DRAFT BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

THE EXPANSION OF GROMIS SUBSTATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTUCTURE LOCATED ON PORTION 0 OF FARM DIKGAT NO. 195, WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF NAMA KHOI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

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ACRONYMS

BID	Background Information Document
DFFE	Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment
DSR	Draft Scoping Report
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
GNR	Government Notice Regulations
I&AP	Interested and Affected Parties
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NTCSA	National Transmission Company South Africa
PPP	Public Participation Process
SynCons	Synchronous Condensers

1. INTRODUCTION

National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA) is in the process of applying for Environmental Authorisation from DFFE. National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA) is being guided by the NEMA Regulations of 2014 as amended to prepare EIA, Environmental Management Programme report (EMPr) and undertake a Public Participation Process (PPP).

Quality Environmental Management and Business Solutions cc (QEMS) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to compile and submit the BAR, EMPr and undertake the PPP. Environmental Authorisation (EA) will be applied in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations published in Government Notice R324 and R327 of 2017. The following reports will be submitted to the relevant competent authorities: BAR will be submitted to DFFE, as required. Issues raised by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be incorporated in the Issues and Response report and submitted to DFFE for decision making. This document provides interested and/or affected parties (I&APs) with background information on the proposed project, its potential impacts, and the application and EIA/public participation process. It also outlines the manner in which I&APs can become involved in the project, receive information and raise issues that may be of interest and/or concern to them.

The impact assessment process involves technical and scientific investigations related to the potential impacts of the proposed expansion of Gromis substation on the environment. It is therefore essential that I&APs, through the public participation process, become actively involved in the project's environmental assessment process project in order to share information and give input that will be useful in assisting the relevant authorities in decision-making as far as this project is concerned. The response sheet attached to this document allows I&APs to comment and provide their inputs on the proposed project. The PPP is being conducted in accordance with Chapter 6 of NEMA as amended and EIA Regulations of 2014 in support of the EIA.

2. PURPOSE OF BID

The purpose of this document is to provide the public with project information and brief any potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be conducted for the project.

The BID indicates how you can become actively involved in the EIA process through the Public Participation Process (PPP) and raise issues that may concern and / or interest you. You can achieve this by:

- Reviewing the BID and registering as an I&AP by completing the attached Comments and Registration Form
- Please also state why you should be considered interested / affected by the project
- Contacting us by sending us an email
- Giving comments, raising issues / concerns about the project
- You can register, complete a response form, write a letter, call or email QEMS if you wish to register.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA) proposes to expand the Gromis Substation by approximately 5 hectares, increasing the current substation footprint from approximately 12 hectares to 17 hectares. The proposed development will comprise the installation of two Synchronous Condensers (SynCons) and associated infrastructure. The project will involve the extension of the existing 400 kV and 132 kV yards from within the Gromis Substation into the proposed new development area. The extensions will be integrated with the existing substation infrastructure and continue into the new area to accommodate the SynCons and associated infrastructure.

The development will also include two temporary laydown areas, namely Laydown Area 1 (approximately 6 hectares) and Laydown Area 2 (approximately 2 hectares). Additionally, the existing access road will be affected by the proposed development, necessitating the construction of a diverted access road approximately 300m in length, which will connect to the existing access road to maintain access to the substation.

The proposed access road will be located within the designated laydown 1 area and will provide access to the construction and operational areas of the expanded substation. The proposed expansion is intended to accommodate the installation and operation of the two SynCons and associated infrastructures at the existing Gromis Substation located within the jurisdiction of the Nama Khoi Local Municipality in the Namakwa District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province.

NTCSA plans to implement SynCons to enhance grid reliability and grow renewable energy adoption. SynCons will provide several ancillary energy services, increasing rotating inertia in order to improve grid stability. The SynCons do not generate power; however, through their inertial, rotating mass provide grid stability to the local area of the national transmission grid where they are located. Currently, the only inertial, rotating mass is provided largely by the coal-fired power stations, which are stationed in the north-eastern part of the country.

