

**MINUTES OF THE ESKOM NORTHERN KZN STRENGTHENING PROJECT EIA:  
MOOLMAN'S FARMERS ASSOCIATION FOCUS GROUP MEETING**

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Wittenberg, Mpumalanga</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>22 November 2017</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>16h00</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Mr Hendrik Klopper</b>		<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	<b>Zwanga Ramadolela</b>	

<b>PRESENT</b>		<b>APOLOGIES</b>
<b>Name</b>		
Zwanga Ramadolela (ZR)	Terry Calmeyer (TC)	Bongi Shinga (BS)
Hendrik Klopper (HK)	P. Joubert (PJ)	Arthur Smith (AS)
Andre de Waal (ADW)	Uwe Bohmer (UB)	
G.W. Bohaie (GWB)	Berno Bohmer (BB)	
F.T Weyer (FTW)	Eckard Heistermann (EH)	
E.H Bolma (EHB)	Rainer Bohmer (RB)	
Wolfgang Bohmet (WB)	Johan Schlitz (JS)	
Ludwig Hithstermaus (LH)	R.E. Reinstall (RER)	
G. Thesbort (GT)		

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Mr Hendrik Klopper welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Purpose of the Meeting</b> The purpose of the meeting was to provide information on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Eskom's proposed Northern KwaZulu-Natal Strengthening Project, specifically the proposed Normandie-Iphiva 400 kV powerline, and to hear and record concerns and issues from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), specifically, farmers in the Piet Retief to Paulpietersburg area who may be potentially affected by the Normandie-Iphiva 400 kV powerline.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Presentation</b> Ms Terry Calmeyer (TC) presented on the regulatory requirements of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), the EIA process, and the need for the project. Her presentation highlighted the following key information:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project has been divided into four (4) applications, namely, the Iphiva Substation, Normandie-Iphiva 400 kV Powerline, Iphiva-Duma 400 kV</li> </ul>	

Item	Description	Action	
	<p>Powerline, and the Distribution Powerlines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full EIA is being undertaken. The EIA has two (2) phases, namely, the Scoping Phase and then the Impact Assessment Phase. During the Scoping Phase, issues pertaining to the project are identified, and specialist studies relevant to the identified potential issues are undertaken to investigate alternatives and mitigation measures were necessary.</li> <li>• The Scoping Report has been compiled and was made available for public comment. It has been finalised and submitted to the competent authority which is the National Department of Environmental Affairs.</li> <li>• Although the comment period for the Scoping Report is closed, the public participation process is still ongoing.</li> <li>• The map of the study area was presented and discussed.</li> <li>• Sugar cane farming, forestry, protected areas and residential areas were avoided when identifying possible corridors for the powerlines.</li> <li>• The possible varieties of towers that will be used for the powerlines were presented and it was noted that most farming activities can continue under the powerlines, except for sugar cane farming and forestry.</li> <li>• The identification of alternatives is a critical element of the EIA process.</li> <li>• It was noted that Iphiva Substation Sites 3 and 6 have been recommended for further assessment.</li> <li>• In terms of the Normandie-Iphiva corridor, four (4) alternatives were identified and assessed comparatively in terms of various criteria such as: length, cost, relocation of structures and ecological sensitivity.</li> <li>• The Public Participation Process (PPP) undertaken included identifying Interested and Affected Parties (I&amp;APs), establishing and maintaining an I&amp;AP database, onsite notices, newspaper advertisements, and landowner notifications.</li> <li>• It was noted that Specialists are currently compiling their Specialists Reports.</li> <li>• The Department of Environmental Affairs has until 5 December 2017 to accept, reject or request additional information on the Scoping Reports that have been submitted. Thereafter, the EIA Report and Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr) will be made available for public comment and then submitted to the competent authority – National DEA.</li> <li>• A Specialists' Integration Meeting has been scheduled for 07 December 2017. At this meeting, each of the specialists will present on their findings and recommendations in line with their area of expertise.</li> </ul>		
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Item	Description	Action
	<p>h) Mr Eckard Hiestermann referred to a meeting that was held at his farm in September 2017. He indicated that he is still waiting for feedback on two (2) issues that were discussed at that meeting.  <b>Response:</b> TC undertook to follow up on those issues.</p> <p>i) Mr Klopper asked for a map of their area with the proposed corridors so that they can confirm who is potentially affected by the project.  <b>Response:</b> TC undertook to provide a map for Mr Klopper.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
5.	<p><b>Closure</b>                      Mr Klopper thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	

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