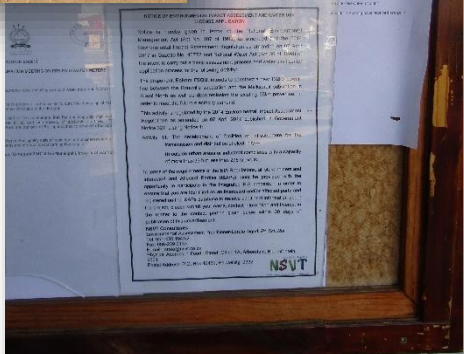
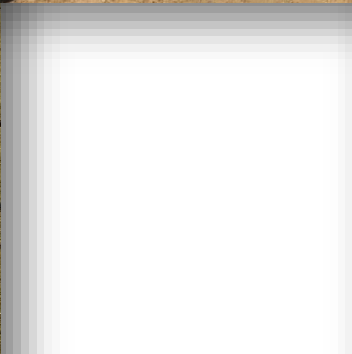


PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 132KV ESKOM POWERLINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT SUBSTATION (ALIWAL NORTH, EASTERN CAPE) AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATION (FREE STATE)

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT



FEBRUARY 2018

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

REPORT TITLE: Comments and Responses Report

REPORT STATUS: Final

PROJECT TITLE: Proposed development of a 132kV powerline from Melkspruit Substation in the Eastern Cape Province to Rouxville Substation in the Free State Province.

DEA REFERENCE NUMBER: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1847

CLIENT: Eskom Free State Operating Unit

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS: NSVT Consultants

COMPILED BY: Lorato Tigatedi *PR. SCI. NAT.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION..... 1
2. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TRAIL 2

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1: COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TRAIL 2

1. INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive public participation process was conducted by NSVT Consultants as part of the Basic Assessment Process. A full record of the public participation process is contained in **Appendix 6A** of the FBAR and the comments/input and/or issues raised are contained herein including the response by the EAP and Applicant.

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

2. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TRAIL

The comments and responses trail are tabulated in *Table 1* below.

TABLE 1: COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TRAIL

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION (31 ST JULY 2017)		
NAME	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Ms. Tigedi (EAP)	The application form indicate that landowners' consent should be attached to the application form.	DEA: Landowner's consent is excluded for linear activities in terms of Section 39. Therefore, it is not required for this application. (EAP: Application was submitted without the landowner's consent in terms of Section 39 of the Regulations.)
Ms. Tigedi (EAP)	Do we have to submit copy of the application form to the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs (DESTEA and DEDEAT)?	DEA: No, only the draft BAR should be sent to the department to obtain their comments. (EAP: Draft BAR was submitted to the Provincial Departments of Environmental Affairs for review, proof of submission is contained in Page 66, Figure 26 and Page 67 & 27 of the Public Participation Report, Appendix 6A of the FBAR.
Ms. Tigedi (EAP)	The specialists' studies to be undertaken as part of the Basic Assessment Process are the following: Wetland Delineation, Aquatic, Archaeological, Palaeontological, Avi-fauna, Ecological, Visual Assessments and Floodline Determination. Do we have to include any other specialists?	DEA: The specialists' studies are approved. (EAP: Specialists studies were undertaken as part of the Basic Assessment Process, see Section 9, Page 55 of the FBAR.)
Ms. Kabasa (DEA)	The specialist conduction the ecological study should also indicate an ecologically suitable route based on the sensitivity of the development area.	EAP: An ecologically sensitive map has been compiled by the Ecologist, See Appendix 9B and the ecologically suitable route indicated in the report, see Section 8, Page 71 of the Ecological Assessment Report contained in Appendix 8 of the FBAR.
Ms. Tigedi (EAP)	How do we determine if the proposed powerline is	DEA: It will have a SIP number issued but this

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	a Strategic Infrastructure Project?	proposed development is not a SIP. (EAP: The SIP box in the application form was not ticked).
Ms. Tigedi (EAP)	The public participation methods to be done are the following: Newspaper advert, direct contact/meetings, posters, on-site notice, distribution of the background information document and review of the BAR.	DEA: The methods are acceptable; however, comments and responses report will have to be compiled and the case officer will send you the required format. EAP should refrain from using “noted” as a response. (EAP: Comments and Responses Report was compiled per template provided)
Mr. Essop (DEA)	Will there be any relocation of a community?	EAP: No relocation of a community will be required for the proposed project.
Ms. Kabasa (DEA)	The draft BAR should be sent to DEA’s Biodiversity and Climate Change to obtain their comments.	EAP: The report was forwarded to the Departments, see Page 67, Figure 27 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR for Proof of Submission.
Ms. Tigedi (EAP)	The powerline is mostly within the farmers’ properties, should we still obtain comments from the Department of Agriculture?	DEA: The Department of Agriculture should be included as the project is within agricultural lands. (EAP: Department of Agriculture was contacted during the public participation process, see Page 66, Figure 26 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR for records.)
Ms. Tigedi (EAP)	There are wetlands along the proposed routes, but we are not certain if any tower will be within the 32m boundary. Should we include it as a listed activity even if might not be the case.	DEA: It is advisable to list all the possible activities that could be triggered. If an activity is not applied for, then it cannot be authorized. (EAP: All activities that could be triggered by the proposed development were included in the application form and Section 3.1, Page 6, Table 4 of the Final BAR)
Ms. Kabasa (DEA)	The EAP is responsible for compiling the minutes of the pre-application consultation and they should	EAP: The minutes are shown in Page 9 to 13, Figure 3 of the Public Participation Report, which is