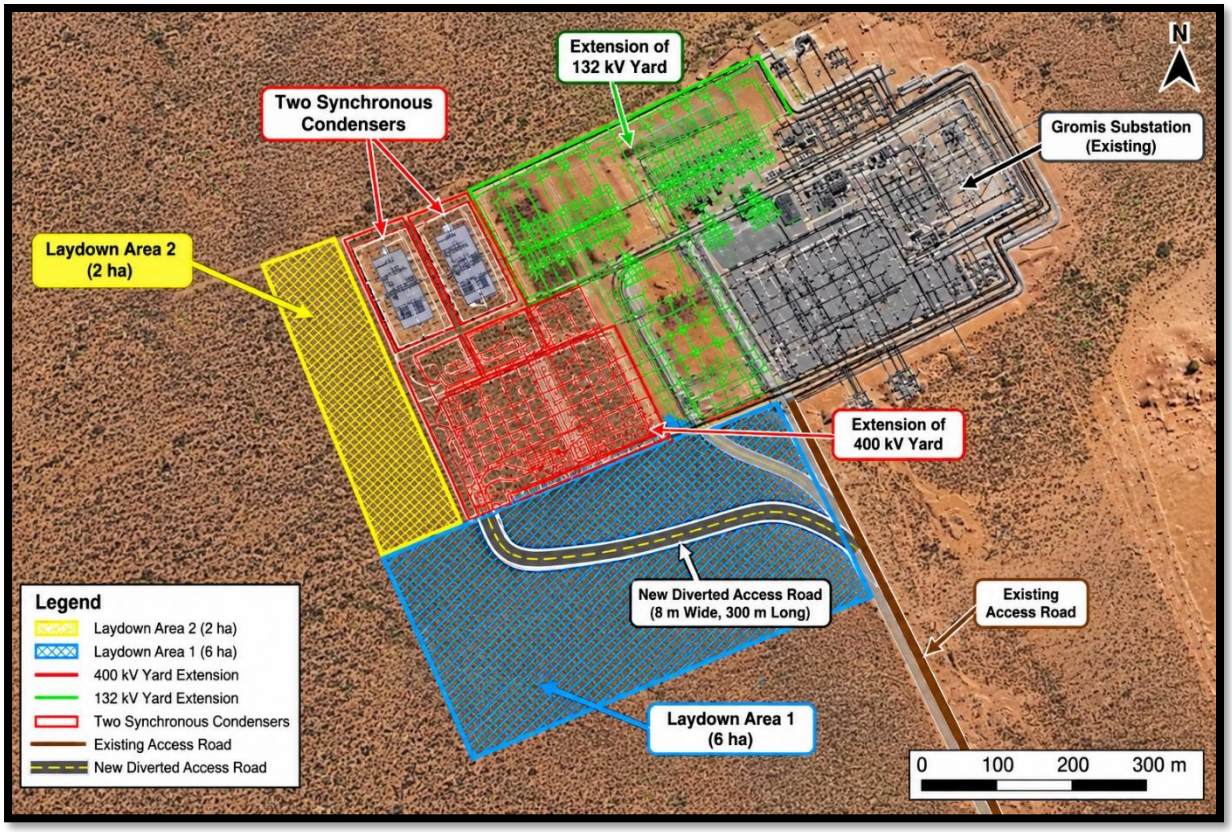


Figure 1: Layout Plan

4. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed expansion site is located on portion 0 of Farm Dikgat No. 195 and covers approximately 5 hectares for the synchronous condenser expansion area and an additional 6 and 2 hectares for the temporary laydown area 1 and 2 respectively. The site is situated near the mine along the R355 Road, approximately 0.95 km north of the existing Gromis Substation and about 68.30 km southwest of Springbok Town within the Nama Khoi Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The proposed development falls within the Strategic Transmission Corridor (Figure 3). The central coordinates of the site are 29°36'4.71"S and 17°10'34.48"E. The site falls within the jurisdiction of the Nama Khoi Local Municipality of Namakwa District Municipality in Northern Cape Province. The table below depicts the Surveyor General 21 Digit and corner coordinates of the site.

Table 1: Farm portion and Surveyor General 21 Digit.

Farm portion and No.	Surveyor General 21 Digit code
Portion 0 of Farm DIKGAT No. 195	C05300000000019500000

Table 2: Corner Coordinates of the existing Gromis Substation**.**

Corner coordinates	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Corner A	29°35'52.25"S	17°10'48.45"E
Coner B	29°36'0.64"S	17°10'54.31"E
Coner C	29°36'7.38"S	17°10'41.70"E
Coner D	29°35'58.65"S	17°10'35.83"E

Table 3: Corner Coordinates of the Expansion Area.

