

Environmental Impact Assessment

Screening Report

PA file no.: TRK 162735

Other reference: /

Project Title: To remove existing container block-stow and demolish existing slab; proposed construction of service station for refueling of terminal equipment.

Location: Malta Freeport Terminals, Terminal 1, Triq Kalafrana, Birzebbugia

Screening date: February 2016

1. Description of Proposal

1.1 Outline of project/development

TRK162735 seeks permission for the removal of existing container block-stow and demolish existing slab; proposed construction of service station for refueling of terminal equipment at Malta Freeport Terminals, Terminal 1, Triq Kalafrana, Birzebbugia. The facility seeks the installation of diesel EN 590 and AD-BLU storage with dispensing facilities. Autogas storage and LPG dispensing facilities may also be installed. The facility is sought to be used as a refueling and servicing station for the Malta Freeport Terminal technical equipment and its vehicle fleet.

1.2 Site description and related considerations

The site is located within the limits of the Malta Freeport Terminal, which in turn is located in proximity to the Oiltanking Malta Ltd. premises, and MedServ Malta. The area also lies within 1km of the Birzebbugia residential area and agricultural/rural land. Designated protected areas in proximity to the site include:

- (i) the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) forming part of the Rdu tan-Nofsinhar Coastal Cliff system (GN877/03);
- (ii) Level 2 and Level 3 Area of Ecological Importance (GN 400/96);
- (iii) an Area of High Landscape Value (GN 400/96);
- (iv) a small bird sanctuary within the telecommunication station (LN41/03);
- (v) the early 20th century Fort Bengħisa is a Grade I building of architectural value; and
- (vi) Roman remains scheduled as a Class A archaeological site.



Figure 1: Location of proposal. (Source: MEPA Mapserver, 2016)

