

Dear South Africa is a network of online platforms designed to facilitate government and encourage the public to participate in unbiased decision-making processes or policy formation at SOE, municipal, provincial and national levels.



## Thyspunt Nuclear Installation Site Licence

1 July – 31 July 2021

The National Nuclear Regulator has called for public comment, objections or input on the application made by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited for a Nuclear Installation Site Licence (NISL) for the Thyspunt site.

The NNR considers public hearings a valued and important part of the licensing process and encourages the public's participation and involvement.

Special Note: The NISL application received by the NNR is limited to the evaluation of the suitability of the Thyspunt site for a new nuclear installation.

The above public participation campaign was released on 01 July 2021 where the closing date was set to 31 July 2021.

Written submissions and enquiries were prepared and directed to Mr Gino Moonsamy: Manager Communication and Stakeholder Relations at [NISLPublichearings@nnr.co.za](mailto:NISLPublichearings@nnr.co.za).

Dear South Africa (DearSA) hosted a participation project through Dear South Africa's mobile and online platform to facilitate, educate and encourage public participation and comment to shape this amendment

<https://dearsouthafrica.co.za/thyspunt/>

### Included on the web page was:

- 1 - the published related documents as downloadable PDFs
- 2 - a live view of public comments (with a counter and breakdown reflecting number of participants)
- 3 - video summaries
- 4 - links to relevant media articles
- 5 - a portal which posed three questions (with the option of multiples responses to each question)
- 6 - a comment facility to provide input on the application

Each public entry was individually delivered to [NISLPublichearings@nnr.co.za](mailto:NISLPublichearings@nnr.co.za). DearSA also captured all public entries which have been used to produce this report.



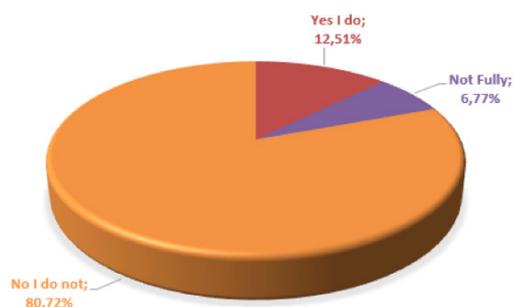
**Note:** In order to accurately reflect public comment, DearSA's projects are unbiased and hold no partisan opinion or agenda. Raw captured data is attached as an Excel file.

A total of **4,222** comments were received by the set closing of 31 July 2021 (included in the Excel file). This report reflects the entries received by the closing date.

Two question presented;

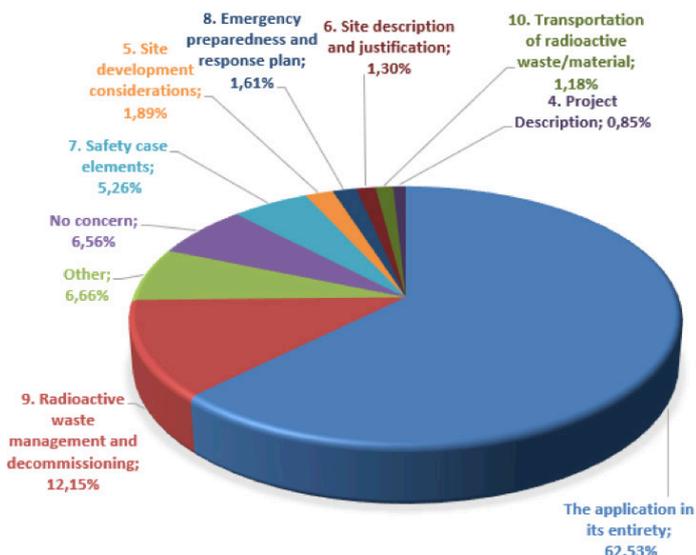
1. Do you support the issuing of a Nuclear Installation Site Licence for Thyspunt (as a suitable site)?

<span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> Yes, I do	[528 selected]	12.51%
<span style="color: #D2691E;">■</span> No, I do not	[3,408 selected]	80.72%
<span style="color: #483D8B;">■</span> Not fully	[286 selected]	6.77%



2. What is your top concern?

<span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span> The application in its entirety	[2,640 selected]	62.53%
<span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> 9. Radioactive waste management and decommissioning	[513 selected]	12.15%
<span style="color: #9ACD32;">■</span> Other	[281 selected]	6.66%
<span style="color: #6A5ACD;">■</span> No concern	[277 selected]	6.56%
<span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span> 7. Safety case elements	[222 selected]	5.26%
<span style="color: #D2691E;">■</span> 5. Site development considerations	[80 selected]	1.89%
<span style="color: #00008B;">■</span> 8. Emergency preparedness and response plan	[68 selected]	1.61%
<span style="color: #800000;">■</span> 6. Site description and justification	[55 selected]	1.30%
<span style="color: #6B8E23;">■</span> 10. Transportation of radioactive waste/material	[50 selected]	1.18%
<span style="color: #483D8B;">■</span> 4. Project Description	[36 selected]	0.85%





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## Comments

The participants are encouraged to provide comment to justify their selection in order to help shape the decision.

