

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE APPROVED SUBSTATION AND 400KV TRANSMISSION LINES LOCATED AT KHANYISA POWER STATION, EMALAHLENI, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties in the Environmental Authorisation amendment process and to obtain their initial comments on the proposed project.

The purpose of the amendment process is to identify and assess potential changes in impacts and to recommend measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. The decision-making authority is the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

Please register yourself as an interested and affected party and submit your comments on the proposed project.

Either complete a Response Form, write a letter, call or e-mail the public participation office.

Public Participation office

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YOUR COMMENT IS IMPORTANT

Your comment on any aspect of the proposed project, the proposed amendment of the environmental authorisation, its public participation process and issues that need to be investigated, will help focus the process and assist the authorities in their decision-making.

Background

Anglo Operations (Pty) Ltd applied for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed coal-fired Khanyisa Power Station and associated infrastructure in 2010. The EA for this proposed power station and associated infrastructure was granted on 31 October 2013. Since then, ACWA Power (Pty) Ltd has taken over the project as an Independent Power Producer (IPP) and is proposing to relocate of the approved substation to an area that was not previously investigated (on portion 51 of the farm Naauwpoort 335 JS).

Due to the fact that the area where the substation is proposed to be relocated was not previously assessed during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Khanyisa Power Station, the relocation of the substation and 400 kV transmission lines will require a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

ACWA Power appointed Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd to provide environmental services for the EIA process.

Legal Requirements

Environmental Impact Assessment

A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment will be required for the relocation of the substation to an area that was not previously assessed in the initial EIA process. The EIA Regulations (Government Notice No. R 984 of 2014), lists activities which may not commence without an EIA process and environmental authorisation from the competent authority, in this case the DEA. The following listed activity will therefore be relevant for the relocation of the substation and transmission lines:

- **GN 984 of 2014, Activity 9:** "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –
 - (i) with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex".

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What is an Environmental Impact Assessment?

An EIA is an environmental assessment process used to identify and assess potential negative and positive consequences of a proposed project and recommend ways to enhance positive impacts and to avoid or reduce negative impacts. The EIA process will include:

- a) Stakeholder engagement;
- b) Assessment of current site conditions;
- c) A description of the proposed activity;
- d) Description of the environment that may be affected;
- e) Description of the need and desirability of the proposed activity and identification of alternatives.
- f) Authority and stakeholder comment incorporation into documentation will occur between phases e) and f).
- g) Assessment of the significance of environmental impacts.

Authority decision-making process and a public appeal opportunity will occur after this phase.

EIA Process to be followed

Consultation will take place which will include:

- Relevant authorities at various levels;
- Relevant stakeholders (including all interested and affected parties that registered for the initial EIA process);
- The applicant; and
- The public at large.

The following activities will take place to achieve the aforementioned objectives:

- Advertising on-site and in local newspapers (Middelburg Observer and Witbank Nuus);
- Supplying all affected parties with the opportunity to comment and register; and
- Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) opportunity to comment of the draft Scoping and EIA Report prior to submission.

The following specialist studies are proposed to be conducted as part of the EIA processes:

- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Ecological Impact Assessment

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If an EA is received for the relocation of the substation, notifications will be sent to all the registered I&APs of the authorisation and where it will be available to view.

