



SASMIA NPC

Reg. No. 2016/114300/08

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SQUID MANAGEMENT INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

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14 May 2026

To: WSP Public Participation Office

Email: Nuclear-PP-EIA@wsp.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED THYSPUNT NUCLEAR POWER STATION DEVELOPMENT AND REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY (I&AP)

We hereby submit our formal objection to the proposed Thyspunt Nuclear Power Station development.

We record further our email request of 14 May 2026 for SASMIA and its representatives be formally registered as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for all further processes relating to this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

At the recent focus group meeting concerning the Marine Environment section of the Scoping Report, we were deeply concerned and disappointed that Eskom failed to provide suitably qualified scientific marine specialists to engage meaningfully with stakeholders. The only specialist present from Eskom's team was a socio-economic consultant. This is wholly inadequate for a project of this magnitude, particularly where the marine environment and fishing industry are directly at risk.

The absence of marine scientific expertise undermines confidence in both the consultation process and the integrity of the scoping exercise itself.

Despite this shortcoming, we placed on record the critical importance of the squid industry within this region, including the severe economic and social consequences that may arise should the marine ecosystem and fishing grounds be negatively impacted.

Our primary objections and concerns include the following:

1. Dumping of Construction Spoil

The proposed dumping of approximately 6.3 million cubic metres of construction spoil via an offshore outfall pipe directly onto productive fishing grounds is entirely unacceptable. This poses a serious threat to sensitive marine habitats and the sustainability of the squid fishing industry.

2. Thermal Pollution from Cooling Water Discharge

The discharge of heated water from the nuclear power station cooling system once operational has the potential to significantly alter marine temperatures and disrupt spawning, migration, and feeding patterns of squid and other marine species.

3. Brine Discharge from the Desalination Plant

The pumping of concentrated brine into the marine environment raises serious concerns regarding salinity changes, ecosystem degradation, and long-term impacts on marine biodiversity and fish stocks.

4. Construction of a Subsea Trench/Tunnel

The proposed subsea trenching and tunnelling required to house intake and outfall infrastructure will cause substantial disturbance to the seabed and marine environment, with potentially irreversible impacts on fishing grounds and marine ecology.

5. Loss of Prime Fishing Grounds Due to Exclusion Zones

The establishment of exclusion and safety zones around the facility will result in the permanent loss of prime fishing grounds that have sustained the squid industry for decades.

The socio-economic consequences of these impacts are severe and cannot be understated. During the meeting it was highlighted that the local squid industry currently supports approximately:

- 120 fishing vessels
- 2,422 direct employees
- Thousands of additional indirect and shore-based jobs
- Approximately R500 million in wages
- Approximately R1.6 billion in foreign exchange earnings annually

The proposed development therefore threatens not only a sensitive marine ecosystem, but also a long-established and economically vital industry that supports thousands of South African livelihoods.

We are furthermore concerned that the scoping process appears to underestimate the cumulative impacts of the proposed activities on the marine environment and fishing sector. Comprehensive, independent, peer-reviewed marine scientific studies must be undertaken before any further progression of this project.

Accordingly, we strongly object to the proposed Thyspunt Nuclear Power Station development in its current form and reserve all rights to submit further technical objections and supporting documentation as additional information becomes available.

Please confirm receipt of this objection and registration of SASMIA as an Interested and Affected Party.

Yours faithfully,

C. Bodenham
Chairman – SASMIA

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