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	be included in the report.	Appendix 6A of the FBAR.
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT, ON SITE NOTICE AND POSTERS (11TH AUGUST 2017)		
No comments received were received.		
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (14TH AUGUST 2017)		
NAME	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	RESPONSE
17 th August 2017 Verbal Communication Landowner (Mr. Odendaal)	Could I keep the poles in my property after the 66kV is decommissioned?	EAP: We will forward the request to Eskom Applicant: The request should be raised with the negotiation officers and have an agreement, which will be shown to the contractor during the decommissioning phase.
15 th August 2017 Email SANRAL (Ms. Judy Marx)	From the drawing supplied it is not clear if the proposal transverses or runs parallel to a National Route.	EAP: Draft Basic Assessment Report was sent to SANRAL on the 15 th November 2017 via courier services for review and it contained a clear map. Proof of submission is contained Page 67, Figure 27 in the Public Participation Process Report, which is Appendix 6A of the Final BAR.
	Any powerline and associated infrastructure that crosses or runs parallel to the National Road or placed within SANRAL's building restriction area, which is 60 metres from the Road Reserve Boundary needs SANRAL's approval.	EAP: The condition that SANRAL should be informed prior to construction and necessary approvals be obtained has been included in Section 14, Page 77 of the FBAR.
	Once a route has been approved and finalized and falls within 60 metres parallel or crosses the National Road will have to be submitted to SANRAL's Eastern Region for approval.	
	Formal application shall be made to this office on an encroachment form, which can be made available at the time of application and must be completed by the service owner.	
7 th September 2017 Verbal Communication	There are provincial roads that will be interested by the proposed overhead powerline.	EAP: The section that was to run parallel to the R701 was not considered and Alternative 1 route was

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

<p>Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transport (Mr. Willie Naude)</p>	<p>No poles should be within 47m of the provincial roads building restrictions as the speed limit on the road is 100km/h and should a driver loose control, then they could hit the poles if nearer to the road. The agreement between Eskom and the department indicated that the limit should be 95m but we can reduce it as we don't foresee any need to upgrade the route.</p> <p>An A2 map should be submitted to the department for further comments.</p>	<p>realigned as it was not possible to adhere to the 47restrictions for placing/spanning of poles.</p> <p>EAP: The draft BAR was submitted to the department for review, proof of submission is contained in Page 66, Figure 26 in the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR</p> <p>EAP: Copy of the agreement was forwarded to Eskom and is in Page 42 to 57, Figure 21 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR.</p>
<p>13th September 2017 Email Telkom (Mr. Mothobi Martins)</p>	<p>The proposed works are approved by Open Serve in terms of Section 22 of the Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005 as amended with conditions outlined below relating to sections where the powerline will intersect the Telecommunications lines outlined in the letter dated 13th September 2017.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the point of crossing, the overhead power lines should cross above the communications lines in accordance with and clearance stipulated in the Occupational Health and safety Act no 85 of 1993, Machinery regulations 20 – Crossings, and Electrical Machinery Regulations 15 – Clearance of Power lines. If the specification could not be met, all deviation costs will be for the applicant's account. We also refer to section 25 of Electronic Communication Act 36 of 2005. • At points of crossing, the overhead power line should cross over the overhead communication lines with a minimum vertical separation of 0.8 meters. • Suitable protection as laid down in section 5 of the Code of Practice should be provided at all important crossings. • The crossing of supply lines or overhead service mains directly above or adjacent to communication poles must be avoided if possible, if not clearance of 3 meters must be provided. 	<p>EAP: The conditions have been forwarded to Eskom and no issues were raised with regards to them. However, before commencement of the construction phase, Telkom will be informed to ensure that all the conditions are adhered and if there are any deviations. The comment has been included as a condition in Section 14, Page 77 of the FBAR.</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to minimize noise induction into the telecommunication systems, the angle of crossing between the overhead power line and all communication lines, should be as near to a right angle as possible. Approved on condition that, should it later be found necessary to deviate the existing communication line due to existing noise interference or any other reason whatsoever, the cost of such remedial action shall be repayable. Code of Practice stipulates the minimum acceptable horizontal separation between power and the communication lines and where this cannot be met, the design of the power line is also stipulated. This could apply between the attached plans and these requirements should strictly be adhered to. 	
	Any changes/deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office	EAP: Should there be any changes/deviations from the proposed works, information will be communicated with Open Serve. However, at the time of compiling the FBAR, there were no changes or deviations.
CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES		
NAME	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	RESPONSE
3 rd August 2017 Verbal Communication Walter Sisulu LM (Mr. Mosenene)	We don't foresee any developments that would be affected by the proposed powerline.	EAP: The comment was communicated to Eskom to consider during the final design of the powerline. However, although no future developments will be affected by the proposed powerline, local authority will be informed prior to construction.
5 th September 2017 Verbal Communication Mohokare LM (Mr. Matamane)	Will we be informed before construction starts? Thank you for informing us about the proposed project.	EAP: The project will commence once all the authorization has been obtained but the municipality will be informed prior to construction and this is contained in EAP: It is a requirement for the local authority to be contacted.
5 th September 2017 Verbal Communication Rouxville Ward Councillor (Mr. Valasheya)	Will our community be employed?	EAP: Yes, recruitment of the local labourers will be done through the relevant structures of the municipality.

