

Proponent: **ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED**
Project: **BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE RELOCATION OF A SECTION OF THE 275 KV ESKOM POWER LINE AT SISHEN MINE**

Report Name: **COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT**
Report Status: **FINAL**

Revision No: 00
Report Date: November 2013
Report Number: S0474-BAR-CRR-01
Prepared by: Clifford Hallatt

For Submission To: National Department of Environmental Affairs
NEAS Ref: DEA/EIA/0001735/2013
DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/467



Johannesburg: Tel: +27 11 326 4158
Fax: +27 11 326 4118
PO Box 68821, Bryanston, 2021
Suite 5 & 6, Block B, Hurlingham Office Park
59 Woodlands Avenue, Hurlingham Manor

KwaZulu Natal: Tel/Fax: +27 33 343 5826
2 Wattle Grove, Hilton, 3201

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....	4
1.1 Introduction	4
1.2 Identification of Interested and Affected Parties	5
1.3 Notifications to Interested and Affected Parties.....	5
1.4 Notifications to Relevant Authorities	5
1.5 Press Advertisements and Site Notices.....	6
1.6 Background Information Document.....	6
1.7 Registration of Interested and Affected Parties.....	7
1.8 Review of the draft and final Basic Assessment Report	7
2. LIST OF APPENDICES.....	8

APPENDICES

Appendix E: Public Consultation Documentation

- E1. Newspaper and Site Notice Placements
- E2. Written Notification to Stakeholder
- E3. Correspondence from Stakeholders, Authorities and Organs of State
- E4. Written Notification to Authorities and Organs of State
- E5. Interested and Affected Parties Database

LIST OF TERMS, ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BAR	Basic Assessment Report
BID	Background Information Document
DAFF	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DENC	Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (No. 107 of 1998)
PPP	Public Participation Process
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SIOC	Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd
SWEP	Sishen Western Expansion Project

ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED
BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE RELOCATION OF A SECTION OF THE
275 KV ESKOM POWER LINE AT SISHEN MINE
COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

(Final)

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

1.1 Introduction

The Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd (SIOC) is in the process of relocating linear infrastructure, which currently runs through the Sishen Iron Ore Mine (Sishen Mine) property, through a project known as the Sishen Western Expansion Project (SWEP). The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the relocation of infrastructure included a thorough public participation process (PPP). A number of other impact assessments have also been conducted, each with its own PPP.

In January 2013 an application for environmental authorisation for the relocation of a section of the 275 kV Eskom power line at Sishen Mine was submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA) and also the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations (GNR 543, published 18 June 2010). The application was acknowledged with the following reference numbers: NEAS Ref: DEA/EIA/0001735/2013 and DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/467. (Appendix E4).

The following opportunities have since been provided to interested and affected parties (I&APs), which included landowners, local authorities, environmental authorities, as well as all other stakeholders, to provide comments or complaints and to register in order to receive further project information:

- Site notices (poster) were placed at the following locations:
 - The notice board at the Gamagara Local Municipality;
 - Kathu Library;
 - Sishen Mine Security Office; and
 - The SWEP site.
- Press advertisements were also placed in a local (Kathu Gazette) and provincial newspaper (Volksblad).
- The background information document (BID) was distributed to all I&APs. This document provides details on the project and relevant processes and legislation.

- The draft Basic Assessment report (BAR) was made available for public and authority review.

All of this was done in order to provide details of the project applicant, the competent authority responsible for the respective application as well as the listed activity(s) identified in terms of the NEMA.

1.2 Identification of Interested and Affected Parties

Potential I&APs were identified through networking and the use of the existing SWEP I&AP database that has been developed over the years. This was done in accordance with Regulation 54(2)(b)(e) and 54(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2010. The existing database included neighbouring landowners, people who participated in previous EIA and BA processes in the area (i.e. the Sishen Expansion Project), and members of Sishen Mine's Environmental Forum. Press advertisements and site posters were used to identify new I&APs (Section 1.5).

A list of all parties that were consulted during the public participation and authority consultation process is provided in Appendix E5.

1.3 Notifications to Interested and Affected Parties

Potential I&APs were notified about the project and the public participation process by means of:

- Press advertisements and site notices.
- Individual written notifications (notification letter and BID) to all I&APs (by registered mail).
- Individual written notifications (notification letter and BID) to Gamagara Local Municipality and John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality.
- Individual written notifications (notification letter and BID) to all relevant authorities.
- Meeting with the Acting Director: Environmental Impact Assessment and Assistant Director: Environmental Impact Assessment at DEA.
- Individual written notification (availability of draft BAR) to all I&APs and relevant authorities.

1.4 Notifications to Relevant Authorities

The following government departments were notified about the project by mean of individual written notifications (notification letter and BID):

- The Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC).
- National Department of Agriculture.
- The Northern Cape Department of Mineral Resources.
- The Northern Cape Department of Water Affairs (DWA).
- The Northern Cape Department of Agriculture and Land Reform.
- The Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works.
- The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).
- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).
- The Northern Cape Department of Health.
- The Northern Cape Department of Labour.

1.5 Press Advertisements and Site Notices

Press advertisements were placed in the following newspapers:

- Volksblad (in English on 12 April 2013).
- Kathu Gazette (in Afrikaans on 12 April 2013).

Site notices (posters) were placed at the following locations on 12 April 2013:

- The notice board at the Gamagara Local Municipality;
- Kathu Library;
- Sishen Mine Security Office; and
- The SWEP site.

Copies of the advertisements (with proof of placement), site notices (with photographs of site notice as proof) and a map showing the exact locations where the notices were placed are included in Appendix E1.

1.6 Background Information Document

A BID and cover letter (Appendix E2) was distributed to all I&APs via registered post. The document included a response sheet and a request for written comments within 14 days.

1.7 Registration of Interested and Affected Parties

People and/or organisations were provided the opportunity to register as I&APs for the project if they:

- Responded to notification letters and documentation, press advertisements or site posters.
- Contacted Synergistics telephonically, or via fax, E-mail or post.

The following parties were automatically included in the I&AP database:

- Owner of land along and adjacent to the proposed power line route.
- Holders of mining or prospecting rights adjacent to the proposed power line route.
- Own, operate or administrate infrastructure affected by the project.

Despite the in depth public consultation process (notifications, posters, advertisements, BID's, draft BAR etc.), only Transnet and SAHRA requested additional information. No other I&APs (Government or private) requested to be registered on the project.

1.8 Review of the draft and final Basic Assessment Report

The draft BAR was available for public and authority review in September 2013 for 6 weeks (40 calendar days). All I&APs were notified in writing of the availability of the document for review and were requested to submit comments (Appendix E2 & E4).

Hard copies were made available at the Kathu Library, Gamagara Local Municipality and at Sishen Mine (security office at main entrance to the mine). Although I&APS were notified that electronic copies were available on request, none was requested. The final BAR will be made available for review for 6 weeks (40 calendar days).

2. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Public Consultation Documentation

E1. Newspaper and Site Notice Placements

E2. Written Notification to Stakeholder

E3. Correspondence from Stakeholders, Authorities and Organs of State

E4. Written Notification to Authorities and Organs of State

E5. Interested and Affected Parties Database