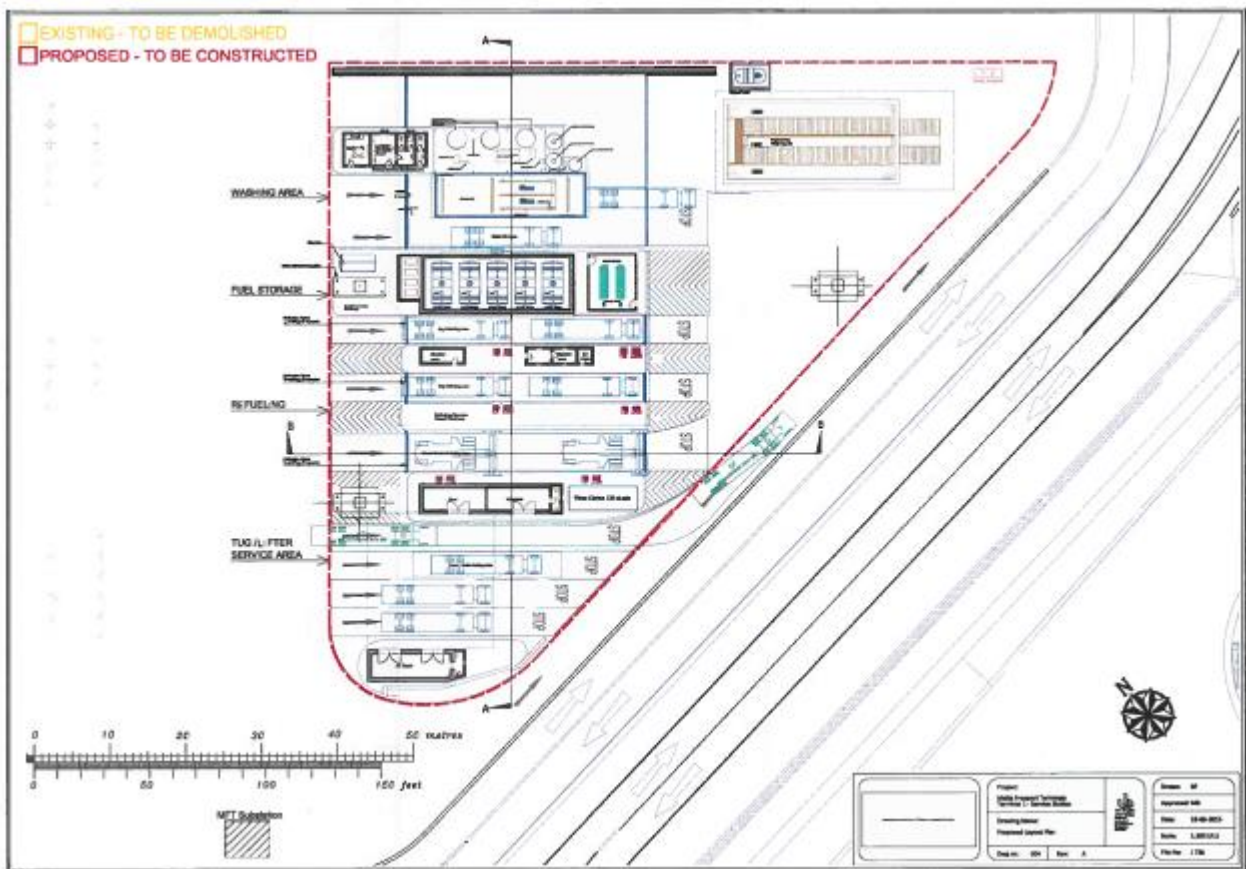


Figure 2: Proposed Block Plan. (Source: page 27 of the PDS at Doc. 23)

2. EIA-relevant history

2.1 **Relevant EIA/screening trigger** (citations refer to SL 504.79, except where otherwise specified): Schedule IA, Section 7.6.2.6 (Construction of a new fuel servicing station) of the EIA Regulations, 2007 (SL 504.79).

2.2 Version of documents used for screening: Reference is made to the Project Description Statement Doc. TK1562735/23.

3. Screening Matrix

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
1	Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, landuse, changes in water bodies, etc)?	No. The proposed facility covering a site area of approximately 5,000sqm is located within the lateral and vertical confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. facility.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant effects are envisaged vis-à-vis physical changes in the locality since the proposed facility is located within the lateral and vertical confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. facility, and is ancillary to the operation of the same entity.	PDS pg. 9; Appendix 1
2	Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes. The proposed project is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. and will make use of some resources such as a mix of construction materials, electricity and water which are non-renewable and in short supply.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> The use of such resources for this individual project <i>per se</i> is not likely to have a significant impact, particularly since the amounts expected to be used are minimal.	PDS Pg. 17-18
3	Will the Project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials or energy, especially any resources which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns	Yes, the project will entail the transportation of fuel to the site, the storage and supply of same fuel. Fumes and/or vapour emissions are thus expected to be emitted albeit limited since the project does not involve the storage of petrol products.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> In consideration and understanding of the existing surrounding land uses, noting that the closest development zone is located within 1km of the site, and that the proposed project is ancillary to the existing Freeport operations, significant effects on the air quality of the area, in terms of additional fumes and/or vapour emissions generated is not expected. Nevertheless, the operators are required to update the relevant environmental permit	PDS Pg. 21

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	about actual or perceived risks to human health?		EP0033/09/F, and further details are being requested with regard to the operational design of the proposed project. These will be continued to be processed through continued environmental assessment of the case.	
4	Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction, operation or decommissioning?	<p>Yes. It is being estimated that circa 1,665 cubic metres of excavation waste will be produced.</p> <p>During the operation phase, the solid wastes created are expected to be normal municipal waste, oily waste from separators and associated rags, tyres, and AC cylinders.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/></p> <hr/> <p>No. The amounts of solid wastes likely to be produced by the project during construction of the project are not likely to be significant noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses. The quantities and nature of the waste produced are likely to be manageable through established waste management procedures and facilities. Nevertheless continued environmental assessment of the case is required to establish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The expected construction and operation phase waste streams are to be identified and classified in accordance to their respective EWC codes, quantities and final destination; (b) Determine whether the proposed excavated material is contaminated or not; (c) Identify areas where the waste will be stored; (d) Clarify whether the flooring will be rendered impermeable; (e) Fuel tanks must be certified as leak proof; and (f) The environmental permitting, waste management, and other pending requirements as 	PDS Pg. 21 & TRK16273 5/16