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION WITH FARMERS (30TH AUGUST 2017)		
NAME	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Mr. Muller	We are paying astronomical fees on the existing line.	EAP: The issue will be forwarded to Eskom for comment.
	Will our electricity fees go up?	Applicant: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Network Capital Charges are the costs the landowners are referring, and they stopped in 1990 as per the agreements. 2. The "line fees on the accounts" are solely Network Access Charges and Network Demand Charges, which are billed to the land owners in the preferred servitude of the proposed power-line. 3. The Network Access and Network Demand is something completely different and always was included in the tariff before the tariff was unbundled to show Customers exactly what they were paying for. The Access charge is exactly what it says and grants the customer access to the larger Eskom network while the Demand charge reserves the capacity for the customer on the Eskom system and at the PowerStation.
	Eskom should stop line charges completely.	
	Will we have to absorb the line charges for the new powerline?	Applicant: Construction costs will be borne by Eskom but the total Eskom customer base will be responsible for the maintenance of the proposed power-line post construction and not solely the landowners' responsibility.
	Our livestock is grazing below the line, won't the bigger line have an adverse effect on them?	EAP: The farmers should avoid grazing cattle below the overhead powerline to minimize any negative effect on them and should there be any loss suffered

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

		by the farmers due to the powerline, then the Eskom lime Manager should be contacted.
	Will it be solely for the farmers?	EAP: It is an upgrade to benefit everyone along the current powerline servitude including Rouxville and Aliwal North communities.
	With regards to the new Goedemoed line, won't it be able to be used instead of upgrading?	Applicant-Mr. Heini: Supply point at Melkspruit where power is distributed to 3 towns. The line you're referring to does not eliminate the need for the new line. This current line is in bad condition, we want to eliminate the fire and animal risk associated with it.
	When will the negotiations start?	Applicant-Ms. Mugwedi: Negotiations for the actual powerline route will be discussed with the landowner once DEA has granted an Environmental Authorisation for a suitable route. However, it's advisable for the landowner to indicate during the public participation process which areas should be avoided or give conditions.
	Please come sooner to start with negotiations. Who is going to determine the property evaluation value? Is it a fixed price? I'm asking because Municipalities appoint people from Johannesburg, who don't even visit the site but do their evaluation using their laptops.	Applicant-Ms. Mugwedi: The valuation will be done based on the value of the property and servitude; a professional evaluator will be involved to determine value of where the exact route will be. However, a landowner can dispute it and open it for negotiation. Eskom Land and Rights will also visit the landowners once an authorization for the route has been obtained before construction commences.
Mr. Engelbrecht	I stopped my electricity because of line fees, I decided to use solar. We pay line fees and upkeep of the line. We paid for 20 years but new fees come up every time, the fees are even more than the usage.	Applicant-Ms. Mugwedi: I know Eskom policies are location dependent, not everyone pays the same amount. However, response for the line fees will be taken up with relevant department at Eskom.