**Please note that some project
details may change as
engineering investigations**

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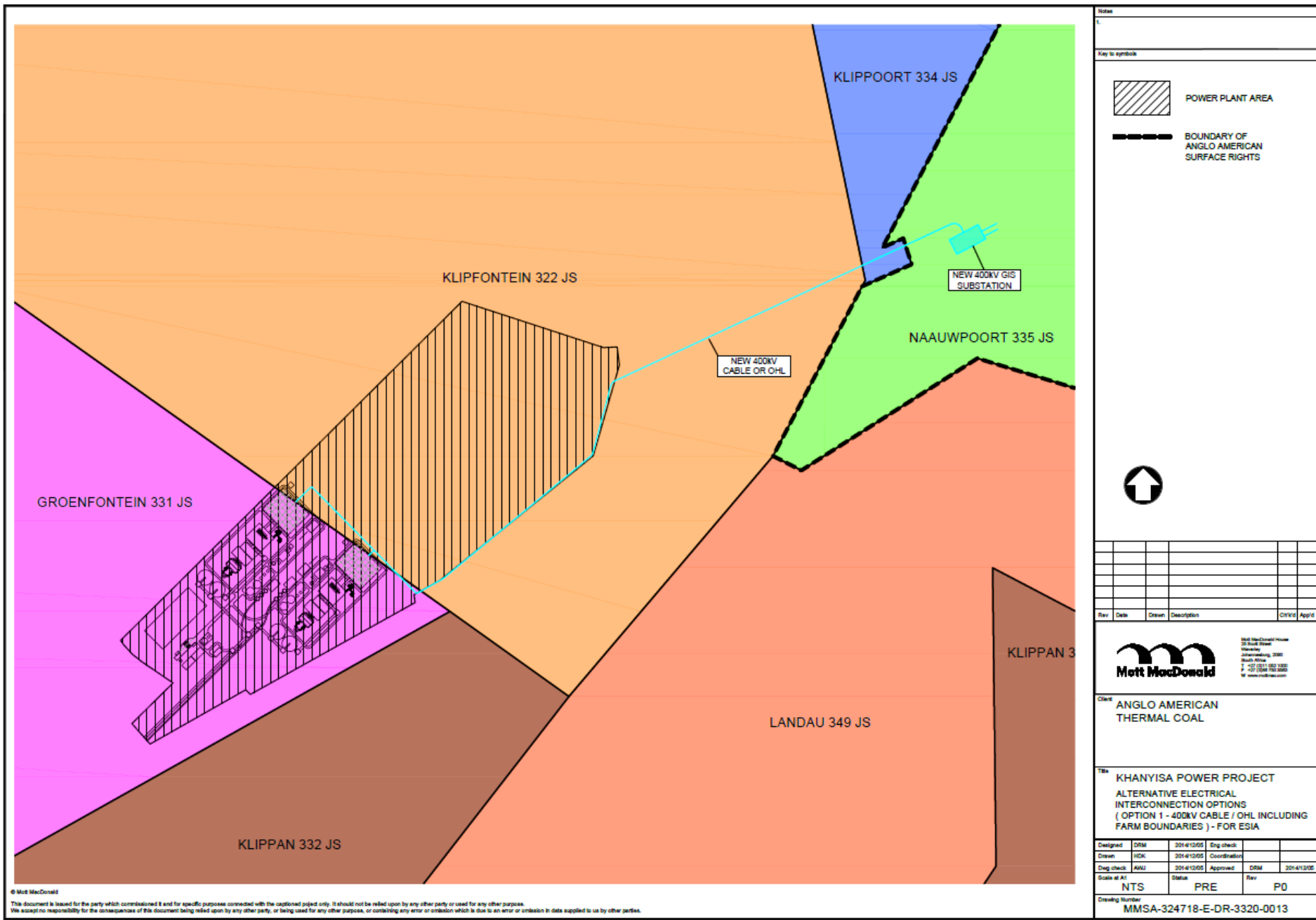


Figure 1: Proposed relocation of the 400kV substation and transmission lines

Environmental Impact Assessment for the
Proposed relocation of the 400kV substation and transmission lines for
the approved Khanyisa Power Station, Emalahleni, Mpumalanga
INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT, May 2015

Please complete and return to Aurecon in order to be included in the
public participation process:

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TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
TEL NUMBER		FAX NUMBER	
CELL NUMBER			
E-MAIL			

Yes, I would like to participate in this Basic Assessment
and EA Amendment Process

YES

No, I am not interested

NO

COMMENTS: (please use separate sheets if you wish)

1. The following issues must be considered in the Basic Assessment process:

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2. Please add the following people / organisations to the mailing list:

.....
.....
.....

We thank you for your participation