



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 797**

**Dr P J Rabie (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

- 1) Whether an environmental impact assessment has been conducted with regard to the proposed nuclear power station to be built near Buffelsjag in the Southern Cape; if so what were the (i) findings and (ii) recommendations of this study;
- 2) Whether such an assessment will be conducted; if not, why not; if so, what are the further relevant details?

NW968E

**Reply**

1) and 2)

Yes, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for one nuclear power station, with a maximum capacity of 4000 megawatts (MW) on one site, is being undertaken by an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner. Three sites are studied in the EIA, namely, Bantamsklip in the Western Cape on the coast next to Pearly Beach, east of Hermanus, Duynefontein, in the Western Cape next to the existing Koeberg power station and Thyspunt in the Eastern Cape on the coast between Oyster Bay and St Francis Bay. Buffeljags is the area east and adjacent to Bantamsklip.

Twenty eight specialist studies have been completed in the EIA process, including studies related to fauna and flora, wetlands, dune morphology, transport, heritage and socio-economic activity (including the chokka and fishing industries, tourism and agriculture). A revised draft Environmental Impact Report was made available for public comment in 2011.

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner will take the comments received on the revised draft Environmental Impact Report into account in finalising the report. A few revised specialists' reports will be made available to the public in mid-2012. Thereafter, a Final Environmental Impact Report will be submitted

by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner to the Department of Environmental Affairs for evaluation and a decision on an environmental authorisation.

The studies that have been conducted to date have not identified any fatal flaws on the three sites, Bantamsklip, Duynefontein and Thyspunt. With respect to the Thyspunt site, issues have been raised relating to transport, the chokka (squid) industry and debris flow. These issues are being investigated by the specialists and if there are substantive changes made in the respective specialist reports, the public will be provided with the opportunity to comment on these reports. Further work is also being undertaken by the Heritage specialists.

At this stage it is anticipated that the Final Environmental Impact Report, on the application for one nuclear power station (with a maximum capacity of 4000 megawatts (MW)) on one site, could be completed and submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs late-2012 for a decision on the environmental authorisation.

The revised draft Environmental Impact Report, in its current form, recommends that the proposed nuclear power station, if the project receives all the required authorisations and approvals, is constructed on the Thyspunt site. However if the Thyspunt site is not approved for the first new nuclear power station, it is possible that either Bantamsklip or the Duynefontein sites may be approved.

More than one site will be required if the nuclear programme envisaged in the Integrated Resource Plan is implemented. If Bantamsklip is not used for a first new nuclear power station, it could be used for a subsequent nuclear power station if the necessary approvals are obtained. Further environmental impact assessment applications will be submitted and the required environmental impact assessment studies undertaken for any subsequent nuclear power stations.