**Of the “Yes, I do” comments**, the public in this category have shown their positive support toward this nuclear application. With the existing electricity constraints, the participants have recognised that we urgently require an alternative power source to keep the lights on and businesses functioning in South Africa. In addition, the climate change and low emission rate that comes from nuclear generated power, is suggested to hold our country in good stead by producing a smaller carbon footprint.

The public have also raised concerns regarding the corruption and financial management around this project. To make this a success, the correct skill sets will be required, and transparent auditing has been requested to mitigate the risk of a failed project that results in severely impaired secondary effects for the people in the area as well as the environment.

### **Suggestions from the “Yes I do” comments, include;**

#### **Concern; The application in its entirety**

1. “Nuclear is relatively safe clean power. Much better than coal and constant. Green energy relies on Sun or wind and batteries which also require disposal at end of life. Batteries also contain hazardous materials. So nuclear is a viable option.”
2. “I strongly believe that nuclear power is the most realistic alternative to coal burning. The only reservation is a short term one. South Africa may not be able to finance it.”
3. “Electricity generation for the development of our country is fundamental and needs to be supported. Loadshedding and reduction has a negative effect on the economy of our country.”

#### **Concern; 9. Radioactive waste management and decommissioning**

1. “On balance I support the decision. South Africa needs a base load supply of electricity and cannot entirely rely on wind & Solar. Eskom also needs urgently to decommission some of its very old stations such as Camden which are inefficient, high maintenance and polluting. Thyspunt will allow Eskom to be able to decommission a number of very old generating units. It's correctly situated between PE & Cape Town which is good for efficient distribution. The only concern is the disposal of low-grade nuclear waste.”
2. “South Africa needs reliable sources of electricity that is cleaner than the coal plants which often use low grade coal. Up to now it seems that Koeberg has been managed well and I believe we can do it. The challenge will be how to manage radioactive material in a safe manner. Other clean sources will also be welcome, but each of them comes with some challenges.”
3. “I support the concept, the closest to Green power we shall get. I am concerned about radioactive waste management, am though positive that SA has brilliant engineers that will take care!”
4. “Nuclear is a vital component of any balanced energy plan as one is unable, given current storage capability, to rely purely on renewables. The greatest concern with nuclear is the manner in which the waste product is disposed of.”
5. “I believe the nuclear is an important part of the energy mix that will provide stability to the grid as the amount of renewables ramp up. If managed efficiently, this will help stabilise SA's energy supply as coal is slowly phased out and the old power stations decommissioned.”
6. “Waste must be entombed in stable geological formations in boreholes sealed with bentonite.”
7. “I support nuclear installation however; nuclear waste must be probably processed and unlike koeberg public safety is utmost importance not like Atlantis warning system a siren.”



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### Concern; Other

1. "Good day, I'm a qualified civil engineer if that adds any weight to my comment. I am fully behind the use of nuclear energy as an alternative to fossil fuelled power generation so long as it's construction and operation meet modern standards for safety and containment. My only concern is the corrupt government in which it is being built. That taxpayer money will not be used efficiently to construct and operate this facility because it is being tapped off to some government official/s."
2. "I am extremely happy with the site chosen and it will certainly uplift the Eastern Cape / Coega area folks. My only concern is the length of time it will take to complete. It has to start asap. The budgets also have to be strictly controlled as to corruption."
3. "Support it only if it is done privately and not by some government SOE. The country needs the electricity, but government must stay out of it."
4. "Nuclear is a zero-emission clean energy source. It generates power through fission, which is the process of splitting uranium atoms to produce energy. The heat released by fission is used to create steam that spins a turbine to generate electricity without the harmful by products emitted by fossil fuels."
5. I support nuclear energy generation in principle and believe it is a viable low-carbon generation technology that is suitable for future production of electrical energy. However, I am concerned that with the present nuclear technologies available, it will be too expensive compared to rapidly evolving renewable generation technologies, with the risk that it will become a stranded asset. If new generation nuclear technologies are developed that are cost competitive, I support the establishment of a nuclear generation facility at this site."
6. "We need safe and competent staff to operate the site and also a decent contingency for any Contractor Modifications and Change of order Costs."
7. "As an environmentalist I support the use of nuclear power as it can fight climate change and although the waste is toxic it is a very small quantity that is much easier to control than greenhouse gases. The only concern is the possibility of corruption hampering the project."

### Concern; No concern

1. "Nuclear is the only sustainable option, yes for the NISL for Thyspunt."
2. "Nuclear power generation is proven technology. It is well regulated, and the designs are defence in depth. We need this base-load power in SA to stabilise our economy."
3. "For the South African economy to grow, electrical power is a necessity. Nuclear energy is very safe, clean and is financially sustainable over a long term."
4. "A safe nuclear site will create sustainable jobs in the region and protect the wider economy against load shedding. Nuclear power is furthermore essential to meet critical climate change goals."
5. "Load shedding is already crippling South Africa's economy. How can anyone still deny the addition of a sustainable energy source in SA?"
6. "I fully support this if the process is transparent and there is NO corruption as is the case with the new power stations that have had so many problems that are being commissioned at present. South Africa needs the additional capacity added to the grid and if this project can be as successful a Koeberg then there is no reason for supporting it."
7. "I do not have a concern as this might be the only option open to Eskom to prevent more loadshedding and prevent a total blackout."
8. "I read the study and as I am not a nuclear specialist, I had to do some additional reading. After learning as much as possible and scrutinizing the proposed site I have no objection to granting the NISL for the mentioned site. I am also aware that even though there is a push for renewable energy, nuclear energy is important for expanding our base energy needs."