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
			communicated in sections 3.1, 4, and 5 of EPD memo Doc. TRK162735/16.	
5	Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	Yes, the project will entail the transportation of fuel to the site, the storage and supply of same fuel. Fumes and/or vapour emissions are thus expected to be emitted albeit limited since the project does not involve the storage of petrol products.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to question 3 refers.	PDS Pg. 21
6	Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes. The project will be the source of noise and vibration during both the construction and the operation phase of the project. Noises and vibration during operation are expected to result from the operation of the proposed facility within the confines of the existing Freeport.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS Pg. 22
7	Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Yes. There is a risk of surface contamination of land and water, including groundwater due to fuel spillages and runoff, as well as in the event of any leakage from the storage tanks.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses. Nevertheless, the operators are required to update the relevant environmental permit EP0033/09/F, and further details are being requested with regard to the operational design of the proposed project. These will be continued to be processed through continued environmental assessment of the case.	PDS Pg. 22
8	Will there be	Yes. Mainly risks during	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>	PDS pg. 22

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?	operation due to potential leaks, emissions, polluted runoff from the site, and other worst-case scenarios such as fires or explosions.	No significant effects on the air quality of the area, in terms of additional fumes and/or vapour emissions generated are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses, whereby the closest development zone is located within 1km of the site, and that the proposed project is ancillary to the existing Freeport operations, Nevertheless, the operators are required to update the relevant environmental permit EP0033/09/F, and further details are being requested with regard to the operational design of the proposed project. These will be continued to be processed through continued environmental assessment of the case.	
9	Will the Project result in social changes for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	No changes in demography are expected given the nature of the proposed development within the limits of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 9-10
10	Are there any such factors which should be considered such as the consequential development which could lead to environmental effects or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	No. The proposed project is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	/

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
11	Are there any areas on or around the location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. Designated protected areas in proximity to the site include the Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area forming part of the Rdum tan-Nofsinhar Coastal Cliff system (GN877/03), level 2 and level 3 area of ecological importance (GN 400/96), an area of high landscape value (GN 400/96), a small bird sanctuary within the DCA telecommunication station (LN41/03); and the early 20 th century Fort Benghisa is a Grade I building of architectural value; and the are Roman remains scheduled as a Class A archaeological site.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 10, 22
12	Are there any areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The site lies adjacent to a coastal water body running from Ras il-Fenek - Wied ix-Xaqqa (Water Policy Framework Regulations S.L. 504.129)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses. Nevertheless, the operators are required to update the relevant environmental permit EP0033/09/F, and further details are being requested with regard to the operational design of the proposed project. These will be continued to be processed through continued environmental assessment of the case.	/
13	Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for	Yes. The site lies in proximity to an Important Bird Area, and a shearwater rafting zone.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	/

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over wintering, migration, which could be affected by the project?			
14	Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The site lies adjacent to a coastal water body running from Ras il-Fenek - Wied ix-Xaqqa (Water Policy Framework Regulations S.L. 504.129)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposals and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses. Nevertheless, the operators are required to update the relevant environmental permit EP0033/09/F, and further details are being requested with regard to the operational design of the proposed project. These will be continued to be processed through continued environmental assessment of the case.	/
15	Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be effected by the project?	Yes, the site is located within 300m of the coastal cliffs Area of High Landscape Value (GN 400/96). The proposed project is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds, and is within the existing maximum heights of the structures that dominate the Freeport setting.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location of the proposal, the nature and the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 22
16	Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the	No. The proposed project is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 22

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	project?			
17	Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	The transport routes to the site are adequate for the transport needs of the project.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged whereby a slight increase in construction phase traffic and a decrease in operation phase are expected.	PDS pg. 22
18	Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	No. The proposed project is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds, and is within the existing maximum heights of the structures that dominate the Freeport setting.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and nature of the proposal and design of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 22
19	Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The site lies in proximity to the early 20 th century Fort Benghisa which is a Grade I building of architectural value; and the are Roman remains scheduled as a Class A archaeological site.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged.	PDS pg. 10
20	Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No. The proposed project is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 9
21	Are there existing land uses on or around the location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry,	No. The closest development zone lies within 1km of the proposed project site. The project site is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 12

