



MINISTRY OF ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office

National Assembly Question : 215

215. Mr M Johnson (ANC) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (a) What progress has been made on the road map on the Oyster Bay nuclear project and (b) how will this project socially and economically benefit the immediate communities of the Kouga municipal area? NO1697E

Reply:

- a) The Oyster Bay is a site that is identified as one of the candidate sites following a Nuclear 1 siting process. Eskom has applied for an Environmental impact Assessment (EIA) for nuclear power station with a 4000 MW nominal capacity. The first draft EIA commenced early 2007. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was issued for public comments in June 2010 during which time public participation forums were held in the vicinity of the three sites. The said EIA scoping phase with public consultations was completed and the scoping EIR approved and accepted by the DEA. Five sites were originally considered during the scoping phase of which two were scoped out and three taken through the detailed phase of the EIA process and Thyspunt (Oyster Bay is one of these sites).

As soon as final decision is made on nuclear energy, a nuclear licensing process of the site by the National Nuclear Regulator will start. This process may take another 2-3 years before construction takes place.

b) South Africa aims to develop a nuclear localization strategy. The economic rationale is that localization will ensure increased industrial capacity; promotion of technology and skills transfer from main nuclear technology suppliers of nuclear-grade components to the South African industry; promotion of joint ventures, consortiums and partnerships; enhancement of exports into the global nuclear supply chain; creation of high-level direct jobs, intellectual property and a significant contribution to GDP growth from a nuclear manufacturing industry.

A nuclear construction project takes at least 10 years. This is a huge construction project that will employ thousands of workers at different skills level, ranging from Artisans, Technicians, scientists and engineers.

Most of these workers will be local workers, mainly on civil works phase during construction. The project will create opportunities for local people not only to get a job, but also, very often, to learn new skills for the new job.