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	With the new line does it mean there will be additional fees?	Applicant-The new line won't affect the line fees, only yearly tariff increases will apply.
Applicant-Mr. Heini	The tower design are monopoles and self-supporting structures will be used in the new powerline construction. They are like the ones used next to the N1 between BFN and Colesberg. One steel pole with cross arms. There will be less towers on the proposed powerline as they will span 150m-250m apart on average.	
Applicant-Ms. Mugwedi	As part of the Basic Assessment Process, a draft report will be sent to land owners and if any concerns arise they will be addressed accordingly.	
Attendees	It was proposed that a one-on-one meeting should be arranged with the directly affected farmers.	EAP: The one-on-one meetings was arranged through Mr. Lottering and it was done over 2 days. Applicant: The people from Land and Rights will contact the farmers directly prior to commencement of construction phase.
ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION WITH DIRECTLY AFFECTED FARMERS (14TH & 15TH SEPTEMBER 2017)		
Mr. Ludick	We couldn't get hold of him	
Mr. Muller	Will there be new lines	EAP: Eskom indicated that there will be now new lines fees except for the yearly tariff increase.
Mr. Englebrecht	Are you aware that I have a borehole where the line will cross, won't it be affected?	EAP: It is not envisaged that the borehole will be affected, and a surveyor will be appointed on approval of the suitable route to survey the development footprint of the powerline.
Mr. Schlebush	My parents are out of town and they don't have any objections, but I need a copy of the map showing the location of the proposed routes so that I can show them.	EAP: Map was emailed to Mr. Schlebush
Mr. Odendaal	The property doesn't belong to me, it is Mr. Englebrecht's farm.	EAP: Comment was noted, and Mr. Engelbrecht was contacted to give his input regarding the proposed routes.

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

Mr. Le Roux	I don't object to the proposed powerline.	EAP: Comment noted.
	What will happen to the lines that are connected from the 66kV when it is decommissioned?	Applicant-Ms. Mugwedi: There will be no connection lines to be affected as there are no connecting lines on the existing 66kV. However, the 132kV is replacing the existing 66kV and no customer will be disconnected once 132kV is operational.
	How long will it take for the powerline to be erected?	Applicant-Ms. Mugwedi-It will take 400 working days; however, this is just an indication, the actual construction period will be known once the final design is completed.
Mr. Strydom	I don't have any objection to the proposed powerline, if it doesn't affect our farming activities.	EAP: Comment noted
Mr. Botha	Will we be compensated?	Applicant-Ms. Mugwedi: Yes, Eskom Land and Rights will start with negotiations once the route has been approved by DEA.
Dr. Troskie	I object to alternative 1 as the powerline is on my farm and I intend to extend my farming activities towards the N6 side. However, if it follows the same alignment as Alternative 2, then I don't have any objections.	EAP: Section along the provincial road was re-aligned to follow alternative 2 until it crosses over the N6. Therefor it won't be included in the application.
COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BAR (DATE)		
NAME	QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	RESPONSE
27 th November 2017 Email SAHRA (Ms. Ragna Redelstorff)	It must be noted that SAHRA will only comment on the Free State section of the proposed development. Separate comments for the Eastern Cape section have to be requested from ECPHRA.	EAP: Report was sent to ECHRPA proof of submission is contained in Page 67, Figure 27 and comments were received, see Page 96 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR.
	The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objection against	EAP: Conditions have been included in Section 14, and Page 31, Table 3 of the EMP, which is