Corner coordinates	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Corner A	29°35'58.54"S	17°10'35.87"E
Coner B	29°36'7.17"S	17°10'41.56"E
Coner C	29°36'9.89"S	17°10'36.50"
Coner D	29°36'1.32"S	17°10'30.50"E

Table 4: Corner Coordinates of the Temporary Laydown Area One (1)

Corner coordinates	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Corner A	29°35'58.54"S	17°10'35.87"E
Coner B	29°36'5.61"S	17°10'44.72"E
Coner C	29°36'11.44"S	17°10'48.32"E
Coner D	29°36'15.89"S	17°10'38.63"E

Table 5: Corner Coordinates of the Temporary Laydown Area Two (2)

Corner coordinates	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Corner A	29°36'11.44"S	17°10'48.32"E
Coner B	29°36'15.89"S	17°10'38.63"E
Coner C	29°36'10.81"S	17°10'34.22"E
Coner D	29°36'2.45"S	17°10'28.39"E

Table 6: Coordinates of the new access road

Corner coordinates	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Start Point	29°36'10.79"S	17°10'47.98"E
Middle Point	29°36'11.37"S	17°10'41.94"E
End Point	29°36'9.72"S	17°10'36.66"E

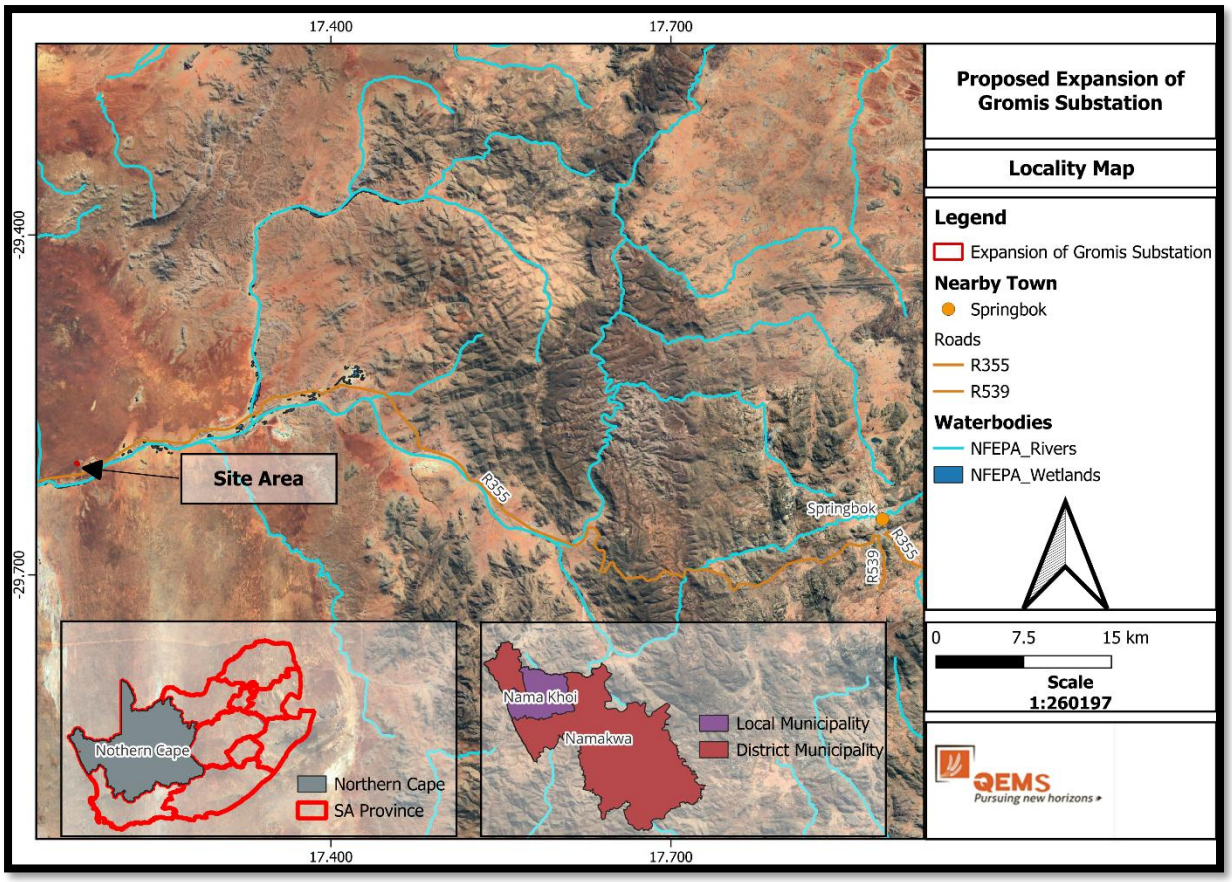


Figure 2: Locality Map

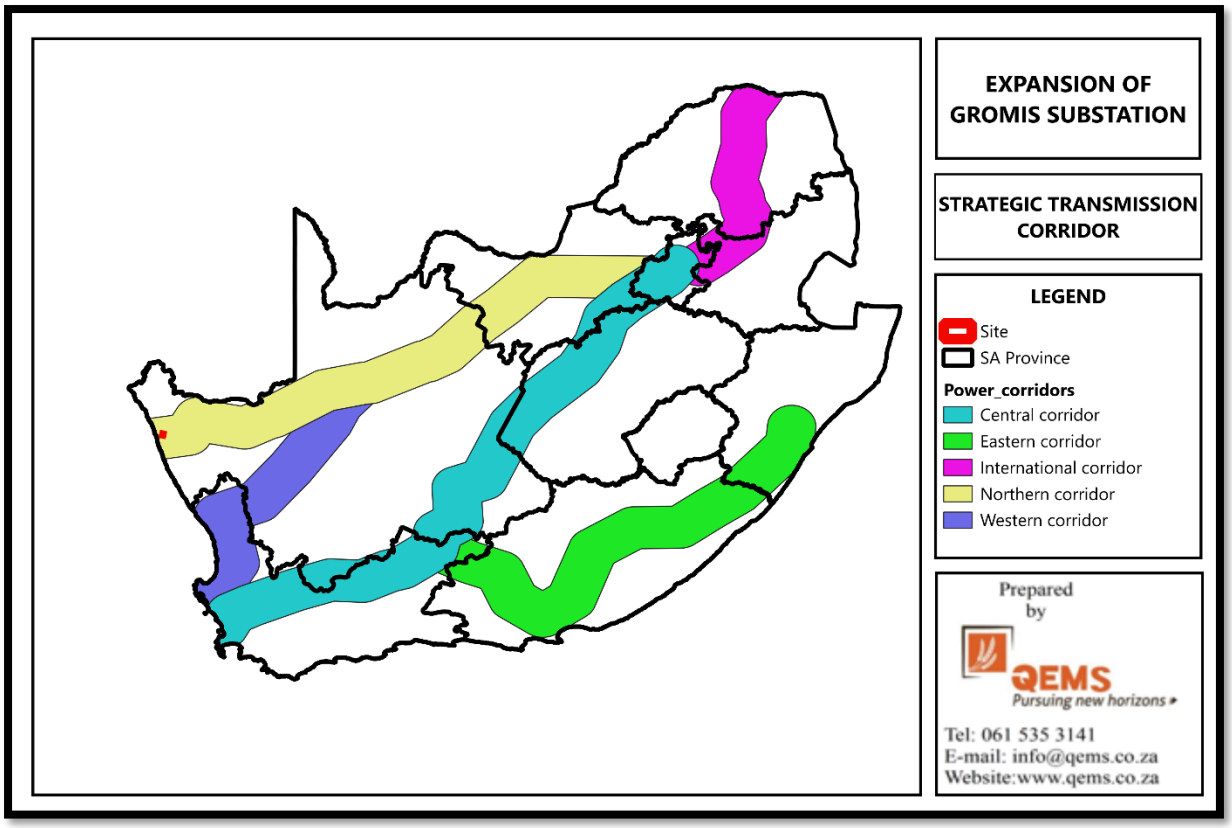


Figure 3: Strategic Transmission Corridor

5. LEGISLATION REQUIREMENTS

5.1 NEMA

The following activities require a BAR process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act No.107 of 1998 and its associated regulations.

