



MEDIA

No: Response to GroundUp

REF: 9/1/15-04

Gino Moonsamy: 012-674 711
gmoonsamy@nnr.co.za

15 April 2016 - Centurion, South Africa.

Dear Ashleigh Furlong

Your email enquiry as ref: Planned Westcape development near the Koeberg Power Station. Please find the NNR's response inline.

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is a public entity which is established and governed in terms of Section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No 47 of 1999). The fundamental objective of the NNR is to provide for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and regulatory practices suited for South Africa. To this end, the NNR provides oversight and assurance that activities related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in South Africa are carried out in a safe manner and in accordance with international principles and best practices.

Providing nuclear safety assurance to stakeholders is a top priority for the NNR and being prepared in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency is an essential part of being a responsible nuclear safety regulator. In line with these responsibilities, the NNR oversees and ensures that nuclear activities are carried out with the two-fold aim of preventing accidents, but also of mitigating any consequences should they occur. In accordance with the principles of defence in depth, the necessary steps must therefore be taken to deal with a radiological emergency, no matter how improbable. It is therefore a regulatory requirement that nuclear authorisation holders regulated by the NNR are required to establish and maintain a comprehensive and effective nuclear emergency plan for dealing with potential risks arising from nuclear activities.

The process for approving or declining the Westcape development requires multi stakeholder involvement based on the various responsibilities of the roleplayers. Although these roles may seem complex and cross cutting in nature, they have material impact on each other and in terms of combining government legislation and NNR requirements, all these serve to contribute towards increasing the safety levels of South Africans.

The stakeholders who have a direct role to play in this matter include Eskom (owner and operator of the Koeberg nuclear power Station, City of Cape Town, Local Authorities, NNR, Minister of Energy, Local Communities, General Public and interested and affected parties. The internal process has different phases and stages. Currently the matter is at an advanced internal stage which comprises of a series of early involvement and consultations between the relevant stakeholders.

With regards to the nuclear safety regulatory aspects, it must be noted that the NNR uses, a series of tools, data and processes to analyse the impact of developments within the nuclear emergency planning zone. The layout and capacity of the road infrastructure are some of the parameters which are used as input in the analysis to inform the NNR's decision.

The NNR will be able to assess and have a more informed view on the matter when it receives the detailed plans for the proposed development from the City of Cape Town. At this stage the NNR has not received detailed plans for the proposed development.

- # -#