



Assessment, Evaluation, Review and Updating of the Current Air Quality Management Plan for eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality

Background Information Document



Introduction

eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (eThekwini Municipality) is one of eight Category A municipalities in South Africa, and one of 11 districts in KwaZulu-Natal. eThekwini Municipality is bordered in the north by the Ilembe District Municipality, to the east by the Indian Ocean, to the south by the Ugu and the Umgungundlovu District Municipalities. It stretches beyond Umkomaas in the south to the Tongaat River in the north, and to Cato Ridge in the west. The central parts are urbanised and include the CBD, the Port of Durban, the industrialised South Durban Basin (SDB) and commercial and residential areas. The outer areas are less populated and include a mix of growing industrial activities (at Umkomaas, Cato Ridge, and the Dube Trade Port), agricultural areas (including sugar cane), and natural areas.



eThekwini Municipality (Local Government handbook, 2014)

Air pollution in eThekwini Municipality and its potential impacts on human health has been highlighted for a number of years, leading to the implementation of the Multi-Point Plan (MPP) in 2002, focusing on the South Durban Basin. The associated Health Study confirmed high levels of exposure to air pollution in the residential areas surrounding the SDB. The MPP resulted in a dramatic decrease in the emission of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) by industries in the SDB and a concomitant decrease in ambient SO₂ concentrations. With the focus on the SDB little is known however about air pollution elsewhere in the eThekwini Municipality.

The Pollution Control and Risk Management (PCRM) section of eThekwini Municipality's Health Unit developed and implemented an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) in 2007. eThekwini Health Unit's is embarking on a project to assess, evaluate, review, and update the AQMP in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (NEM:AQA) (Act No. 39 of 2004). uMoya-NILU Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed to assist eThekwini Municipality and to lead the revision of the AQMP. The AQMP review is an 18 month project and is planned to conclude in November 2015.

What does this background document tell you?

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with a brief outline of the AQMP review process. It also provides stakeholders with an invitation to register to participate and contribute to the AQMP review. Registration allows stakeholders to stay informed of the project progress as well as the opportunity as to raise issues and submit comments for inclusion in the AQMP.

1. About the Air Quality Management Plan

An AQMP is a strategic document that will assist the eThekweni Municipality to achieve air quality management goals in a structured, coordinated and measured manner. It should seek to give effect to Chapter 3 of the NEM:AQA, in other words, it must, amongst others:

- Either improve poor air quality or maintain the air quality status where it is good;
- Identify and reduce the negative impact of air pollution on human health and the environment;
- Address the effects of emissions from sources such as industry, transportation, residential fuel burning and agriculture;
- Give effect to best practice in air quality management; and
- Describe how implementation will be effected and measured.

The AQMP review project for the eThekweni Municipality involves a number of steps, namely:

- 1) Stakeholder participation: Active involvement of all stakeholders aims to ensure that all issues are identified and that interventions are appropriate and the implementation is successful. In the development and implementation of an AQMP, the range of stakeholders include, National and Provincial Government, industry, agriculture, planning and development, communities, NGOs, and academic institutions, amongst others.
- 2) The *Status Quo Assessment* describes trends and the state of air quality in an area including the climate, meteorology, geography and sources of air pollutants. In addition, ambient monitoring data and dispersion modelling describes the current state of air quality. The assessment also addresses the status of capacity in the municipality to fulfil the air quality management mandate.
- 3) Air quality management *gaps and issues* are then identified from the status quo assessment and provide focus for setting goals for the AQMP.
- 4) The *vision and mission* of the 2007 AQMP are assessed and revised according to the gap and problem analysis, and *short and longer term goals* are set in consultation with the relevant stakeholders to guide air quality management by the eThekweni Municipality for the next 5 years.
- 5) Realistic, implementable and appropriate *intervention strategies* are then developed with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the desired outcome will be achieved through the implementation of the AQMP. The intervention strategies include :
 - Action plans with activities,
 - The responsible implementing party,
 - Timeframes for implementation and indicators to monitor implementation and, the efficacy of the interventions.

- 6) Monitoring and evaluation: Monitoring is the on-going assessment of the implementation of the AQMP, while evaluation is the assessment of the respective interventions in reaching the goals of the AQMP.

More about stakeholder engagement

The first stage of the participation process involves the establishment of the stakeholder database. A database of contact details allows the project team to engage directly with relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of the AQMP. Different means to identify stakeholders will be employed including the use of existing databases and notifications of the AQMP review in the local press with an invitation to register.

Public meetings will be held at two key project milestones in eThekweni Municipality's South, West and North sub-districts. The first of which will be to present and discuss the draft status quo assessment when air quality management gaps, issues and concerns will be discussed to be taken forward into the revised AQMP. The second will be to present and discuss the draft AQMP and implementation plan.

Documentation on the AQMP review project will be made available on the project page available from www.projects.co.za/aqmp.

How you can become involved

Stakeholders can get involved in the AQMP review process in a number of ways, including:

- Registering as a stakeholder by contacting the project secretary directly or by registering on the project website;
- Submitting comments on air quality and the review of the AQMP for the eThekweni Municipality to the Project Secretary;
- Responding to the notice of AQMP development advertised in the local media;
- Attending the public meetings; and
- Providing comment on the draft status quo report and the draft AQMP during the relevant comment periods provided.

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