



Sheila Bolingo <sheila@envirolution.co.za>

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE DUMA TELECOMMUNICATION RADIO TOWER NEAR ULUNDI

10 messages

Sheila Bolingo <sheila@envirolution.co.za>

Tue, Mar 30, 2021 at 8:42 AM

To: Sheila Bolingo <sheila@envirolution.co.za>

Bcc: admin@mthonjaneni.org.za, AyandaMny@daff.gov.za, bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za, buhle.ally@kzncogta.gov.za, Chris.Nkosi@kzncogta.gov.za, councillors@mthonjaneni.org.za, dinesree.thambu@kznwildlife.com, eia@kznwildlife.com, govenders2@dws.gov.za, hod.pa@kzndard.gov.za, info@amafapmb.co.za, JeffreyMAI@daff.gov.za, jim.rodel@wessa.co.za, judy.reddy@kzntransport.gov.za, Kacy.Rengasamy@kznedtea.gov.za, mayor@uthungulu.co.za, mayorsecretary@mthonjaneni.org.za, MbokodoT@dws.gov.za, Meryl.Naicker@kznworks.gov.za, mm@uthungulu.co.za, nerissa.pillay@kznwildlife.com, Noluthando.Dlamini@kznwildlife.com, phaka.maphanga@kzndard.gov.za, phoarchaeology@amafapmb.co.za, pillay@dws.gov.za, sbusisozz57@gmail.com, sibangol@dws.gov.za, thando.tubane@kzncogta.gov.za, Thembinkosi.Sithomo@kzntransport.gov.za, WisemanR@daff.gov.za, xolile.ntanzi@kznworks.gov.za, Zakithi.mathenjwa@kzndard.gov.za

**NOTICE OF A BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION (WULA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION OF THE DUMA TELECOMMUNICATION RADIO TOWER NEAR ULUNDI, KWAZULU-NATAL**

Dear Interested and Affected Party

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd is proposing construction of the Duma Telecommunication Radio Tower project is part of a suite of projects collectively known as the Ermelo-Richards Bay Coal Link Upgrade.

In terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the **National Environmental Management Act** (No. 107 of 1998), as read with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of Government Notices GNR 326, 327, 325 & 324 (as amended), a Basic Assessment process is required for the authorisation of proposed project. In terms of Section 21 of the **National Water Act** (Act No. 36 of 1998), a Water Use License is required as a result of the project 'proximity to watercourses.

Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners to conduct a Basic Assessment, public participation processes and a Water Use License Application processes for the proposed development.

You and/or your organisation have been identified as an Interested Affected Party (I&AP) for the project as such we

would like to keep inform you of the Environmental Authorisation Processes that is being undertaken. **A formal notification letter attached with a comment sheet are enclosed herewith for your perusal, the "comments and registration" sheet.** Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project.

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Regards**Sheila Bolingo****Environmental Consultant**

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Sheila Bolingo <sheila@envirolution.co.za>

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE DUMA TELECOMMUNICATION RADIO TOWER NEAR ULUNDI

1 message

Sheila Bolingo <sheila@envirolution.co.za>
To: elliss@ingonyamatrust.org.za, BothathT@ingonyamatrust.org.za

Mon, Mar 29, 2021 at 12:09 PM

NOTICE OF A BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION (WULA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE DUMA TELECOMMUNICATION RADIO TOWER NEAR ULUNDI, KWAZULU-NATAL

Landowner;

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd is proposing construction of the Duma Telecommunication Radio Tower project is part of a suite of projects collectively known as the Ermelo-Richards Bay Coal Link Upgrade.

In terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the **National Environmental Management Act** (No. 107 of 1998), as read with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of Government Notices GNR 326, 327, 325 & 324 (as amended), a Basic Assessment process is required for the authorisation of proposed project. In terms of Section 21 of the **National Water Act** (Act No. 36 of 1998), a Water Use License is required as a result of the project 'proximity to watercourses.

Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners to conduct a Basic Assessment, public participation processes and a Water Use License Application processes for the proposed development.

You have been identified as a landowner on one of the properties that may be traverse by the project, as such we would like to keep inform you of the Basic Assessment Process that is being undertaken. You will be notified as the process progresses. **A formal notification letter attached with a comment sheet are enclosed herewith for your perusal, the "comments and registration" sheet.** Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project.

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Regards**Sheila Bolingo****Environmental Consultant**



BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF DUMA TELECOMMUNICATION RADIO TOWER WITHIN MTHONJANENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

Background Information Document

June 2021

The increase in demand for South Africa's high-quality coal necessitates the increase in production, which in turn has demands on the railway network infrastructure. To accomplish this, Transnet needs to upgrade power supply to their various traction substations between Ermelo and Richards Bay to facilitate the introduction of the new, larger locomotives that will be added to increase the volume of coal being transported and exported. Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd has been tasked by Transnet to supply the additional energy requirements to these traction substations. **In order to address this request, various projects are proposed by Eskom including the proposed construction of Duma Telecommunication Radio Tower within the Mthonjaneni Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.**

AIM OF THIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

This document aims to provide you, as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP), with:

- An overview of the proposed development;
- An overview of the authorisation process and the specialist studies being undertaken to assess the potential impacts, both positive and negative of the proposed project.
- Details of how you can become involved in the process, receive information, or raise issues which may concern and/or interest you.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The increase in demand for South Africa's high-quality coal necessitates the increase in production, which in turn has demands on the railway network infrastructure. In response to the increased demand for South Africa's coal in the global market place, Transnet needs to increase the volume of coal that is being transported between the Mpumalanga coal fields and the Richard's Bay Coal Terminal. This increase will be facilitated through capital expenditure on two fronts, the supporting infrastructure, i.e. the electrical network supplying the locomotives and the locomotives themselves.