Table 7:NEMA Triggered Activities

Listed Activity Number	Description	Relevance
Listing Notices 1 Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for: (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or	The project will include the clearance of vegetation for 13 ha for the construction/ installation of Synchronous and laydown areas. However, it is anticipated that the entire 6-hectare laydown area (1) will not be cleared.

	(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	
Listing Notices 1 Activity 47	The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where the expanded capacity will exceed 275 kilovolts and the development footprint will increase.	The extension of the 400kV yard.

5.2 NWA

The developer intends to drill a borehole; a formal water use license application (WULA) will be lodged to the Department of Water and Sanitation in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998). The WULA Procedure is regulated under the 'Procedural Requirements for WaterUse License Applications and Appeals (GNR 267, 24 March 2017) published in terms of the NWA.

Table 8: Water Use Activities Triggered under NWA

WULA Triggered Activity	Description	Relevance
Section 21(a)	Taking water from a water resource.	Abstraction of underground water through a borehole.

6. BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Basic Assessment process is a comprehensive, independent assessment of all identified and potential environmental impacts. The aim of a Basic Assessment process is to ensure that the proposed development occurs in a sustainable manner and that its negative impacts are reduced and mitigated to the best extent possible while its positive social benefits are enhanced.

The findings and mitigation measures are recorded in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) which becomes a legally binding document upon approval.