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### Concern; 7. Safety case elements

1. "I fully support a nuclear power station. The only concern is the ability for Eskom (with incompetent staff) to keep the reactor safe."
2. "Safety is of paramount importance in such a project because of disasters that occurred in other countries, if that can be taken care of, I am fine."
3. "We have seen the way theft on cables has been increasing and thus affected the operations of electricity. Security measures should be in place to avoid loss in those infrastructures."
4. "Nuclear will provide South Africa with a clean source of base-load energy and help to alleviate the problems associated with the present coal-fuelled power stations, both in terms of reliability and environmentally."

### Concern; 5. Site development considerations

1. "Nuclear power is the cleanest form of energy and produces the least waste. A stable grid and affordable energy will benefit the people of South Africa. I do however have some concerns i.e., environmental impact, safety elements and radioactive waste management."
2. "Another opportunity for corrupt politicians to commit crime and corruption. Make sure budgets are strictly controlled and that tender procedures are transparent and fair."
3. "If the project and maintenance afterwards is handled professionally and diligently it would be a great alternative to the coal burning plants."
4. "If the project and maintenance afterwards is handled professionally and diligently it would be a great alternative to the coal burning plants."
5. "I support it because of the loadshedding that is happening in our country."

### Concern; 8. Emergency preparedness and response plan

1. "I am concerned about the safety of the employees of the power plant and residents around the area in case of an emergency. I am also concerned about the radioactive waste generated by the power plant."
2. "It will help the country to implement a responsive plan in advance."
3. "Under the current state of negligence in Government there is the man-made risk associated with lack of industrial discipline. Operating staff and security personnel cannot be appointed on cadre selection, if staff selection is not absolutely on merit and industrial competence demonstrated by any one person in the operating management, the risk of running a plant with the nuclear risks is too high for consideration. The current racially biased employment criteria will spell disaster and the degrading standards of local engineering education is a serious concern. The management policy is as important as the site selection."
4. "Yes, on condition that rigorous due diligence is/will be undertaken (including taking lessons from the Japan nuclear disaster, risk/scenario analysis, disaster prevention/recovery strategies), required skills will be attained, PPP is part of implementation strategy, there will be sustainable job creation and electricity pricing benefits for the local economy and consumers."
5. "Though I support a nuclear plant, I feel that emergency preparedness and response should be a priority,"
6. "South Africa is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which oversees the installation and running Atomic Power Plants worldwide and ensures that member nations comply with international standards. The only concern that I have is the incompetency of Eskom in the unlikely event of an accident that has to be dealt with immediately."

### Concern; 6. Site description and justification

1. "No better way to produce electricity. Much less waste than coal power stations."
2. "Nuclear power is well-tested and among the cleanest sources of base-load generation capacity. While I would prefer to see renewable energy (gas) rather than nuclear power, the gas network appears to be decades from being realised. Wind and solar power are magnificent when there's wind and sunshine, but the lifecycle costs are exorbitant and unfortunately this energy is unstable in terms of base load power."



Koeberg saw its fair share of resistance in the early days, but few today bemoan the reality that without Koeberg in Cape Town's back yard, power shortages would be significantly more frequent. Failed nuclear plants are catastrophic but in light of the more than 200 nuclear plants world-wide functioning perfectly for decades, I don't think we have much choice in SA and the risks are small. Koeberg operators have managed that plant extremely well for almost 40 years and I think we can muster the required personnel to continue this legacy..."

#### **Concern; 10. Transportation of radioactive waste/material**

1. "Methods of transportation must be further looked at to avoid spillage. Where possible, rail should be used for the better part as Eastern Cape is very mountainous."
2. "Our future energy is only secured by means of Nuclear, Natural Gas and Coal. Only concern is the safe and secure handling of the nuclear material on and off site."
3. "I have a concern with point 9 & 10 above. I agree that Eskom lacks the expertise to manage this properly and it does put at risk people's lives. However, we have no other choice. Eskom has been ransacked and are unable to maintain what we have. Green energy should be implemented as far as possible, and Eskom should stop 'penalising' people who implement green solutions. People should be allowed to implement green solutions. However, for industry we have no choice. The ANC government has removed choice!"

#### **Concern; Project description**

1. "Need state of the art design & installation, with no backhanders."
2. "I have been part of Eskom Medupi Project and I have seen how capable south Africans are and with the skill we have right now we are ready for nuclear."
3. "SMNR are safe & inherently free from emitting Co2 & in terms of loadshedding we in S.A. we can experience none as we can generate electricity 24/7 & electricity can be generated cheaply even nuclear waste material can be stored safely."
4. "The project should be open for inspection (financial statements) and procurement process audited by a viable company - not KPMG."