In order to address this request, various projects were proposed including the Construction of Nzalo and Duma 400kV Main Transmission Stations and the associated 88kV and 400kV Turn in Powerlines in Kwazulu Natal Province. TAP was responsible for managing Transnet's projects and this included appointment and management of Environmental Impact Assessment consultant (Sivest). The project was handed over to Land Development after

EA has been secured, land acquisition process has been completed. However, the EIA listed activity dealing with radio tower within the approved Duma Substation was not included in the Environmental Authorisation (EA) process. In order to connect radio towers within substations, it is necessary to establish new Telecommunication towers. The exclusion of listed activity in terms of EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) necessitates a new Basic Assessment Processes to be undertaken for the approval of the radio tower.

The proposed telecommunication mast would serve as voice, data as well as other telecommunications and ancillary services for Eskom staff and contractors for the Duma Substation which is positioned 28 27 19.92 S and 31 42 20.83 E is a new substation to be built by Transmission in order to strengthen the TX grid so that Eskom can provide services to Transnet. In order for Eskom to provide the necessary it is imperative that there are reliable and effective communications systems in place to provide the necessary services to the substation. Services like tele-protection, tele-control, switched voice, direct voice and hot lines as well as data services like Ethernet connectivity. The **mast will be situated with the approved within approved Duma 400kV Main Transmission Station** located within Mthonjaneni Local Municipality, Kwazulu-Natal. The Mast will be approximately 85m in height requiring a foot print of 16m X16m inside the Substation.

The proposed Tower will be situated with the approved within approved Duma 400kV Main Transmission Station located approx. 35km south east of Ulundi within the Mthonjaneni Local Municipality (Ward 13) in the King Cetshwayo District of Kwazulu-Natal. The proposed mast will be located on Portion 4 of the farm Reserve No 11 15831 GU, at the following coordinates:

Lat: 28°27'19.97"S

Long: 31°42'19.79"E

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of Sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations GNR R324 to R327 (2017), an EIA process is required for the authorisation of identified Listed Activities. As this is a proposed electricity transmission project and thereby considered to be of national importance, the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE). In addition, a Water Use Licence Process in terms of the National Water Act 1998, (Act No. 36 of 1998) will be undertaken.

An EIA is an effective planning and decision-making tool. It allows the potential environmental consequences resulting from a proposed activity to be identified and appropriately managed during its establishment and its operation. It provides the opportunity for the applicant to be fore-warned of potential environmental issues, and allows for resolution of the issue(s) reported on in the EIA report as well as dialogue with I&APs.

Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent environmental consultants to undertake the required BA to identify and assess all the potential environmental impacts associated with the project, and propose appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). As part of these environmental studies, I&APs will be actively involved through the public involvement process.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECTS?

The development site will be assessed by specialists to identify the potential for environmental impacts. Specialist studies that are to be conducted include the following:

- Agriculture
- Palaeontology
- Biodiversity (Fauna, Flora, Avifauna)
- Visual Impact Study

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the EIA Process from the outset. Comments and inputs from I&APs are encouraged in order to ensure that potential impacts are considered within the ambit of the study. The public participation process aims to ensure that:

- Information that contains all the relevant facts in respect of the application is made available to I&APs for review.
- I&AP participation is facilitated in such a manner that they are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project.
- Adequate review periods are provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the draft BA Report.

In terms of the EIA Regulations, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in this EIA process, you must register yourself on the project database.
- You must ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the stipulated timeframes.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

- By responding by phone, fax or e-mail to the invitation for your involvement which has been advertised in newspapers.
- By contacting the consultants with queries or comments.
- By reviewing and commenting on the draft BA Report within the stipulated 30-day review periods.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to provide comment, raise issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you or request further information. Your input into this process forms a key element of the EIA process.