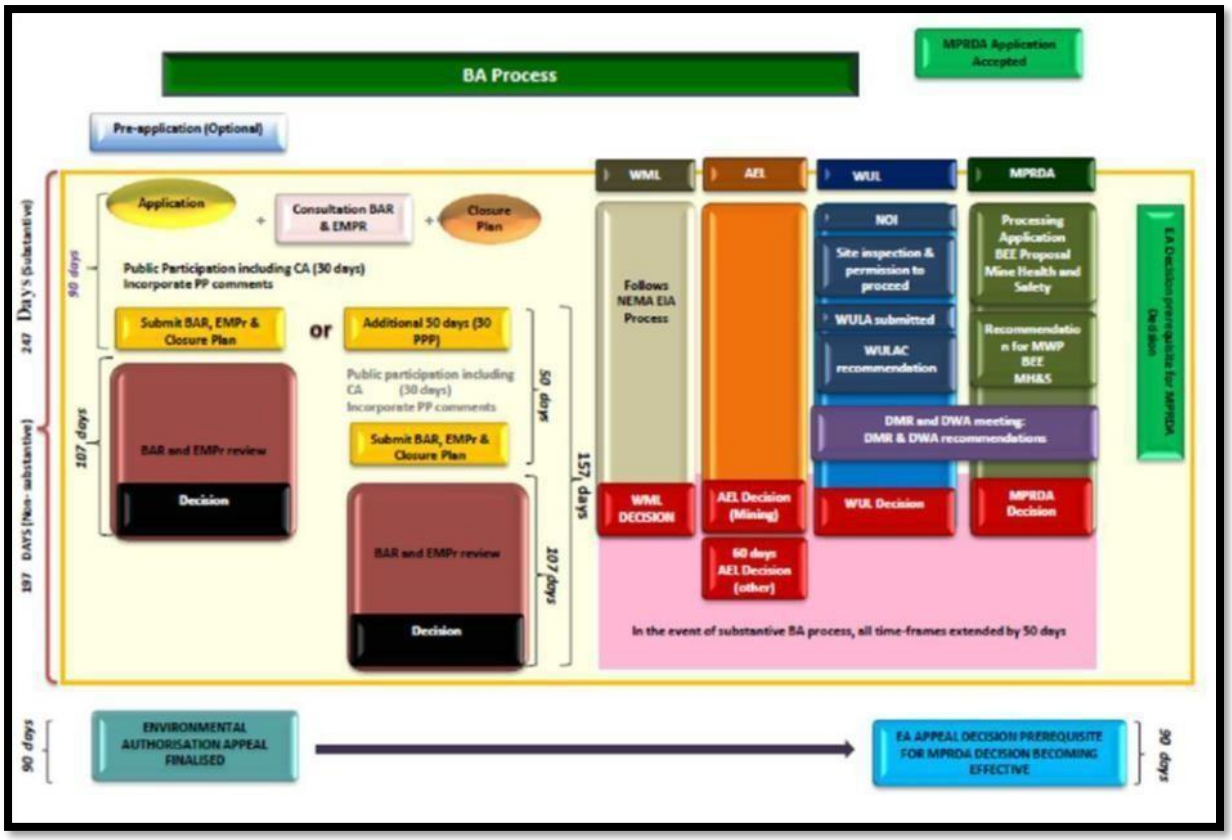


Figure 4: BAR Process flow

7. SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Studies are a crucial component of the EIA process and form the basis of the BAR for the proposed project. Several specialist studies will be commissioned to evaluate these environmental sensitivity themes as part of the BAR process. The following table outlines the specialist assessments that will be undertaken for the project. additional specialist assessments may be identified during the process.

Table 9: Project Related specialist studies

Specialist studies to be commissioned
• Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment. • Aquatic And Wetland Compliance Statement report • Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment • Agricultural Compliance Statement • Palaeontology Impact Assessment

8. NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PROJECT

Electricity has become an essential for daily living, and it is the source of economic power in South Africa, having access to electricity for 24 hours without any disruptions is essential for improving livelihoods of the South Africans and ensuring businesses that are fully dependent on electricity are operational to full capacity. The addition of the Synchronous Condensers will help bring stability to the transmission grid in the Northern Cape Province, improving the livelihoods of the people dependent on the electricity generated and distributed through the Gromis substation.

9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)

Public Participation is a key requirement of the EIA process. The PPP needs to be conducted in line with the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 (Regulation 39 - 44). The PPP aims to engage stakeholders or I&APs and provide an opportunity for the expression of public views on the environmental impacts of the applications. All public issues, comments and views on impacts and alternatives are documented, addressed, and responded in the EIA process and incorporated into environmental reports for consideration by the decision-making authority (DFFE). It is therefore imperative that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the PPP from the beginning of the EIA process to help focus the EIA plan.

9.1 PPP Plan

One rounds of public consultation is planned as part of the EIA process to satisfy the NEMA requirements. (See EIA process Schedule provided under Section 6).

During the PPP the following will take place:

- I&AP Registration
- Circulation of BID, BAR and EMPr for 30-days review and comment.

The project will be announced to the public through the following means:

- A newspaper advertisement
- Placement of on-site notices in the project area and public venues.
- A BID (this document), BAR, EMPr will be available at public venues
- Distribution of the BAR and its appendices to stakeholders for comment and review (30 calendar day review period).

9.1.1 Invitation to Register as an I&AP

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). For 30 days, from 08 July 2026 to 06 August 2026 the BID is presently available for review and for submission of comments regarding the proposed project.

I&APs are requested to please provide comments together with their name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application to the contact person provided within the review period.
The preferred method of communication is either by telephone or email correspondence, which will also allow tracking of submissions.

10 WAY FORWARD

In terms of sections 39 to 44 of Regulation 326 of NEMA, a Draft BAR will be given along with this BID for I&APs to review and register as I&APs by completing the attached Comments & Registration Form below. They can also contact QEMS by emailing the details given in the attachment below. Lastly, I&APs can send comments and raise issues/concerns about the project.

THE EXPANSION OF GROMIS SUBSTATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTUCTURE LOCATED ON PORTION 0 OF FARM DIKGAT NO. 195, WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF NAMA KHOI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

QEMS Management and Business Solutions cc

7 Munnik Avenue, Sterpark,

Polokwane, 0700

Limpopo, South Africa

REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS SHEET

TITLE (Prof/Mr./Mrs.)		**FIRST NAME**	
SURNAME			
CAPACITY (e.g. Director/Secretary)			
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS		**POSTAL CODE**	
TEL NO:		**CELL NO:**	

FAX NO:		**EMAIL ADDRESS:**	
INTEREST IN THE MATTER:			
COMMENTS/ISSUES / CONCERNS (Please use a separate sheet, if required)			

Please add the following of my colleagues/friends/neighbors to your mailing list:

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Tel:	**Fax:**	**Cell:**
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