**Of the "Not Fully" comments,** the participants have displayed mixed feelings regarding the application for Thyspunt. The location has been questioned as there were some factors that did not align to the environmental impact assessment which the public require further clarity on. Further to this, the decommissioning of waste material is already under constraint with Koeberg so the participants have requested additional detail from Eskom to show how they intend to implement a sustainable and safe disposal plan for the short, medium and long term.

In addition, the public have advised that the cost to set up a nuclear power station is astronomical and although we need the power capacity, we need to be mindful that this doesn't result in further taxes payable by the citizens of South Africa.

#### **Suggestions from the "Not fully" comments, include;**

##### **Concern; The application in its entirety**

1. "Whilst I appreciate the plans to increase power generation in the country, we sure need it desperately in order to be economically active, I'm still not convinced that nuclear is the way to go. It is terribly expensive, contentious and nuclear gone wrong is terribly destructive and virtually impossible to 'clean up'. SA does not have the finances to actually pay for nuclear. I still believe going private is the way to go because this is less burden on the fiscus, and with zero confidence in government's ability (shocking track record) of handing public funds, that alone should be the perfect reason to not allow Eskom to go ahead with it! When I refer to private provider of power generation, I refer to wind and solar farms."



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2. "Eskom has shown time and time again how incompetent they are at maintaining even simple coal turbines. I shudder to think of the disaster of any more nuclear energy under their closed watchful eyes. If it were a private electricity entity, I would be all for it."
  3. "I don't understand why we are investigating nuclear power when have land available for solar farms and wind turbines."
  4. "I understand this project will create employment and the much-needed power although I believe that the ecosystem will be compromised and sustainable energy is a far better option. Not to mention the costs of this project and the corruption within the ranks! I am not in favour."
  5. "Per say I don't have a problem, but do Eskom have the skills to run and maintain a nuclear plant with all the risks involved if they can't even run the existing generation plants?"
  6. "People responsible for our regular ELECTRICITY systems cannot manage properly so how will a dangerous NUCLEAR operation be controlled SAFELY."

### **Concern; 9. Radioactive waste management and decommissioning**

1. "It should be made my French or German contractors to avoid corruption and DANGEROUS building errors if managed by ESKOM. It should also be voted by parliament and make the object of a thorough assessment before ANY green light is given to lay the first brick."
2. "There are cheaper and more environmentally friendly options available that should be explored like wind turbines etc."
3. "Radioactive waste management is a concern and the safety factor."
4. "The management of radioactive waste plans need to be satisfactory, in that there will be no danger to life in all its entirety, and the cost of such a plan will not burden an already overtaxed people of the country. And cost of electricity will not rise to make it unaffordable to all concerned."
5. "I would much rather see Eskom invest in renewable sources (PV, wind, methane) before expanding on nuclear. In addition, as far as I understand it, there is also a pending issues with waste disposal at Koeberg - yet another major problem we are leaving for our children."
6. "South Africa needs energy and we need it now. Renewable energy would be the way to go but at what cost and how long will it take. Many other countries have nuclear power plants and the main concern is the correct operation of these plants and the storing and decommissioning of nuclear waste. Some can't handle the electrical grid so how will they keep citizens safe from incidents like Fukushima and Chernobyl."
7. "Eskom needs to first identify and commit to suitable environmental and waste management practices, before the application can be reviewed and approved."
8. "Government cannot even keep our waterways clean; how will they ever be able to dispose of nuclear waste?"

### **Concern; Other**

1. "South Africa does not have a clean enough record of constructing large scale power stations, because of the fraudulent nature of procurement. If Eskom or government agencies are involved, I will not support it. No forensic investigation had ever been done about the purchases for the large power stations built recently. If it is treated as a private project and handed over to Eskom after commissioning, will I support it."
2. "I am not against the use of nuclear energy per se, it should be part of any complete portfolio. I am worried that a big project like this will be vulnerable to corruption and underhand dealings, as we have seen all too many times. What safeguards are there against this?"



3. "We have seen coal power stations decay and essentially burn to the ground due to lack of maintenance, skills and due diligence, what will happen if a nuclear power station receives the same treatment. I want rolling blackouts to end but not with the risk of a full-blown nuclear meltdown."
4. "Eskom is already collapsed entity in itself; they do not have the financial stability to maintain the current infrastructure never-ending developing an entire new building/project. They should rather put the money for the new development towards the current buildings and improving those then maybe after they can support the current grid then I might consider supporting a new development."
5. "The scientific and engineering community in South Africa needs more information before giving a go-ahead to even the NISL. What is to stop government from rushing through its own agenda of choice of plant provider, as has been attempted many times."
6. "The current Eskom does not seem to be capable of running anything successfully and Nuclear power definitely needs successful running to not be super dangerous."
7. "South Africa do need more job opportunities, and this could be one, but does Eskom have the capabilities to run it efficiently? Looking at Eskom's track record definitely not. Will it benefit the South African population?"

#### **Concern; No concern**

1. "At this stage to have a concern would be to pre-empt a negative response. let us look at the power situation in RSA. No big overseas company will invest here if we cannot supply enough power. Coal is eco unfriendly any cannot last for ever and for those that think that wind and solar energy is the solution, please go and do your homework. They can be just as eco unfriendly in the long term. Therefore, I will revise my inputs once all studies have been carried out."