By completing and submitting the accompanying reply form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and are ensured that your comments, concerns or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Direct all comments, queries, or responses to:

Envirovolution Consulting

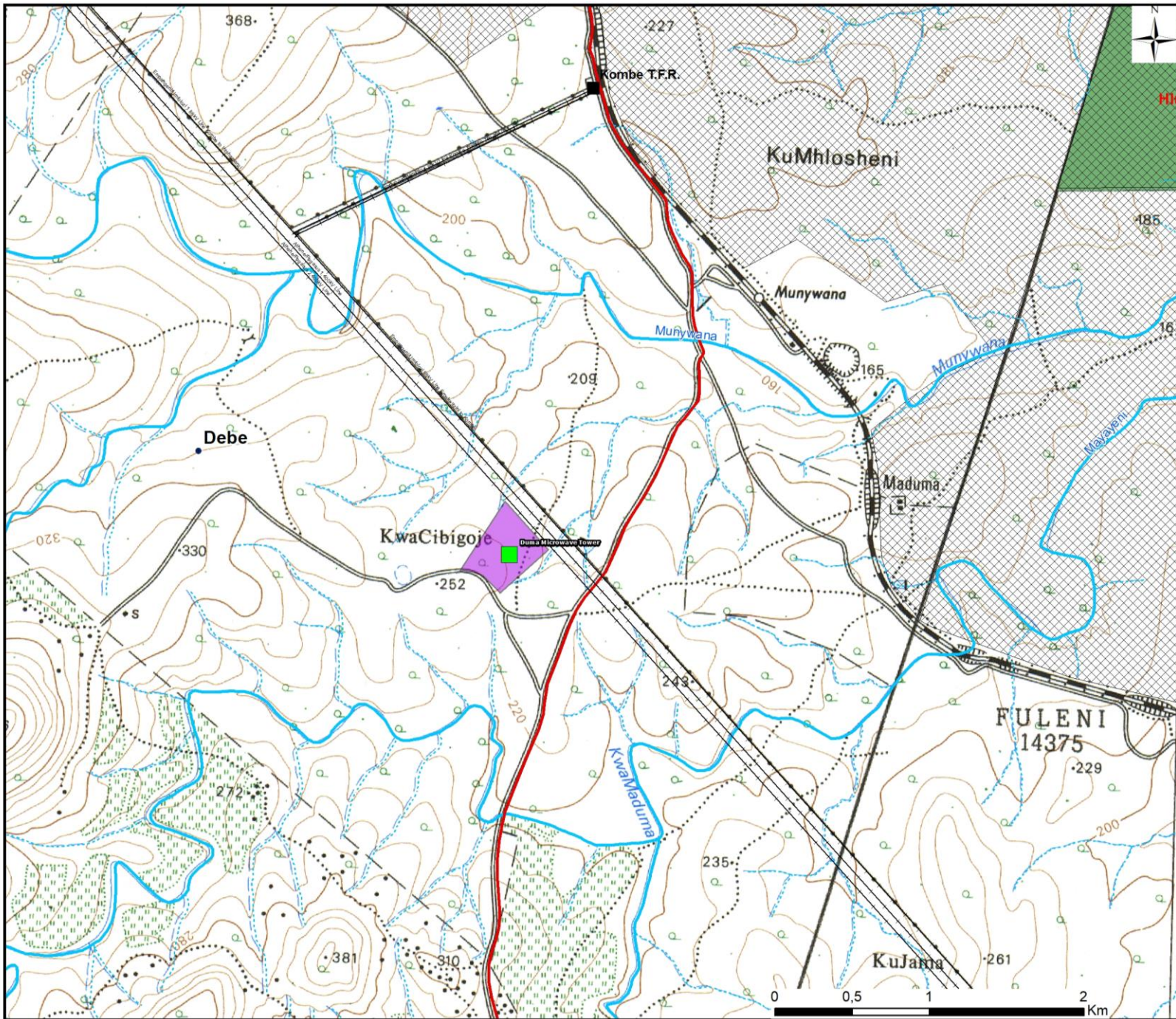
Contact person: Ms Sheila Bolingo

Postal Address: P.O.Box 1898, Sunninghill, 2157

Telephone Number: 0861 44 44 99

Fax Number: 0861 62 62 22

Email: sheila@envirovolution.co.za



Transnet Coal Link Upgrade Projects:
Proposed Telecomms Radio tower within approved Duma 400kV Main Transmission Station
 LOCALITY MAP

- Legend**
- Proposed Site
 - Existing Substations
 - Approved Duma Substation
 - Existing Powerline
 - Main Road
 - Railway Line
 - Perennial River
 - Non-Perennial River
 - Ezemvelo Protected Area Boundary
 - Protected Areas



Projection: LO31
 Scale: 1:24 000



REPLY FORM

BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF DUMA TELECOMMUNICATION RADIO TOWER WITHIN MTHONJANENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL

Please provide your complete contact details:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|--|
| Name & Surname: | | | |
| Organisation & Designation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | | |
| Telephone: | Cellphone: | | |
| Fax: | E-mail: | | |

Would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP)? YES
(please tick the relevant box) NO

Note: You are required to register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the project.

Please state your interest in the project (add additional pages if necessary):

| |
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Please list your questions, views or concerns regarding the project (add additional pages if necessary):

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Please provide contact details of other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|--|
| Name & Surname: | | | |
| Organisation & Designation: | | | |
| Postal Address: | | | |
| Telephone: | Cellphone: | | |
| Fax: | E-mail: | | |

Return completed **reply form** to: **Sheila Bolingo** of **Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd** at **Tel:** 0861 44 44 99 /**Fax:** 0861 62 62 22 /**E-mail:** sheila@envirolution.co.za **Postal Address:** PO Box 1898 • Sunninghill 2157