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<p>the proposed development. The following conditions must be adhered to and must be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for implementation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Should any objects of archaeological or palaeontological remains be found during construction activities, work must immediately stop in that area and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be informed.2. The ECO must inform the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and contact an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the find, to assess the importance and rescue them if necessary (with the relevant SAHRA permit). No work may be resumed in this area without the permission from the ECO and SAHRA.3. If the newly discovered heritage resource is considered significant a Phase 2 assessment may be required. A permit from the responsible heritage authority will be needed.4. The Chance Finds Procedures must be implemented to ensure that standard protocols and steps are followed should any heritage and/or fossil resources be uncovered during all phases of the project. These procedures should outline the steps and reporting structure to be followed in the instance that heritage resources are	<p>Appendix 10 in the FBAR.</p>
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**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<p>found. This must be included in the Environmental Awareness Plan.</p> <p>5. The final EIA and appendices must be submitted to SAHRA upon submission to DEA. Should the project be granted Environmental Authorization, SAHRA must be notified and all relevant documents submitted to the case file.</p> <p>Terms and Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work. 2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately. 3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required. 	
<p>5th December 2017 Email DEA-Biodiversity Conservation (Mr. Stanley Tshitwamulomoni)</p>	<p>The following recommendations should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the final BAR must clearly indicate the biodiversity impacts that might occur as a result of the proposed project and the proposed mitigation measures thereof. The EMPr must not contain ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word “should” are to be amended to “must”. 	<p>EAP: The biodiversity impacts and mitigation are included in Page 21 to 22 of the EMPr, which is Appendix 10 of the FBAR.</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Use License must be obtained from the relevant authority “Department of Water & Sanitation” (DWS) for construction activities within the extent of a watercourse or within 500m of a wetland and drainage areas. • You are advised to consider or make reference to any Provincial Biodiversity Conservation Plan or guideline in your report and to obtain comments from conservation agencies. • Please ensure that the Final BAR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area, ecological sensitivity and the locality map illustrate the different alternatives. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maps are relatable to one another 2. Cardinal Points 3. Co-ordinates 4. Legible legends 5. Indicate Alternatives • Based on the information provided in the DBAR and the attached specialist report, no fatally flawed or high impact features were identified due to the generally-low impacts associated with the land use throughout the area. 	<p>EAP: A water use license application will be lodged with Free State DWS on completion of the final design of the powerline as the exact spanning of towers will be determined.</p> <p>EAP: The draft BAR was submitted to DESTEA and DEDEAT Biodiversity Department for comments and their comments are contained hereunder and records in Page 80 to 81, Figure 32 and Page 90, Figure 39 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR.</p> <p>Ecological Sensitivity Map contained as Appendix 9B of the FBAR Locality Map of the Preferred Route is contained as Appendix 2C of the FBAR.</p> <p>EAP: The comment is noted.</p>
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**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are requested to submit one (1) unprotected copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final report which include the locality and ecological sensitivity map to this directorate with attention to Mr. Stanley Tshitwamulomoni 	<p>EAP: Copy of the final BAR will be sent to the department as requested.</p>
<p>29th November 2017 Email Transnet Freight Rail BLM (Yolanda Potgieter)</p>	<p>Only 1 crossing point on the 1:180 000 scale picture where the proposed overhead powerline will cross the TFR services and no description in the report regarding these crossings.</p> <p>TFR requires a 1:500 scale drawing/photo (hardcopy) of each site where the proposed overhead powerline will cross the track.</p> <p>The drawing must include a track Km point. GPS co-ordinates can also be provided.</p> <p>I also want to know what the clearance height between the lowest point of the overhead powerline and the top of the rail will be at each crossing. The minimum clearance required is 9.0m. Various pole lengths ranging from 21 to 27m are to be used by Eskom.</p>	<p>EAP: A response was sent to Transnet on the 15th January 2018 and the proof of submission is in Page 74 to 77, Figure 30 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR.</p> <p>EAP: The crossings of the railway line have been included in Section 2.1, Page 6, Table 1 and maps contained in Appendix 2A of the FBAR.</p> <p>EAP: A hardcopy of the drawing will be made available once the final design of the proposed powerline is completed and there will only be one crossing on the preferred route.</p> <p>EAP: The GPS co-ordinates of the crossings are included in Section 2.1., Page 6, Table 3 of the FBAR</p> <p>Applicant-Ms. Mugwedi: The railway crossings comply to the following requirements and are subject to approval by the relevant railway authority/owner:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strain structures on both sides of the railway line; 2. Minimum crossing heights between 10.9 and 12.4m depending on single/multiple tracks at the crossing with a minimum clearance of

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

		<p>3.3m to track wires and 3.8m to track gantries in the case where the railway line is electrified;</p> <p>3. Crossing angles are kept close as possible to perpendicular and subject to approval.</p> <p>4. The structure heights normally vary between 19m up to 23m above ground but higher and lower structures may be required depending on the terrain and crossing requirements.</p>
	Eskom will need to apply timeously for a wayleave for each crossing point on the track.	EAP: This comment has been included in the conditions on Section 14, Page 77 of the FBAR.
	Consultants are to keep TFR abreast of any meeting that is to be held where TFR services are affected.	EAP: TFR will be invited if any meetings are arranged concerning the sections where the powerline intersects the railway line.
11 th December 2017 Email DEA-Integrated Environmental Authorisations (Mmamohale Kabasa)	Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.	EAP: Listed activity triggered by the proposed development are included in Section 3.1, Page 6 under Table 4 of the FBAR.
	If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted.	EAP: The activities applied for, do not differ with the ones included in the FBAR.
	An amended application form with a signed land owner's consent form must be submitted to this Department.	EAP: An amended application is not required as the proposed development is a linear activity thus excluded from submission of land owner's consent during the application phase. However, landowners have been informed of the application and this is contained in Page 65, Figure 25 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR.
	Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the	EAP: Proof of correspondence is contained in the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

