



On-site poster placed next to the existing Lorraine 132 kV substation



On-site poster placed next to business node in Circular Drive, Lorraine

**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED 132 KV POWERLINE,
WALMER, PORT ELIZABETH**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



NELK/kiik

BID No: 489647

January 2016

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) serves as notice in terms of regulation 41(2) published in Government Gazette No. R982 under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998) of the intent to develop the proposed Walmer 132 kV powerline, located within Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape.

This document will provide you with a brief description of the proposed project and the Basic Assessment (BA) Process that will be followed, as well as give you the opportunity to:

- **Register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP); and**

Notifications regarding the process and the availability of reports will only be sent to registered IAPs; and

- **Provide initial comments on any environmental, social and economic issue relating to the proposed development.**

During the EIA Process which will be followed, issues of concern and potential environmental and social impacts will be evaluated. Your comments will ensure that relevant issues are evaluated and will form part of the EIA.

You are hereby invited to register your interest in the proposed activity and provide your input by completing the Registration & Comment Form at the end of this document and sending it (either via email, post or fax) to:

Wanda Marais
SRK Consulting

Postal address: P O Box 21842, Port Elizabeth, 6000

Fax: (041) 509 4850; E-mail: wmarais@srk.co.za

Your comments must reach SRK Consulting by **12:00 on 22 February 2016**, to ensure that they will be included and addressed in the draft report. You may however, request to be registered as an IAP at any time during the BA process.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development involves a double circuit 132 kV powerline from the existing Lorraine 132 kV substation to the existing 132 kV 17th Avenue substation.

The proposed infrastructure will provide for future load growth in this area. Many commercial and residential developments are envisaged by land owners requiring additional capacity to be installed.

The proposed route is approximately 2.8 km long and will cross private properties as well as NMBM owned land. The proposed powerline alignment, as well as a short alternative alignment, is indicated in Figure 2. An overhead powerline is proposed up to point K on the plan from where an underground cable will be installed and under William Moffet Drive to the eastern side of the substation.

The following infrastructure specifications are relevant:

- All overhead lines will be constructed with dual circuit 132 kV monopole self-supporting steel structures, with servitude width of 25 m;
- Maximum span lengths are limited by line alignment but could be between 140 m and 180 m;
- Should the 'Petechane' tower type be used the servitude may be reduced to 16 m;
- A servitude width of 1.5 m is required for underground cables;
- The powerline will be positioned not closer than 12.5 m from the railway line; and
- Where relevant, tower footing foundations will be specially designed for towers placed near or in a watercourse.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Basic Assessment (BA) process for this assessment will be conducted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) 2014 EIA regulations (GNR 982, of 14 December 2014).

The NEMA 2014 EIA regulations list activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, and which consequently require environmental authorisation from the relevant competent authority. In this instance the competent authority is the Eastern Cape Department of

Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT). The regulations further specify the assessment process, and the information that is required to enable the competent authority to make a decision regarding the activity.

The main activities (amongst others) potentially associated with the proposed project, calling for a BA process to be followed, are the following:

- GNR. 983 Item 19: *The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from – (i) a watercourse.*
- GNR. 985 Item 12: *The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where the clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan (a) In Eastern Cape: (i) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; (iv) On land, where, at the time of coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.*
- GNR. 985 Item 14: *The development of – (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more (c) In Eastern Cape: (iii) In urban areas: (aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space; (bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, zoned for conservation purpose.*

WHAT IS A BASIC ASSESSMENT?

A Basic Assessment is a planning and decision-making tool used to identify the environmental and social consequences of a proposed project, before the development takes place.

The purpose of the BA is to describe the potential consequences of the proposed development in environmental, economic and social terms. Public issues and concerns must therefore be identified timeously so that these can be recorded and responded to in the BA. All comments received in writing are included in the submission to DEDEAT for their consideration.

During the BA Process, a draft Basic Assessment Report will be released. Once the public and authorities have had adequate opportunity to review the draft report and submit comments on its content, a final Basic Assessment Report will be submitted to DEDEAT for a decision.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is the cornerstone of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of NEMA govern most aspects of Basic Assessments, including public participation. These include the ongoing provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).

During the Public Participation Process, input from the proponent, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process.

IAPs will be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of the draft Basic Assessment Report and findings of any Specialist studies during the specified comment period.

To receive further communications regarding the development, please register by sending the completed and signed registration sheet at the back of this document to SRK Consulting.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

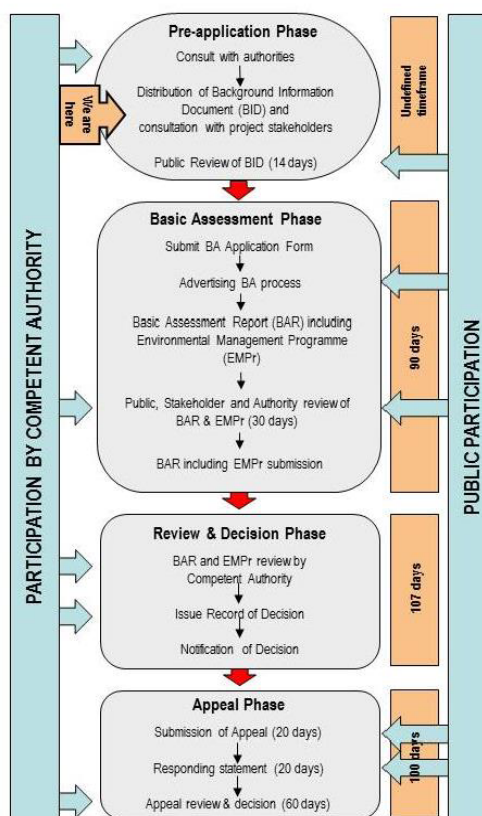


Figure 1: The Basic Assessment Process and stages where public comment will be invited

Who is doing the Basic Assessment?

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner must be appointed to conduct the Basic Assessment. SRK Consulting has been appointed to conduct the Basic Assessment. SRK will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity by conducting an objective and independent Basic Assessment in which all the relevant information and opinions of Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) will be collected and passed on to the competent authority (Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism). In this way an informed decision-making process can take place.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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provision of sufficient information (in a transparent manner) to Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).

During the Public Participation Process, input from the applicant, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved, and more informed decision-making throughout the process. IAPs will be given the opportunity to comment on the findings of the draft and final reports, and findings of the specialist studies during the specified comment periods.

IAPs are hereby invited to comment on environmental, social and economic issues relating to the proposed project.

To receive further communications regarding this development, please register by sending the completed and signed registration sheet at the back of this document to SRK Consulting.



Figure 2: Locality of proposed Walmer 132 kV powerline



REGISTRATION & COMMENT SHEET
BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED WALMER 132 kV POWERLINE, PORT ELIZABETH

Attention: **Wanda Marais**

Fax No: 041—509 4850

Email: wmarais@srk.co.za

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected party and/or bring to the attention of SRK Consulting the following comments.

Contact Information:	
Title:	Name:
Organisation:	Nature of Interest*:
Postal Address:	Telephone Number:
	Facsimile Number**:
	Mobile Number:
	Email**:

*The NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, require that an IAP disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of the application.
 **Preferred method of communication. The absence of email / facsimile facilities may result in a delay in receipt of IAP notifications. Please write clearly.

Comments (please use additional sheets of paper if required):

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your participation