

MEDIA RELEASE - 8 MAY 2002

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: AMENDMENTS TO EIA REGULATIONS

The amendments to the current environmental impact assessment (EIA) regulations will be published on 10 May 2002 in the Government Gazette.

The national environmental impact assessment regulations, published in terms of the Environment Conservation Act of 1989, have been implemented and administered since 5 September 1997 by the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the nine provincial environmental departments. Certain amendments of specific regulations and the schedule regarding listed activities have become necessary. The amendments address certain shortcomings of the 1997 regulations.

These amendments, however, are not aimed at replacing the 1997 regulations. The current amendments are intended to provide an interim measure pending the publication of new EIA regulations under the National Environmental Management Act of 1998.

The amendments are primarily terminological, attempting to address inconsistencies and ambiguities that had emerged in the interpretation of the regulations, in particular to the list of activities identified in Schedule 1 (Government Notice No. R.1182 of 5 September 1997).

Copies of the amended regulations can be obtained from the Government Printer's office in Pretoria or from the website of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: <http://www.environment.gov.za> or from

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