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18. Conclusions

This ESIA Study report incorporates the following components:

- A description of the ESIA process;
- An outline of the baseline environment and detailed description of the proposed activity;
- A presentation of the process and findings for the screening of alternatives;
- The key issues and concerns raised by stakeholders during the public open days;
- Findings of the specialist studies undertaken during the ESIA and the Firm of Expert's assessment of the potential impacts of the preconstruction and construction, operational as well as closure phases of the proposed power plant development.

The project, which includes the construction and operation of a power plant, is anticipated to bring regional and national economic benefit to Kenyans through improved electricity availability. Key negative impacts which will require careful management during the construction and operation of the power plant include:

- Impacts related to air emissions during the construction and especially the operational phase of the project. Passive air quality monitoring will need to be undertaken in the identified fallout areas especially about 10km east of the project site to monitor ground level concentrations of pollutants such as SO₂, NO₂, etc.;
- Impacts associated with noise and vibration generated by the power plant during operation. This may require a potential buffer zone around the power plant site if the noise levels generated by it at full capacity at the fence line exceed regulated Kenyan occupational exposure limits or WHO guideline values.
- The risks to public safety and environmental quality (soil, air and water) should there be a spill or large-scale incident caused by human error, equipment failure or damage due to third party interference.
- Increased risk of disease with influx of workers.
- Impacts on bulk local bulk infrastructure and services.

It is anticipated that it will be possible to successfully mitigate impacts associated with the development. In particular, the power plant will be designed, constructed and operated according to the latest industry norms and standards. The ESIMP includes plans to be formulated during the detailed design phase, and has been developed as part of the ESIA to manage potential impacts. Programs and plans developed and implemented through the ESIMP will be monitored and audited to ensure compliance.

The iterative EIA process will accommodate the refinement of the project site plan and technical design to accommodate safety considerations arising from health and safety risk assessments. Comments on this ESIA will also be sought from the public/stakeholders and the results thereof incorporated into the ESIA Study.