

**Strategic Environmental Assessment for  
Shale Gas Development in South Africa  
Meeting Notes**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment for Shale Gas  
Development in South Africa:  
Process Custodians Group Meeting 2**

**Date:**

22 October, 2015.

**Location:**

Knowledge Commons, CSIR Pretoria.

**List of attendees:**

Name	Organisation	Email	Telephone
Andrew Matjeke	Dept. Econ. Dev.	Amatjeke@economic.gov.za	012 394 3310
Angela Kariuki	SAHRC	Akariuki@sahrc.org.za	011 877 3683
Barry Morkel	AEON/NMMU	Barry.morkel@nmmu.ac.za	060 563 4969 / 041 504 2788
Bob Scholes	Wits/CSIR	Bob.scholes@wits.ac.za	011 717 6082
Dee Fischer	DEA	Dfischer@environment.gov.za	012 399 8843
Greg Schreiner	CSIR	Gschreiner@csir.co.za	021 888 2419
Henri Fortuin (as observer)	Western Cape DEA&DP	Henri.fonrtuin@westerncape.gov.za	021 483 5842
Janet Love	SAHRC	Janetlove@irc.org.za	011 838 6601
Jeanie le Roux	TKAG	Research@treasurethekaroo.co.za	072 959 1818
Thato Kgari	CGS	Tkgari@geoscience.org.za	012 841 1155
Kristal Maze	SANBI	K.maze@sanbi.co.za	012 843 5234
Luanita van der Walt	CSIR	Lvdwalt1@csir.co.za	021 888 2482
Muvhuso Musetsho	CGS	Mmutsetsho@geoscience.org.za	012 841 1165
Marius Diemont	BUSA	Marius.diemont@webberwentzel.com	082 333 3992
Marlanie Moodley	DEA	Mmoodley@environmnet.gov.za	082 684 6533
Paul Hardcastle (as observer)	Western Cape DEA&DP	Paul.hardcastle@westerncap.gov.za	82 889 9065
Paul Lochner (as facilitator)	CSIR	Plochner@csir.co.za	021 888 2486
Peter Price	ONPASA	Pdpcon@icon.co.za	083 628 9190
Portia Manuel	PetroSA	Portia.manuel@petrosa.co.za	021 929 3149
Selaelo Matlhane	SKA-SA	Smatlhane@ska.ac.za	011 442 2434
Wayman Kritzingner	AgriSA	Nic@agrisa.co.za / w.kritzingner@yahoo.com	042 235 1531

**Apologies received:**

- Morne du Plessis (WWF)
- Sean O 'Beirne (PCG Chair)
- Shafick Adams (WRC)
- Stefan Cramer (SAFCEI)
- Jeff Manuel (SANBI)

**Absent:**

- Rudi Dicks (DPME)
- Intelligent Chauke (SALGA)

# Strategic Environmental Assessment for Shale Gas Development in South Africa

## Meeting Notes

### Contents

1. Introduction and adoption of PCG Meeting #1 notes .....	3
Actions from PCG Meeting #1 (22 July, 2015) .....	3
2. Update on project status and progress .....	3
Scenarios and Activities .....	3
3. Author team balance and composition .....	3
Discussion on comments and response report for author team balance .....	3
4. Zero Order Draft (scope of study).....	4
Scope of work.....	4
Agriculture .....	4
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gasses.....	4
Waste .....	4
Land restitution.....	4
Land use .....	4
Institutional capacity requirements.....	5
Financial provisioning .....	5
5. Risk assessment process .....	5
6. Public outreach: round 1.....	5
7. Feedback to PEC from the PCG .....	6
8. Key actions and way forward.....	6

### List of acronyms

ASSAf	Academy of Science of South Africa
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DMR	Department of Mineral Resources
DoE	Department of Energy
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
GHG	Greenhouse gas
PCG	Process Custodians Group
PEC	Project Executive Committee
SALGA	South African Local Government Agency
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SGD	Shale Gas Development
ZOD	Zero Order Draft