<p>draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p>	<p>the FBAR.</p>
<p>Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community, that may be affected by the activity.</p>	<p>EAP: Alternatives are discussed in Section 6, Page 13-14 of the FBAR.</p>
<p>The expertise of the EAP to carry out Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures must be submitted.</p>	<p>EAP: The expertise of the EAP is in Section 1.3, Page 2 and the CV is attached as Appendix 1 in the FBAR.</p>
<p>The final BAR must also indicate that this draft BAR has been subjected to a public participation process.</p>	<p>EAP: The Draft BAR was sent to identified I&APs, see Section 3.7, Page 66 and 67, Figure 26 and 27 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR.</p>
<p>The final BAR must clearly indicate the name of the newspaper in which the draft BAR has been advertised.</p>	<p>EAP: An advertisement was placed, see Page 32, Figure 16 for Rouxville (The Weekly) and Page 33, Figure 17 for Aliwal North (Aliwal Weekly) to inform I&APs of the application and no-one registered as an I&AP as indicated hence no follow up advertisement was placed regarding the availability of the BAR.</p>
<p>A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final BAR.</p>	<p>EAP: Comments and Responses is in Appendix 6B of the FBAR.</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<p>You are further reminded that the final BAR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Basic Assessment reports in accordance with Appendix 1 and Regulation 19(1) of the EIA regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>EAP: The FBAR does comply with the content of Basic Assessment Report contained in Appendix 1 and Regulation 19 of GNR. 326 of EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended 07 April 2017</p>
	<p>Should the appointed specialist specify contradicting recommendation, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p>	<p>EAP: There are no contradicting recommendations from specialists on the proposed development or the preferred route.</p>
	<p>The following specialist studies will be included in the FBAR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aquatic, Wetlands, fauna and flora-Dr. Mathew Ross; 2. Floodline Study: Marius Van Rensburg Consulting Engineers; 3. Palaeontology-Banzai Environmental (Elize Butler) 4. Visual Impact Assessment-New Leaf Planning and Environmental 5. Heritage Impact Assessment-National Museum Bloemfontein (Dr. Lloyd Rossouw) 	<p>EAP: The specialist studies have been included in Appendix 8 of the FBAR, but the list didn't include Avifauna Assessment by Dr. Tahla Ross from EnviRoss, however, her declaration is attached to the specialist report..</p>
	<p>The applicant is advised to appoint a suitable qualified avifaunal specialist to conduct an avifaunal assessment of the preferred corridor.</p>	<p>EAP: An adequate qualified avifaunal specialist was appointed to conduct assessment on the preferred route and the alternative and the report is in Section 6.3.2, Page 40 of the Surface Water Ecosystems, Avifaunal Impact Surveys, Fauna & Flora Ecological Impact Survey Report contained in Appendix 8 of the</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

		FBAR.
	Where the specialist studies are conducted in-house or by a specialist other than a suitable qualified specialist in the relevant field, such specialist report must be peer reviewed by a suitable qualified specialist in the relevant field.	EAP: No in-house avi-faunal specialist was appointed; hence the declaration of the specialist is contained in the report.
	The final BAR must provide the technical details of the proposed powerline in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions, as attached to this letter.	EAP: The technical details are contained in Section 3.1.1.1, Page 7 in Table 5 of the FBAR.
	The final BAR must provide the four corner coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.	EAP: The co-ordinates for the start, middle and end point are in Section 2, page 5 of the FBAR.
	<p>The BAR must provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed powerline route and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale. -Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerlines • Internal roads infrastructure; and • All supporting infrastructure as laydown area, access roads, etc. 	EAP: The Map are contained in Appendix 2 of the FBAR. However, there are no associated infrastructure associated with the powerline as the substation do not form part of the application. The existing access roads and farmers' track roads will be used during construction.

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	A copy of a final preferred route layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible.	EAP: The locality map of the preferred route is contained in Appendix 2C of the FBAR.
	An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.	EAP: The sensitivity maps are contained in Appendix 9 of the FBAR.
	A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.	EAP: The maps are contained in Appendix 9 of the FBAR.
	The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the BAR must include the following:	EAP: EMPr is contained as Appendix 10 of the FBAR.
	i. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist studies conducted.	EAP: All recommendation and mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr, see Page 17 to 33, Table 3 of EMPr.
	ii. The final preferred route layout map	EAP: The final preferred route layout map is in Appendix A of the EMPr.
	iii. Measures are dictated by the final route layout map and micro-siting.	EAP: Maps indicating the sensitivity of the site and no-go areas have been included in Section 3.2 of the EMPr, and they will be referred to during the final design of the powerline.
	iv. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process	EAP: Sensitivity Maps are contained in the Pages 3 to 10 under Figure 3 to 8 of the EMPr.
	v. A map combining the final preferred route layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.	EAP: Sensitivity Maps are contained in the Pages 3 to 10 under Figure 3 to 8 of the EMPr.
	vi. An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and	EAP: The Alien Invasive Plan contained in Appendix D of the EMPr.