#### **Concern; 7. Safety case elements**

1. "The same contractors which was used for Koeberg, should be used. I have no confidence in contractors from example Russia, the East or India."
2. "Nuclear power is but one way to create electricity for human use. The power station needs to be manned by highly trained and responsible personnel with the right (genuine) qualifications. The safety of everything is paramount to the successful operation of any nuclear plant as any accident, or accidental leak will be devastating for the surrounding area, as we have seen elsewhere in the world viz. Chernobyl and Fukushima. There are other sources of alternative eco-friendly electricity available in South Africa, plenty of sun and lots of coastal winds which could be used at vastly reduced costs of installation."
3. "While I believe the installation is needed and the modern nuclear power stations are very safe and produce much less radioactive waste than before, we need to think about the worst case."
4. "With the sea levels rising and what happened at Fukushima in mind, a power plant on the coastline needs to be well protected for all these events. If that is done, then I would be happy with the power station being built."
5. "Nuclear energy is the cheapest form of energy. If SA was a first-world country I would have no problem. But it is 3rd world, as the failure to maintain Eskom coal power stations shows. We can afford this sort of thing - not with nuclear. Also, I am concerned with the design given the location."
6. "I do not have clear understanding when it comes to nuclear installation. It sounds like is not safe or dangerous to have it around our country, I hope this is going to benefit us as country."

#### **Concern; 5. Site development considerations**

1. "There is limited public information about Eskom's plans for nuclear power so application for a license seems highly premature."
2. "Environmental impact on a fairly pristine area, however I am not against the responsible use of nuclear energy."



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3. "Environmental impact on a fairly pristine area, however I am not against the responsible use of nuclear energy."
  4. "The proposed site has heritage and ecological importance. A more suitable site needs to be found."
  5. "Thyspunt is the wrong location, far better locations have already been identified, close to existing disposal site with sparse population and many other benefits."
  6. "I believe nuclear power is an essential part of a carbon free electricity supply balance. But why develop a new site? The Koeberg Nuclear Power Station has sufficient land and infrastructure to support such a development so why expose a new area of unspoilt coastline to a new blot on the landscape?"

#### **Concern; 8. Emergency preparedness and response plan**

1. "Africa as a whole are not mature enough for this technology. We lack the discipline for this type of energy generation!"
2. "Emergency preparedness and response plans are not clear and cannot be properly rolled out as exemplified by the existing measures at Koeberg. Furthermore, the site considerations and development may have a negative impact on an otherwise environmentally sensitive area."
3. "I have no confidence in the government's ability to design or carry out emergency plans which would be required in the event of an accident or leak."
4. "Eskom is still not a sound, trustworthy SOE. We have little assurance that today it has the skills and diligence to oversee the build and then maintain the safety requirements or stick to the legislated environment insisted on by the international atomic energy authorities."

#### **Concern; 6. Site description and justification**

1. "The area chosen for the site for a nuclear installation has considerable land use potential (tourism, conservation, housing, aquaculture) and numerous other coastal other sites have been sterilised through diamond mining, sand mining and other operations and are therefore, not suitable for many land uses. In my opinion, justification for the site focuses on short-term considerations and I fail to see how this facility contributes to the long-term sustainable development of the area (as set out in NEMA)."
2. "The first time this site was proposed there was substantial evidence presented as to the geographic unsuitability of the site due to unstable ground conditions and fault lines in the area. What has changed and have these objections been fully evaluated?? This is not a situation where an 80/20 assessment of risk can be applied. It is either safe or it isn't. If there is any doubt this should not go ahead."
3. "ESKOM must think twice before investing in another AP1000 (first generation nuclear power plant). The technology is outdated. The way to go is modular nuclear power station (Generation IV). It can be constructed inland, and it is much safer. It brings the electricity closure to the user."

#### **Concern; 10. Transportation of radioactive waste/material**

1. "Whilst SA desperately needs projects that attract investment and secure jobs, we must take seriously the environment and what we leave for our children & their children. This proposal must include comprehensive guidelines to the transportation and storage of the waste materials created during the life span of the reactors. This must be a major factor that is addresses and communicated with clarity to the general public. I'm in favour of the concept but have some concerns regarding the management of this power station. Especially when it come to the 80km radius of municipal responsibility. Central government, in partnership with an NGO should equip train and support a dedicated team to monitor the environmental impact on a long-term basis. As well as a reaction unit that are versed in emergency protocol."
2. "Safety from the beginning of the project to its end. Thereafter safety of the area for the people, fauna and flora so that there will be no disasters to cause any damage."
3. "We supposed to be innovative and leading the country to cleaner solutions. I see a plan to build multiple stations without exploring alternative energy integration models. We need to stop being lazy and come up



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with better plan. More nuclear stations with all this sun and wind? Speak with Germany if you don't know how to integrate nuclear and clean energy.”

4. “Nuclear energy seems to be the way to go - whether Eskom can effectively manage a nuclear power plant is debatable.”

