

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WATER USE LICENCE FOR THE PROPOSED DISMANTLING OF THE EXISTING
POWER LINE AND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) 7 KM LONG 88 KV POWER LINES WITHIN A 2 KM CORRIDOR
BETWEEN GROOTPAN AND BRAKFORTEIN NEAR OGIES,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

(JUNE 2015)

DEA Ref No: TBA

WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

This document aims to inform you as a potential, Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with background information regarding the proposed construction of two 7 km long 88 kV power lines within a 2 km corridor between Grootpan and Brakfontein near Ogies, Mpumalanga Province. Environmental Authorisation Application and Water Use Licence Application will be applied for under the National Environmental Management Act, (No 107 of 1998) (NEMA) as amended in 2014 and the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998, NWA).

Any person, company, authority or other entities that might be directly or indirectly affected by this application can register as an Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). This includes, but is not limited to landowners, tenants, municipal and provincial authorities, interest groups, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and conservation groups. Furthermore, the document advises how you can become involved in the project, receive information and/or raise issues, which may concern and/or be of interest to you.

This background information document forms the first part of the Public Participation Process (PPP), which is required as part of the application for authorisation. It aims to elicit comments, questions and responses from parties whom may be affected by or have an interest in the project. The assessment process to be followed for PPP is in accordance with the best practice stipulated for PPP in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014) – GN R. 982 under NEMA (as amended).

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

The project can be summarised as follows:

Project name	Basic Assessment for the Proposed Construction of two 7 km long 88 kV Power Lines within a 2 km corridor between Grootpan and Brakfontein near Ogies, Mpumalanga Province
Local authority	eMalahleni Local Municipality
Landowner(s)	GlencoreXstrata and Saimir Property Investors
Location	The study area is situated in the Emalahleni Local Municipality in Mpumalanga, within close proximity to the town of Ogies. The study area falls between Grootpan and Brakfontein. (Refer to the Locality Map, Figure 1)

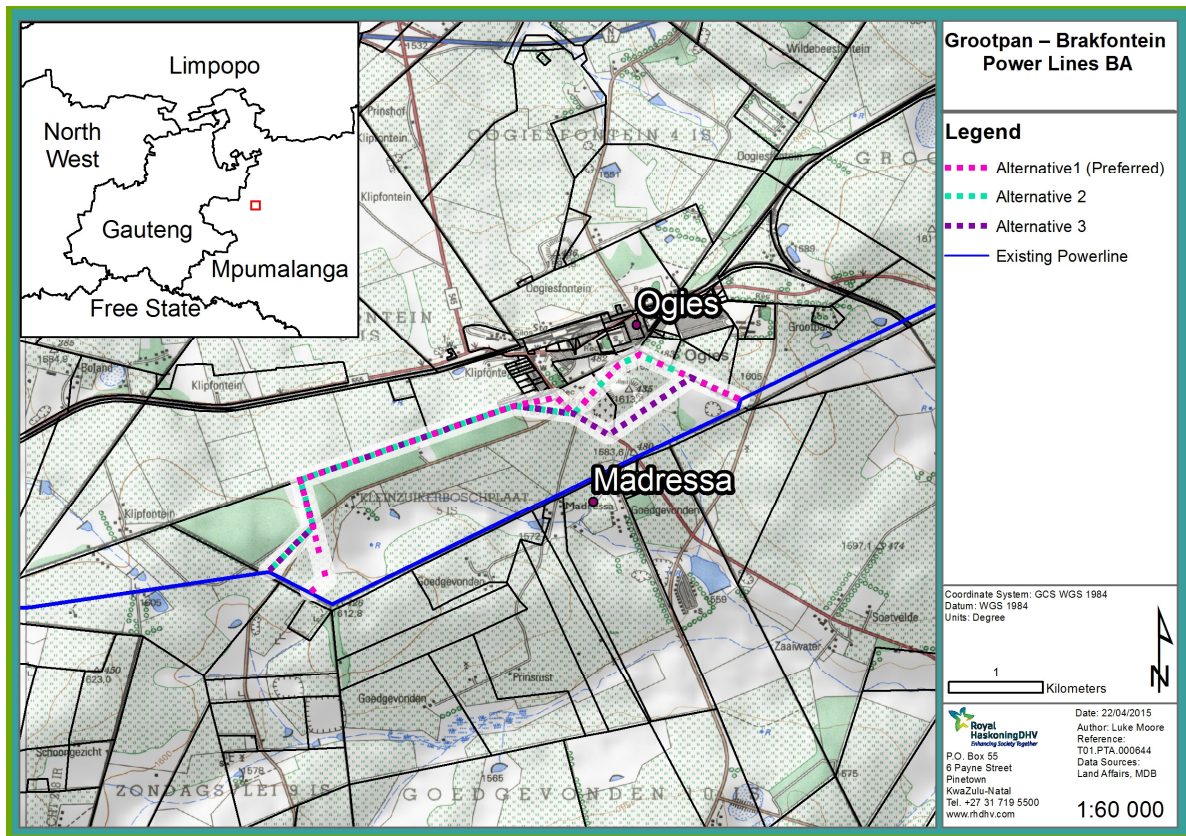


Figure 1 Locality map

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Eskom Holdings (SoC) Pty Ltd (Eskom Distribution – Mpumalanga Operating Unit) proposes to construct two (2) 7 km long 88 kV (Loop in-Loop out) power lines within a 2 km corridor between Grootpan and Brakfontein near Ogies. The existing power lines are located on GlencoreXstrata mining property and need to be dismantled. The mine has requested that Eskom relocate the lines as they are within the operational footprint of the mine. These lines ensure continuity of supply and access to electricity for the surrounding communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