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<p>operation of the powerline. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.</p>	
	<p>vii. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.</p>	<p>EAP: A Plan Rescue and Protection Plan contained in Appendix C of the EMPr.</p>
	<p>viii. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.</p>	<p>EAP: The Re-vegetation and Habitat Rehabilitation Plan is contained in Appendix F of the EMPr.</p>
	<p>ix. A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impact on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.</p>	<p>EAP: Access routes to the proposed powerline construction already exist, therefore the construction of the powerline will not hinder local road users. The contractor should provide a traffic accommodation method statement in Page 14 and in Page 28 of the EMPr, it's indicated that the local Department of Traffic must be informed prior to the construction phase so that necessary procedures are followed to obtain necessary permit for transportation of abnormal loads.</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<p>x. A transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment.</p>	<p>EAP: Abnormal vehicles will be used to transport construction equipment and material to the camp site (storage site) thereafter required material will be delivered with to the construction site. The transportation plan should be included in the traffic accommodation method statement as indicated in Page 14 of the EMPr.</p>
	<p>xi. A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the powerline.</p>	<p>EAP: It is clearly stipulated within the EMPr in table 3, page 29 – 30, on how the contractor and the labourers should conduct themselves during construction of the powerline in order to avoid any veld fires from occurring on-site. The contractor is requested to have a Fire Control and Emergency Procedures as indicated in Page 14 of the EMPr.</p>
	<p>xii. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the powerline. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.</p>	<p>EAP: An Erosion Management Plan is contained in Appendix E of the EMPr.</p>
	<p>xiii. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water system.</p>	<p>EAP: Continuous maintenance of construction vehicles should be adhered to in order to avoid hazardous spillages on the construction site. The contractor should compile a method statement on Handling if Accidental Spillages of Hazardous Substances prior to construction, which will be approved by the appointed ECO as indicated in Page 14 of the EMPr.</p>
	<p>xiv. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other</p>	<p>EAP: Measures are outlined in Page 23 and 27 of the EMPr.</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<p>environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.</p>	
	<p>The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and not included in the EMPr.</p>	<p>EAP: Motivation has been provided in the response column for requirements not met or not applicable for the proposed development.</p>
	<p>The EAP must include a cumulative assessment of the powerline if there are other similar powerlines in the region. The specialist studies e.g. biodiversity, visual, etc. must also assess the facility in terms of cumulative impacts.</p>	<p>EAP: Cumulative impacts are included in the assessment in Page 43 to 57, Section 8 of the FBAR.</p>
	<p>Please ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice activities are applied for, that the Listing Notice activities applied for are specific and that they can all be linked to the development activity of infrastructure in the project description.</p>	<p>EAP: All listed activities triggered by the development has been listed in Page 6, Section 3.1, Table 4 of the FBAR.</p>
	<p>You are hereby reminded that should the BAR fail to comply with the requirements of this acceptance letter, the environmental authorisation may be refused.</p>	<p>EAP: Comment noted and the FBAR does meet the requirements.</p>
	<p>The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and regulations 43 and 44 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in Regulation 43(1)</p>	<p>EAP: Comment noted and comments and/or input have been received from the identified I&APs. Records are contained in Appendix 6A of the FBAR.</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	<p>Should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter ii, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfills the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter ii, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999. Comments from SAHRA and/or provincial department of heritage must be provided in the BAR.</p>	<p>EAP: Comments from SAHRA are contained in Page 68 to 70, Figure 28 and comments from ECPHRA are in Page 96, Figure 43 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR.</p>
	<p>You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (one DVD and One USB and two (2) hard copies of the BAR to the Department as per regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p>	<p>EAP: The final report will be submitted as requested.</p>
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, which stipulates that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	<p>EAP: The activity will be undertaken when the environmental authorisation and water license have been obtained from the competent authority.</p>
	<p>In terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended this application will lapse if the application fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of the Regulations unless an extension has been granted in terms of regulation 3(7)</p>	<p>EAP: Comment noted and the prescribed timeframes will be adhered to.</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

<p>11th January 2018 Email DEDEAT-Environmental Quality Management- Joe Gqabi region (Mr. T.P. Babane)</p>	<p>The department has reviewed the report; the impacts and proposed mitigations are assessed adequately.</p>	<p>EAP: Comment acknowledged</p>
<p>12th January 2018 Email DESTEABiodiversity (Dr. Nacelle Collins)</p>	<p>I compared the proposed routes (1&2) with the biodiversity planning categories. The proposed line does not intersect any Critical Biodiversity Areas but does extend through areas categorised as Ecological Support Areas (ESAS). The latter does not present any restriction to the development of a powerline. However, the northern portions of Option 2 might be environmentally sensitive due to the presence of Lesser Kestrell. It is recommended that measures to account for the probability are considered.</p>	<p>EAP: The Avi-fauna specialist’s response is below, and the record is contained in Page 81 to 82, Figure 33 of the Public Participation Report, which is Appendix 6A of the FBAR.</p> <p>Avi-fauna Specialist: The species is known as a non-breeding migrant to the region, with occurrences being between November and April. Previously regarded as conservationally vulnerable, it has since been downgraded to least Concern (but still merits monitoring) in the latest Eskom Red Data Book of Birds (2015).</p> <p>Interactions with overhead powerlines may be positive for this species, which would exploit the perching opportunities offered by the lines and towers in otherwise treeless landscapes. Collisions with powerlines are relatively rare due to the highly maneuverable flying ability of the species. Electrocutation fatalities are also very rare due to the relatively small body size and small wingspan that it too small to bridge between phase conductors and/or earth wires. The potential impact to this species is further reduced due to the existing occurrence of overhead lines within the area, which runs along a similar alignment to the proposed alignment of the new line.</p>

