attached in **Appendix5** of this report.

6.2 Written Submissions

During the PPP, I&AP's were requested to raise their concerns and thoughts regarding the proposed development. Furthermore, they were also provided with the opportunity to make written submission regarding their issues and concerns (Email, fax, telephone, or personal contact).

Written submissions received by LEAP have been attached in **Appendix 4** of this report. The Draft Scoping report was made available from 15 July 2012 until the 16th of August 2012.

7.0 CONCLUSION

This report describes the process and outcome of the PPP followed for the proposed development Scoping EIA process up and till end September 2012. This PPP supports the formal compliance processes for the proposed development.

The public participation process can, from a professional view, be described as having been successful and inclusive.

Prepared by
Jitske Botes

Reviewed by
Dr Gwen Theron - LEAP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

September 2012
Signature and Date

September 2012

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Other

None