#### **Concern; Project description**

1. “Eskom has not elaborated on how this will help on the current situation of load shading. We don't even know the impact it will have on humans and nature. We don't even know if it meets the Safety Standard. I think Eskom must elaborate more before we can decide fairly if we agree or not.”
2. “It will be good only if this uses the new system developed by the University of Potchefstroom Nuclear research department.”
3. “I am not anti-nuclear energy production. The excess of carbon dioxide emissions has a significant impact on global warming. Nuclear energy will not add to this impact. Nuclear energy will ensure continuity of power when wind and sun power are interrupted, and battery storage is inadequate. However, there is no indication that the current best technology will be used, that the storage of spent fuel will utilize new best technology and that the financing of this project will not be a burden for the next few decades, even beyond the operational life of the plant.”
4. “Nuclear Power generation is a good solution. But it is difficult and expensive to implement. The renewables are also super expensive and don't work 100% of the time (California, Texas et al). They also contribute to Global warming and Pollution during the Manufacturing and Disposal of redundant equipment phases. There is no good solution except reduce consumption and strict population control.”

**Of the “No I do not” comments**, the public do not support this license application for various reasons.

The participants have outlined a common theme that they do not trust a state-run entity with a power generating mechanism that can have adverse effects to the degree that nuclear power can. It is recognised that South Africa needs to move toward improving our power generation but that the government should be incentivising renewable power sources utilising solar, wind turbine or tidal related modalities. The public have also stated that this developmental programme should be driven by the private sector.

The proposed location of Thyspunt has also been rejected by the participants due to the natural ecosystem and heritage of the area. The public have also requested clarity as to how this location could pass the environmental impact assessment.

In closing, the public have raised valid talking point about finances where renewable energy sources would make more economical sense in comparison to a nuclear power plant which produce sound recommendations for consideration.

#### **Suggestions from the “No I do not” comments, include;**

##### **Concern; The application in its entirety**

1. “Expansion of any kind is profitable only when a company is making a profit. Investing taxpayer money maintaining and improving the existing infrastructure is a much better proposition than spending it on an expensive and intricate nuclear power plant.”
2. “The government has shown that they are incapable of maintaining and running a traditional power station. Has a full environmental impact study even been completed? The site is on a beautiful part of the SA coast line that should not be blighted with any nuclear installations. There are certainly other options available that would be more environmentally friendly. With the way other SOE have been mismanaged it stands to reason that there will be multiple issues with this site which could have a huge detrimental effect on the natural surroundings.”



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3. "We have wind and sun. We don't need an expensive and dangerous installation. There are several environmentally friendly options available."
  4. "We have seen what Eskom can do when they wish to design and build a power station i.e., Medupi. No, they are incompetent and it's again open to all sorts of corruption. NO!!"
  5. "This is an outdated mode especially with a volatile social fabric and disparity of wealth where infrastructure like this could be at risk of sabotage, vandalism or destruction which would be an environmental disaster for the entire sub-continent and some."
  6. "Eskom needs to be deregulated and privately segmented. We need to move towards the growth of clean energy that is more sustainable for not just human consumption but the environment as well."
  7. "Eskom is too reckless and too bad with maintenance to be trusted with a nuclear power station. Too many lives are at risk if something goes wrong. Knowing Eskom something is bound to go wrong, very wrong."
  8. "South Africa is very lucky to have more than enough natural resources to create electricity, water, wind and large expanses of open areas, there is no need for something as dangerous as nuclear."
  9. "We do not need or want nuclear power in South Africa. We want renewable power such as wind and solar. This is the protects the future of our planet and does not leave behind nuclear waste which causes a huge problem."
  10. "Eskom should be investing in renewable energy, not some toxic legacy of nuclear waste left for generations to come to deal with."

#### **Concern; 9. Radioactive waste management and decommissioning**

1. "I am concerned about the potential pollution coming from nuclear power plants. as far as I know, to date we do not have a safe and efficient way of dealing with nuclear waste. Solution? Solar and wind, tidal and wave. Please, please, please do not let this plant get approval. the people need a truly sustainable future. nuclear is not the solution."
2. "RSA must consider using natural energy sources (e.g., Solar, wind, sea waves energy) that are safer health wise. History shows that nuclear plants have resulted in poor health and death of many innocent people across the globe. There is enough sunlight to power RSA. Besides Eskom is incompetent & corrupt, they can't be trusted with such dangerous/ complex projects. Personally, I want a green RSA I'm sick & tired of pollution. Stop killing planet earth."
3. "Apart from the management of waste and the subsequent disposal of it, nuclear power is unpredictable and can be extremely dangerous, we have such an abundance of other resources in Africa that nuclear should be at the remote end of the list of methods to supply power to the country as a whole. Pebble beds and other nuclear installations are expensive to build, expensive to maintain, with no guarantee of total safety."
4. "There are other ways of achieving base load energy without using nuclear which has long term nuclear fuel storage and safety implications for many generations in the future."
5. "While the world is rapidly moving to green energy, why would Eskom consider another new nuclear build (probably with Russia - who can trust them?). Secondly with earth tremors the past week, there is major concern about the buried nuclear waste in SA!!!!"
6. "The following issues are of concern and are all considered high risk:
  - No detailed Environmental Impact Study available on website;
  - Close to residential areas;
  - Management of nuclear waste;
  - POTENTIAL HIGH RISK for contamination of ocean and sea life."
7. "Thyspunt is in a pristine natural environment with unrelenting windy conditions. For that reason, there are



