
Eskom Kimberley Strengthening Phase 4 Project BOUNDARY TO ULCO

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Notification of a Basic Environmental Impact Assessment and Request for Public Input

BACKGROUND

Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants was appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited: Eskom Land Development: Group Capital Division to apply for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Eskom Kimberley Strengthening Phase 4: Boundary to Ulco Project.

The Consultants are undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment process according to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations which came into effect in August 2010 and promulgated in terms of section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). Government Notice R544 (Listing Notice 1), Government Notice R545 (Listing Notice 2) & Government Notice R546 (Listing Notice 3) are applicable and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has to be undertaken. This Public Participation Programme forms part thereof.

The decision-making authority for this EIA is the National Department of Environmental Affairs.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide Interested & Affected Parties (IAPs) the opportunity to obtain background information with regards to the project and to comment on the development proposal. Contributions from the public forms an important part of the environmental process, which is to identify negative impact that the project may have on the environment and to provide mitigation measures in order to avoid / reduce those impacts. Comment from IAPs can greatly assist in reaching the overall goals of the environmental assessment process.

PROJECT NAME

Eskom Kimberley Strengthening Phase 4: Boundary to Ulco Project

PROJECT APPLICANT

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited- represented by Eskom Land Development: Group Capital Division

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: LISTED ACTIVITIES

Government Notice R544 (Listing Notice 1), Government Notice R545 (Listing Notice 2) & Government Notice R546 (Listing Notice 3) are applicable and an Environmental Impact Assessment has to be undertaken. The listed activities for which environmental authorisation could be required, are:

Listing Notice 1

10. The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the distribution of electricity with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;
11. Construction of infrastructure covering 50m² or more within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse.
18. The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5m³ cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from a watercourse.
23. The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land outside an urban area where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares;

Listing Notice 2

8. The construction of facilities of infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex.

Listing Notice 3

4. The construction of a road wider than 4m outside of urban areas.
12. The clearance of an area of 300m² or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.
13. The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.
14. The clearance of an area of 5 hectares or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.
16. The construction of infrastructure covering 10m² or more within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse

Please note that, as more detail about the project becomes available and specialist studies are completed, further listed activities might be added / deleted to those mentioned above.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCALITY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will consist of the construction of an approximately 94km Double Circuit 400kV powerline from the Boundary Substation to the Ulco Substation, including a new Ulco TX (Transmission) Substation adjacent to the existing Ulco DX (Distribution) Substation.

This 94km section of the powerline route forms part of the Eskom Kimberley Strengthening Phase 4 Project, which has a total powerline length of approximate 390km. It starts west of the town of Dealesville, falling under the jurisdiction of the Tokologo Local Municipality in the Free State and ends just south of Kathu, falling under the jurisdiction of the Gamagara Local Municipality in the Northern Cape. The 390km powerline runs east to west, starting at the Beta Substation, connects to the Boundary Substation, then on to the Ulco Substation, connects at the Olien Substation, then Manganore Substation and ends at the Ferrum Substation.

PROJECT LOCALITY

The Boundary Substation and a short section of the line are situated in the Tokologo Local Municipality in the Free State Province. The line runs in a westerly direction and then enters the Northern Cape Province north of Kimberley. It runs through the areas of the Sol Plaatjies and the Dikgatlong Local Municipalities and ends at the town of Ulco (refer to the attached Route & Locality Map).

The properties that could be potentially affected by this project include, but are not limited to, various portions of the Farms Kareeboom, Tablefarm, Samaria, Picardi, Kenilworth Estate, Roodepan, Phoenix, Droogfontein, Plaas 193, Wildebeest Kuil, Platfontein, Nooitgedacht, De Hoop, Holsdam, Rosalind, Plaas 225, Barkly West 3010, Greeffputs, Plaas 172, Plaas 173, Rus en Vrede, Plaas 221, Karolusdrift, Delpportshoop, Likatlong, Plaas 176, Plaas 216, Plaas 215, Pniel, Than, Waterkolk, Randt Plaats, Vogelstruis Pan, Klipfontein, Drooge Veldt, Mozib, Plaas 278, Plaas 293, Plaas 277, Plaas 232, Plaas 233 and Plaas 217.

SITE ALTERNATIVES

Different route alternatives / route corridors are being investigated – please refer to the attached Route & Locality Map. A 2km corridor is being investigated by the environmental professional team (see below).

SPECIALIST STUDIES

The following specialist studies are being undertaken as part of this EIA process:

- Ecological Impact Assessment
- Bird Impact Assessment
- Aquatic Impact Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Paleontological Impact Assessment
- Geotechnical Investigation
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Social Impact Assessment / Land Use Potential
- Soil and Land Capability (Agricultural)
- Legal reviews

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COMMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL & REGISTRATION AS AN IAP

Should you wish to comment on this development proposal, your comment should reach us not later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Your comment should be in writing and can be submitted via email, fax or post. In order to be registered as an IAP, your contact details should also be provided.

Registered IAPs will be included in our database which will ensure that you are directly informed of any important dates, availability of documents, etc.

Please do extend this invitation to comment to others whom you believe may also be affected by, or would be interested in, this Eskom project.

OPEN DAY

A Public Open Day will be held in due course. The objectives of this open day will be to:

- communicate the purpose and details of the proposed project;
- present the findings of the specialist studies as well as the Draft Scoping Report;
- further enable informed comment from the public and key stakeholders;

More information in this regard will be forwarded to all registered Interested & Affected Parties.

SCOPING REPORT

Scoping is a process of baseline information gathering and public consultation in order to identify potential impacts and environmental issues. The Draft Scoping Report will contain detail about the project, the need and desirability of the project, specialist studies, possible impacts that the development might have on the receiving environment and other relevant information. All comment / objections received up to this date will also be addressed in the Draft Scoping Report.

The Draft Scoping Report will be made available for public input before and during the above-mentioned Open Day.

The Final Scoping Report will be submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs for their consideration.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (Final Environmental Management Plan included)

The EIA Report focuses on more detail when compared to the Scoping process, which is a basic overview. It consists of further specialist investigations, detailed desktop research, a second public participation process and an impact assessment based on issues and alternatives as identified during the Scoping process. Mitigation measures will be provided to minimise these impacts and an Environmental Management Plan will be compiled to complete the EIA Report.

The EIA Report will be made available for final public input before it is submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs for their perusal, comment and ultimately, the issuing of environmental authorisation for this project.

DATE OF NOTICE

This notice is being distributed in the week of 24 March 2014.

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