



ECC-99-313-NTS-03-C

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

TRANSPORTATION OF ZINC SULPHIDE CONCENTRATE FROM THE ORANJEMUND BORDER TO THE NAMZINC REFINERY, IN THE !KARAS REGION, NAMIBIA

PREPARED FOR

SKORPION ZINC (NAMZINC) (PTY) LTD





NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY TRANSPORTATION OF ZINC SULPHIDE CONCENTRATE FROM THE ORANJEMUND BORDER TO THE NAMZINC REFINERY, IN THE !KARAS REGION

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) a background to the proposed project and to invite I&APs to register as part of the Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process.

The proposed project involves the transportation of zinc sulphide (ZnS) concentrate from the Oranjemund border to the Namzinc refinery operated by Skorpion Zinc (Namzinc) (Pty) Ltd.

Through registering for the project, all I&APs will be kept informed throughout the ESIA process, and a platform for participation will be provided to submit comments / recommendations pertaining to the project.

This NTS includes the following information:

- The proposed project and location;
- The necessity of the project, benefits or adverse impacts anticipated;
- The alternatives to the project that have been considered and assessed;
- How the ESIA process works;
- The public participation process and how to become involved; and
- Next steps and the way forward.

2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC) has been engaged by the proponent Skorpion Zinc (Namzinc) (Pty) (Ltd) to undertake an ESIA and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. An environmental clearance application will be submitted to the relevant competent authorities; the Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT) and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT).

2.2 LOCATION

Skorpion Zinc (Namzinc) (Pty) Ltd proposes to transport the concentrate of ZnS into Namibia via the Oranjemund border to the Namzinc refinery, on a route distance of 105 kilometres. The location is shown in Figure 1.

2.3 WHAT IS PROPOSED

The primary source of zinc is the mineral sphalerite (ZnS), which is the source of about 90% of zinc produced today; zinc can also be recovered from six additional minerals. The primary uses of zinc are as a protective coating for steel (galvanizing), as alloys in die casting, as an alloying metal with copper to make brass and bronze, and in chemical compound s (e.g., zinc oxide) in rubber and paints.

Namzinc proposes to transport the concentrate of ZnS, as such they will operate the program, manage the contractors and ensure that norms of Health, Safety and Environment are met.

2.4 WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED

Skorpion Zinc (Namzinc) intends to transport zinc sulphide concentrate, which would promote and increase the operations and lifespan of Skorpion Zinc, contributing to the national and local economies as well as for skill transfer to locals.

2.5 OPERATION PHASE

The proposed project involves the transportation of zinc sulphide concentrate. The following are envisaged during the proposed project:



- The proposed modifications to the Skorpion Zinc refinery will enable the treatment of zinc sulphide (ZnS) concentrate, which Namzinc intends to transport from their Vedanta's sister company Black Mountain Mining's Gamsberg Mine (operating zinc/lead mine & concentrator) in the Northern Cape, South Africa.
- The concentrate of zinc sulphide will be transported into Namibia via the Oranjemund border to the Namzinc refinery, on a route distance of 105 kilometres. Approximately 314 000 tonnes / annum of ZnS concentrate, with 50% zinc content, is proposed to be trucked via interlink trucks.





FIGURE 1 – LOCATION MAP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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2.6 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

2.6.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

The potential social impacts are anticipated to be of low significance, and those that may transpire shall be confined, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Minor disruption to the residents along the Orangemund to the Namzinc refinery route, including some increase in noise levels arising from vehicle use;
- The potential to create jobs as a result of the project exist; and
- There will be economic benefits due to increased investment and investor confidence in the Namibian mining and processing sector.

2.6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

The potential environmental impacts are anticipated to be of minor significance, and those that may occur shall be contained, these potential impacts may include the following:

- Potential contamination of soil and surface water, a spill containment plan shall be utilised and be in place at all times; and
- Minor risk of loss of contaminant of hydrocarbon or chemicals from maintenance activities potentially leading to localised ground contamination; this aspect will be controlled at all times.

3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Best practice environmental assessment methodology calls for consideration and assessment of alternatives to a proposed project.

In a project such as this one, it is difficult to identify alternatives to satisfy the need of the proposed project; the activities shall be specific to the proposed project.

During the assessment, alternatives will take the form of a consideration of optimisation and efficiency to reduce potential effects e.g. different types of technology or operations, route access and exploration methods.

4 THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This ESIA, conducted by ECC, is undertaken in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. The process followed in this ESIA is set out in the flowchart in Figure 2.







4.1 SCREENING

A review of the proposed project screening findings against the listed activities was conducted; the findings of which are summarised below.

 The proposed project envisions the handling and transportation of zinc sulphide concentrate to the Namzinc refinery for processing.

4.2 BASELINE STUDIES

For the proposed project, baseline information will be obtained through desk-based studies and site verification.

The ESIA will focus on the environmental receptors that could be affected by the proposed project. ECC will also engage with stakeholders, I&APs and the proponents to seek input into the assessment.

4.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Impacts will be assessed using the ECC ESIA methodology. The ESIA will be conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 and its regulations. ECC's methodology for impact assessments was developed using IFC standards in particular Performance Standard 1 'Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts' (IFC 2012, 2017) and Namibian Draft Procedures and Guidance for ESIA and EMP (GRN, 2008) including international and national best practice with over 25 years of combined ESIA experience.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

An EMP shall be developed for the proposed project setting out auditable management actions for the project to ensure careful and sustainable management measures are implemented for their activities in respect of the surrounding environment and community.

4.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ADVERTISING

Public participation is an important part of the ESIA process; it allows the public and other stakeholders to raise concerns or provide valuable local environmental knowledge that can benefit the assessment, in addition it can aid the design process. This project is currently at the scoping phase and public participation phase.

At this phase ECC will perform the following:

- Identify key stakeholders, authorities, municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected members of the public, hereafter referred to as I&APs
- Distribute the NTS for the proposed project (this document)
- Advertise the environmental application in two national newspapers
- Place notices on-site at or near the boundary
- If required host a public meeting to encourage stakeholder participation and engagement, and provide details of issues identified by the environmental practitioner, stakeholders and I&APs
- Record all comments of I&APs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by ECC, in the comments and responses report, which will be included in the scoping report that shall submitted with the application, and
- Circulate I&AP comments to the project team for consideration of project design.

Comments must be submitted in writing and can be emailed using the details in the contact us section below.

CONTACT US



We welcome any enquiries regarding this document and its content. Please contact:

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