extensive windfarms in that very same area. An excellent example of sustainable power generation. Even offshore windfarms are good options, although more maintenance will be required. But still clean power generation. The pebble bed is considered the safest and even that poses environmental challenges. The most common criticism of pebble-bed reactors is that encasing the fuel in combustible graphite poses a hazard. When the graphite burns, fuel material could be carried away in smoke from the fire. Even a cracked pebble will not burn without oxygen, but the fuel pebble may not be rotated out and inspected for months, leaving a window of vulnerability. Some designs for pebble-bed reactors lack a containment building, potentially making such reactors more vulnerable to outside attack and allowing radioactive material to spread in the case of an explosion...

#### Concern; Other

1. "I am not against a nuclear power station, but certainly against the location of this proposed project. There are a myriad of other locations where such a facility would be ideal based on open terrain, low populations, ease of access, effects of nuclear leaks, environmental impact etc."
2. "History has proven that accidents happen with nuclear plants that are devastating to the world around them. We need to move to the use of renewal energy systems that will prove to be far more cost effective and better for human life."
3. "Nuclear power stations are not very safe as shown by Chernobyl. When things go wrong the environmental fallout is devastating to the whole world. South Africa has a wonderful climate for green alternative power generation. Eskom does not have a very good track record - outages etc. The volatile state of civil (dis) order needs to be taken into consideration as the recent rioting and destruction of property, especially where oil refineries have been threatened/targeted. Many nuclear power stations in Europe have been decommissioned because of safety considerations."
4. "Eskom used to be a AAA institution. It has become the poster child for corruption and mismanagement. They have facilitated the theft of Billions of Rand from the SA fiscus. Why on earth would any rational and sane person allow them to continue to do this to the country."
5. "This will be an environmental disaster, especially to the chocha fishing industry."
6. "No nuclear should ever be used when we have sustainable energy available!"

#### Concern; No concern

1. "They could not even keep their power stations up and running what will happened with dangerous nuclear station to keep it safe and properly operating and what about all the waste, so I said no."
2. "Our gvt has failed us from eKusile, mean we can't allow such thing."

#### Concern; 7. Safety case elements

1. "I have no faith this project would be carried out safely or be economically beneficial with the corruption at Eskom who cannot even maintain the current infrastructure."
2. "Although nuclear is clean energy and would contribute largely toward the decommissioning of our coal fired power stations, I am of the opinion that the benefits of sustainable power sources outweigh the benefits of nuclear especially considering the dangers and environmental threats that come with nuclear. My comment is thus a definite No to the nuclear power option."
3. "The positioning of Nuclear sites near the ocean opens up the possibility of irreversible damage from Tsunamis which are becoming more prevalent. In addition, the seismic forces that will occur in the area would also cause severe damage and nuclear radiation leakage. Both would be similar to the Japanese reactor that was hit by a Tsunami. On another note, the rest of the world is looking to de-commission their nuclear power programmes although the removal and disposal of waste is still a major problem. We do not want to leave our Grandchildren with the unsolvable mess of having to dispose of nuclear waste. The cost of a nuclear plant is way above what SA can afford unless it is another avenue for corrupt politicians to loot even more money and cause us to be indebted to China or Russia for the next 50 years."



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4. "The summary document mentions adequate security measures. There is no such thing. Recent political events would underline the myth of adequate security."
  5. "We should look at safer alternatives for generating electricity. Nuclear power is too dangerous and causes pollution. We should look at clean energy options instead."
  6. "Technical culture is too low to have nuclear facilities."
  7. "Please see the direction of the dominant prevailing wind in winter months, (the Southwest) where it blows to. Kariega is directly in line with the SW and slight deviation to a more westerly direction directly to Gqeberha/ PE."
  8. "Eskom is inadequate, irresponsible and corrupt. Giving them even more power and responsibility is ludicrous."

#### **Concern; 5. Site development considerations**

1. "This is a pristine piece of land with biodiversity that should not be used for nuclear, rather use an old unused mine."
2. "Where is the environmental assessment for this application? We cannot comment until the process to get to this point is properly undertaken, transparent & inclusive. The government cannot cut corners."
3. "The cost will be 30% more than if it adjacent to Koeberg on the North Side, due to the following 3 short cummings.
  1. It has no road access, an additional cost to add.
  2. No nearby Power Grid nearby, an additional cost to add.
  3. No nearby large port for incoming material and equipment.
  4. Koeberg Nature Reserve is already adjacent to Koeberg.
  5. Thyspunt has all of the above 5 objections."
4. "The site is too close to populated areas. One little fault or mistake occurring, and South Africa shall become a nuked wasteland."
5. "Surely the site would be better used for the creation of a far safer and almost certainly cheaper wind and/ or solar power installation? With the continuing reduction in cost of renewable power sources and more recently the battery installations to support them, does it even make sense to look at a nuclear option anymore? A nuclear power plant will undoubtedly take much longer to build than planned, be far more expensive than estimated and make more of a mess of the environment than claimed. One only has to look at the development of the \*coal-powered\* Kusile power station for an example of this. Modern nations across the world are shunning nuclear power in favour of renewable sources - why is South Africa not following that example?"