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

		The proposed powerline may require the removal of some larger Eucalyptus trees that would pose physical and fire risk threats to the overhead line. This could potentially remove some roosting habitat for this species. Habitat destruction associated with the construction of the towers and spanning the overhead would reduce the occurrence of insects and other prey sources for this species. This is regarded as a temporary occurrence and will only impact for the duration of the construction phase. The overall threat emanating from the construction of the overhead powerline on the ongoing conservation of the Lesser kestrel is therefore regarded as minimal.
15 th January 2018 Email	The department has no objection to the proposed powerline	EAP: Comment noted.
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transport Director-Road Asset Management Systems (Ms. B. Mancoe)	Please note a number of provincial roads will be affected therefore Eskom must adhere to the conditions stipulated in the agreement between the Department and Eskom.	EAP: Comment noted.
	Drawings indicating the positions of where the power line will be installed must be submitted to the Department for consideration and approval.	EAP: Comment included as a condition in Section 14, Page 77 of the FBAR.
19 th January 2018 Email DESTEA-Environmental Impact Management Environmental Officer (Victor Hlazo)	The route with the most minimal impacts on the receiving environment must be used.	EAP: The preferred route does have the most minimal impacts on the receiving environment, see sensitivity map, which is Appendix 9 of the FBAR.
	The clearance of vegetation must be kept at an absolute minimum; should there be clearance of vegetation that is above 1 hectare at any point of the development, then an application for the relevant activity that is triggered must be included, and the Application Form amended.	EAP: The clearance vegetation will be below 1 hectare as the proposed development doesn't include access roads. The existing provincial and farm tracks will be used during construction.

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

	Disturbance of riverine vegetation must be kept at an absolute minimum and measures taken to rehabilitate after construction.	EAP: No riverine vegetation impact is anticipated, however, if it becomes necessary that minor watercourses are impacted by tower positions, then erosion control measures outlined in the Page 58 of the FBAR should be adopted.
	Please also ensure that all specialists involved submit a signed declaration of interest from. All Specialist recommendation must be taken into considerations when drafting the EMPr and mitigation measures implemented.	EAP: The signed declaration of interest by specialists are contained in Appendix 8 of the FBAR.
29 th January 2018 Email Department of Water and Sanitation (Pius Lerotholi)	Proposed activity constitute section 21(c) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)	EAP: A general authorisation application will be submitted once the exact location of the towers are determined as Eskom is an SOE.
	In terms of the Government Notice No. 509 published in the Government Gazette of 26 August 2016, the activities undertaken by the state own entities (SOE's) are generally authorised i.e. in the case of Eskom construction of new transmission and distribution powerlines, and minor maintenance or roads, river crossings, towers and substations were the footprint remains the same are generally authorised.	
	Any person or entity is required to register the authorisation with the Department of Water and Sanitation before commencement of activity.	EAP: General authorisation submission will be obtained prior to construction phase and it's contained as a condition in Page 81, Section 14 of the FBAR.
	Any person or entity exercising general authorisations needs to comply with the conditions stipulated in the Government Notice 509 published in the Government Gazette of 26 August 2018	EAP: Conditions outlined
02 February 2018 Email DEDEAT- Biodiversity	The department has reviewed the report; the impacts and proposed mitigation are assessed adequately. Based on this report and assessment	EAP: Recommendations will be adhered to as contained in the FBAR.

**PROPOSED 132kV POWER-LINE BETWEEN MELKSPRUIT AND ROUXVILLE SUBSTATIONS
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

<p>Management (Zikho Saba)</p>	<p>conducted by this office, the area doesn't have critical biodiversity species. Therefore, it is recommended that you stick to the recommendations of the Environmental Impact Report.</p>	
<p>26th February 2018 Email ECPHRA (Sello Mokhaya)</p>	<p>The Eastern Cape Heritage Authority acknowledges receipt and processing of the HIA reports for the abovementioned project. Drawing on the findings of the two reports, ECPHRA has no objection the proposed development may process, provided that all construction activities are restricted to within the boundaries of the development footprint.</p> <p>The comments covers part of the proposed development footprint only in Eastern Cape; for Free State falls outside the jurisdiction of ECPHRA.</p>	<p>EAP: Comment is noted.</p>