# Strategic Environmental Assessment for Shale Gas Development in South Africa Meeting Notes

## 1. Introduction and adoption of PCG Meeting #1 notes

### Actions from PCG Meeting #1 (22 July, 2015)

- Consider and evaluate additional PCG nominations: Project Team provided responses to the nominations in the meeting notes from 22 July. The PCG approved composition and balance of the group based on these responses from the project team.
- Process Document to explain the SEA process: A SEA Process Document was compiled and released to the PCG on 17 August
- List and *Curriculum Vitae*s and biosketches of Expert Authors: List released to PCG on 07 September for a 10-day comment period. The comments and response on the author team composition and balance is a discussion point of PCG Meeting #2 (see Section 3).

The PCG members approved the meeting notes from PCG Meeting #1.

## 2. Update on project status and progress

- Presentation by Greg Schreiner (CSIR) and Bob Scholes (Wits/CSIR)

### Scenarios and Activities

- The SEA scenarios assume a SGD lifespan up to the year 2050. However, the expert authors will comment on mitigation required if a material risk is expected beyond that timeframe. This will account for potential latency of impacts (like in the example of acid mine drainage associated with gold mining). There aren't different scenarios for each potential future in relation to risks, as they will translate into too many risk assessments. The SEA is therefore considering three plausible main SGD scenarios, namely 1] exploration only, 2] small-scale production, and 3] large-scale production, which incorporates a broad range of impacts that could occur and at what scale they may occur. Each scenario also includes the decommissioning of wells. Existing information on local economic development planning and municipal development plans are being considered by, amongst others, the Economics-, Social Fabric-, and Land, Infrastructure and Settlement Development Author Teams.

## 3. Author team balance and composition

- Experts in the context of this SEA are not only highly qualified academics, but knowledgeable persons who are regarded by the community (social credibility) to have specialised expertise in a certain field (e.g. artists and farmers).

### Discussion on comments and response report for author team balance

- A list of Authors, biographical sketches and CVs was presented to the PCG on 07 September. Comments were received from 07-17 September and the Project Team responded to the comments on 24 September in a document comments and responses report.
- The PCG agreed that 10 days was a sufficient amount of time for the members to provide responses.
- The author nominations and recommendations received from the PCG were put to the author teams to consider.

# Strategic Environmental Assessment for Shale Gas Development in South Africa

## Meeting Notes

- Based on the consensual view in the PCG, Human Health has been added as a separate Strategic Issue to be considered by an expert Author Team.
- The PCG formally approved of the author teams based on composition and balance; and that the comments made by the PCG had been responded to by the project team in an adequate manner.

#### 4. Zero Order Draft (scope of study)

- Presentation by Bob Scholes (Wits/CSIR)
- The Zero Order Draft (ZOD) is an expanded table of content that broadly delineates the SEA scope of study.
- The PCG, along with general stakeholders, have an opportunity to consider and comment on the ZOD until 20 November 2015. Comments will not be responded to individually but will be collated together with comments from the broader public and presented to the author teams.

##### Scope of work

- The SEA is considering the exploration (including exploration hydraulic fracturing), production and decommissioning (including potential legacy/post-decommissioning risks) of SGD. The spatial and temporal extent of the issues considered is determined extent to which a risk can still be considered material.

##### Agriculture

- High potential agricultural land must be considered.

##### Air Quality and Greenhouse Gasses

- Dust pollution will be considered by the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Team.

##### Waste

- Radioactivity is mainly considered by the Waste Team looking at potential radioactive material in the produced water after drilling and hydraulic fracturing, and how this waste should be managed.

##### Land restitution

- Land restitution and tenure security effects on the various communities within the study area should be considered by the Agriculture- and Social Fabric Teams.

##### Land use

- The effect of shale gas development on the country's renewable energy programme needs to be considered.