#### **Concern; 8. Emergency preparedness and response plan**

1. "If we can't manage civil unrest, how will we manage a nuclear disaster?"
2. "I don't have faith in our country's ability to properly maintain the plant or deal with a potential accident. Solar, wind & hydroelectric power is far more environmentally friendly & will be safer."
3. "I think it's premature to decide this issue while Eskom a sinking ship with no hope of funding such a project for the foreseeable future. Another case of corruption and looting waiting to happen."

#### **Concern; 6. Site description and justification**

1. "The radiological dose to the public will be acceptably low and within regulatory limits. Yet you are endangering the lives of the following settlements/towns/cities that are within the 80km hazard zone should an accident take place, being wind-down from the site per the prevailing wind tendencies: Oyster Bay 4km, Cape St Francis 10km, St Francis Bay 10km, Paradise Beach 16km, Humansdorp 17km, Hankey 42km, Thornhill 51km, PE southern suburbs 71km, Despatch 78km, Uitenhage 78km. Furthermore, to ensure the viability of the site and the feasibility of developing an emergency plan, it is recommended that regulatory control and/or monitoring of development within the emergency planning zones surrounding the site be implemented..."



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2. "I personally feel that this is a very poor site to install a nuclear site. It's far too close to ecological sensitive areas of great beauty, and diversity. I do not believe in nuclear energy at all and would never support such a proposal. We have other alternatives like Solar which cost far less and will produce the same proposed MW 2500 at a very small percentage of the cost. Why does Eskom not investigate Geothermal? We have a number of sites which could produce this volume to replace coal."
  3. "Apart from the impact it will have on the biodiversity of the ocean, the mere fact that a nuclear power plant is considered is preposterous. Rather allow private enterprise to generate sustainable electricity."
  4. "A further nuclear power station should rather be built at Koeberg, and not the Eastern Cape, where there is too much corruption."
  5. "Eskom is dead in the water. They cannot be trusted with anything, especially not anything nuclear. It will ultimately just become another black hole for tax money to disappear into corrupt schemes. Privatize energy in SA."

#### **Concern; 10. Transportation of radioactive waste/material**

1. "Please, please do not erect this nuclear monster.
  1. Basic infrastructure of the area is poor. Any big development would have a negative impact
  2. Prime tourism and most of the population in the area is employed within the tourism industry, local tourism which has not been affected by covid. An industrial site such as the nuclear plant would negatively affect the economy in the area.
  3. This is a world heritage site of flora and despite the total nonsense sprouted in the EIA that a nuclear site would protect the site, the truth is as we know building the plant would devastate the area and change its face forever.
2. "Our heritage, in all aspects, needs to be preserved! This includes assisting our echo-system to recover. Nuclear energy & waste is proven to be detrimental to environment & humanity! Especially, in SA, where there is no respect for legislation, governance, & the Law, in all areas!"
3. "There are many people living in that vicinity which transportation of radioactive waste or spillage from the plant is extremely dangerous to the area and the people living there."
4. "The transportation of ANY waste is debatable, and this radioactive waste can be very dangerous for people."

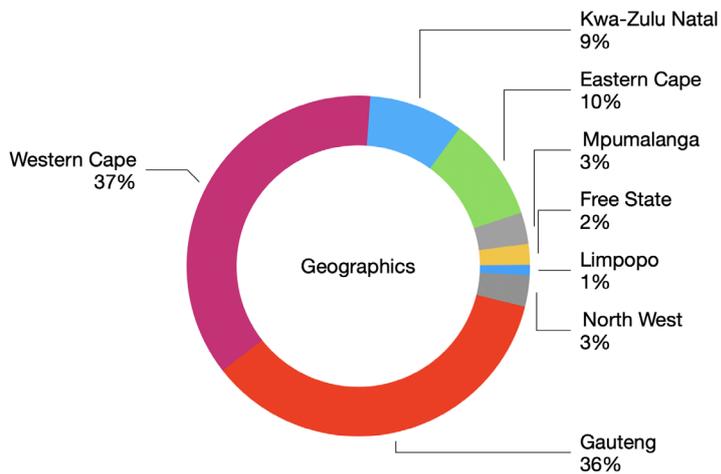
#### **Concern; Project description**

1. "An isolated licence application should not be granted. A comprehensive plan for the provision of required electricity should be prepared and updated at frequent intervals. Among other things the plan should be minimising transmission losses."
2. "This is a first step towards development of already obsolete technology. Develop alternatives (renewables) and plan accordingly."
3. "I'm not in favour of nuclear energy and I do not think it is necessary for South Africa. There are many examples around the world showing just how dangerous nuclear plants can be. We should be investing in renewable energy such as solar."



## Demographics

Comments originated from all provinces with the greatest input arising from Western Cape, followed by Gauteng and Eastern Cape. Demographics can be further broken down into comment options (yes, no, not fully) and by top concern per region upon request, or view the Excel spreadsheet attached.



### Thank you

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