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying which could be affected by the project?			
22	Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No. The project site is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds; hence there are no known other future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	/
23	Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built up, which could be affected by the project?	No. The closest development zone lies within 1km of the proposed project site. The project site is located within the confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. grounds.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 12
24	Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities which could be affected by the project?	No such sensitive land uses are located in proximity to the proposed development. The closest development zone lies within 1km of the proposed project site.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	PDS pg. 12

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
25	Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The site lies adjacent to a coastal water body running from Ras il-Fenek - Wied ix-Xaqqa (Water Policy Framework Regulations S.L. 504.129) the quality of which could be affected by accidental spills and runoff.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses. Nevertheless, the operators are required to update the relevant environmental permit EP0033/09/F, and further details are being requested with regard to the operational design of the proposed project. These will be continued to be processed through continued environmental assessment of the case.	PDS pg. 22
26	Are there any areas on or around the location which have already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	The site is located within the limits of the Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. which is prone to high levels of environmental contaminations risks. The existing level of pollution or environmental damage is not known. Nevertheless, Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. is legally obliged to adopt the best available techniques in their daily operations.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location and scope of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses. Nevertheless, the operators are required to update the relevant environmental permit EP0033/09/F, and further details are being requested with regard to the operational design of the proposed project. These will be continued to be processed through continued environmental assessment of the case.	PDS pg. 21-22
27	Is the project location susceptible to earthquakes, or subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs,	Yes. The Maltese archipelago is susceptible to earthquake activity; however the likelihood of the site in question being significantly affected by tremors is slim. The site may be subject to 1-year return 2.5-3 metre waves.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/> No significant environmental impacts from the proposed project are envisaged noting the location of the proposal and the nature of the existing surrounding land uses.	/

	Issues to be considered	Relevant constraints, environmental considerations & potential impacts	Is any significant effect envisaged?	Document reference
	severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?			

4. EIA Screening Conclusion and recommended way forward

4.1 EIA screening conclusion

The above detailed EIA screening concludes that impacts of the development are unlikely to be significant to the point of warranting an EIA, whereby it is noted that the proposed facility is located within the lateral and vertical confines of the existing Malta Freeport Terminal Ltd. facility, and is ancillary to the operation of the same entity. In this regard, no significant effects on the air quality of the area are envisaged, in terms of additional fumes and/or vapour emissions generated, whereby it is noted that the closest development zone is located within 1km of the site. Nevertheless, this does not exonerate the applicant from adopting various mitigation measures. The operators are required to update the relevant environmental permit EP0033/09/F, and further details are being requested with regard to the operational design of the proposed project. These will be continued to be processed through continued environmental assessment of the case, and duly incorporated into the mainstream development consent mechanism means of conditions and specifications (e.g. approved documents) in the development permit.

In this regard, the proposal does not require the submission of an Environmental Planning Statement (EPS), and qualifies for the exemption process established in the EIA Regulations, as per Regulation 3(8) of Subsidiary Legislation 504.79.

4.2 Screening disclaimer

The above screening results, the ensuing conclusions and recommendations are without prejudice to any required changes or updates should the development proposal be eventually modified or should the information/assumptions provided turn out to be incorrect. Any deviations of the proposal from this submission would need to be re-assessed and the merits of this screening would need to be re-opened.

4.3 Continued processing of the case

Continued Environmental Assessment of the case is required to establish the following:

- (a) The expected construction and operation phase waste streams are to be identified and classified in accordance to their respective EWC codes, quantities and final destination;
- (b) Determine whether the proposed excavated material is contaminated or not;
- (c) Identify areas where the waste will be stored;
- (d) Clarify whether the flooring will be rendered impermeable;
- (e) Fuel tanks must be certified as leak proof; and

- (f) The environmental permitting, waste management, and other pending requirements as communicated in sections 3.1, 4, and 5 of EPD memo Doc. TRK162735/16.

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