##### Uranium mining

- The scope of the SEA focuses on SGD specifically, recognising a dynamic baseline scenario which includes competing land uses and change drivers (although uranium mining in the Karoo is only at this stage a theoretical possibility and not an actual activity contributing to a baseline risk scenario).

# Strategic Environmental Assessment for Shale Gas Development in South Africa

## Meeting Notes

### Institutional capacity requirements

- Institutional considerations relating to coordination and competent authority capacity within Local, Provincial and National Government needs to be considered. A study on the institutional readiness of South Africa for shale gas development has been completed by The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) for DST. The ASSAf study has not been released into the public domain by DST.

### Financial provisioning

- Many of the impacts and risks associated with SGD lie after decommissioning of wells - not just in relation to environmental impacts, but also around financial provisions funds for retired wells and the accountable and responsible parties for financial provisions of retired wells. This needs to be considered as part of the SEA. Comment from DEA: Under the 'One Environmental System' DEA is the policy writer for all environmental damage caused by mining activities, and has finalised financial provisioning which speaks to the requirements of i) annual rehabilitation and funds for rehabilitation, which motivates continuous rehabilitation where possible, and ii) consideration of latent negative environmental effects.

## 5. Risk assessment process

- Presentation by Bob Scholes (Wits/CSIR).
- The risk is considered as probability times consequence, and the risk assessment considers:
  - Low probability, high consequence events;
  - High probability, low consequence events;
  - In the presence and absence of best-practice mitigation and management;
  - Considers risk both spatially and across the different development scenarios.
- A request was made for the approach to the risk assessment and how risks are being measured. This is contained within the SEA Process Document which is available within the PCG information repository and the project website for all to view.

## 6. Public outreach: round 1

- Presentation by Greg Schreiner (CSIR)
- Three public briefings in Graaff-Reinet, Beaufort West and Victoria West and once stakeholder workshop in Cape Town are scheduled in the week of 09-13 November 2015.
- These public outreach sessions have been advertised in provincial newspapers in the three provinces in the study area (Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Northern Cape) as well as in one national newspaper according to DEA. The three provinces and the South African Local Government Agency (SALGA) have also been asked to assist with distributing the public outreach schedule and the SEA Background Information Document (BID). The three provinces are also tasked with distributing information to the Local- and District Municipalities in the study area.
- Stakeholder registration and comment will be facilitated at the public briefings for people who do not have computers or internet access. Communications with these stakeholders will most likely occur via SMSs or post, to ensure as far as possible that no-one is excluded based on internet accessibility.

# Strategic Environmental Assessment for Shale Gas Development in South Africa Meeting Notes

## 7. Feedback to PEC from the PCG

- Proposal for provincial governments to facilitate the provision of transport for stakeholders from neighbouring communities to the public briefings.
- How to include the poor communities in the outreach programme?
- Communication of public outreach to municipalities?

## 8. Key actions and way forward

	Key Actions	Responsible party	Timeframe
1	Share presentations, meeting notes, attendance register with the PCG, updated spreadsheet of author teams for each strategic issue.	Project Team	04 November
2	Share draft "Chapter 1" (Scenarios and Activities Document) with the PCG.	Project Team	04 November
3	Distribute notices of the public outreach session to Local and District Municipalities.	Project Team	30 October
4	Distribute final public outreach itinerary to the PCG	Project Team	04 November
5	Provide feedback to the author teams on the importance of issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High potential agricultural land</li> <li>- Air quality and dust emissions</li> <li>- Land restitution</li> <li>- Land use and the effect on renewable energy</li> <li>- Radioactive waste</li> <li>- Institution capacity considerations</li> </ul>	Project Team will consolidate these comments into the comments on the ZOD which are presented to the author teams	Ongoing
6	Provide comments on the ZOD sent to the PCG on 13 October. Project team to collate comments and forward to author teams (including the comments made by the general public, via website). Comments will not be responded to individually	PCG and Project Team	13 October - 20 November 2015
7	PCG Meeting #3 following peer-review of the First Order Draft.		April/May 2016 (TBC)