In order to obtain the necessary environmental approval from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), a Basic Assessment (BA) study will be undertaken in terms of Government Notice No. R. 983 and R.985 of the EIA Regulations (2014) as well as Section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation as amended in 2014:

- ✦ GN R.983 Listing Notice 1: Activity 11, 12, 19, and 31; and
- ✦ GN R.985 Listing Notice 3: 14.

The National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998):

- ✦ Section 21(c) – Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and
- ✦ Section 21 (i) – Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

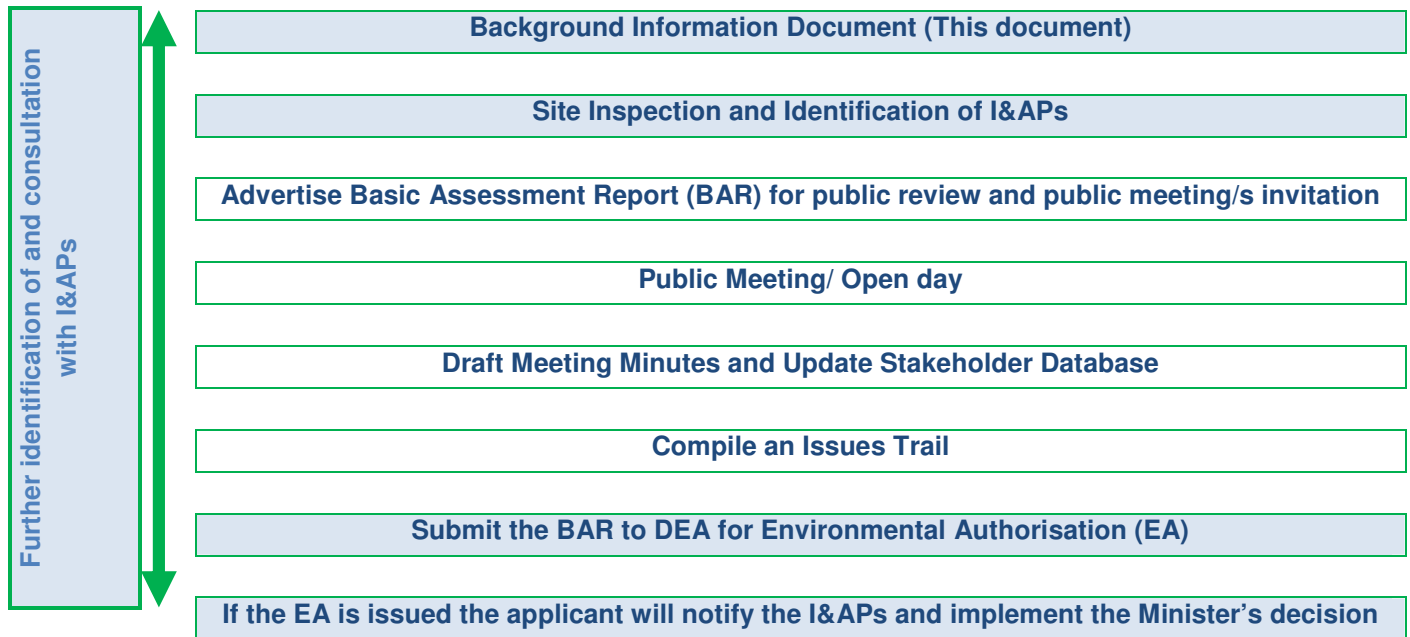
THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPLICATION

A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified. As part of the BA study, these potential impacts will be assessed through the following specialist studies:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Heritage Assessment	Kudzala Antiquity cc, Jean-Pierre Celliers
Ecological Assessment	Independent Specialist, Clayton Cook
Wetland Assessment	Scientific Aquatic Services, Michelle Pretorius
Avifauna Assessment	Wild Skies Ecological Services (Pty) Ltd, Luke Strugnell

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the PPP from the outset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps:



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- ★ By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process.
- ★ By completing the attached comment and registration form and mailing or faxing it to Sibongile Hlomuka at Royal HaskoningDHV.
- ★ By attending the meetings to be held during the course of the project. Should you register as an I&AP you will be invited to attend the meeting(s). The meeting dates will also be advertised in local newspapers and registered I&APs will be notified by email as well.
- ★ By reviewing and commenting on the draft BAR within the allowed 30-day review period.
- ★ In writing contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information.


If you consider yourself as an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to become involved.

Please make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become involved in the process and provide comment. If you have issues and/or concerns, which affect and/or interest you, please raise them.

Your input into this process forms a key part of the impact assessment activities and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

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

COMMENTS AND QUERIES ON THE PROJECT CAN BE DIRECTED TO

Sibongile Hlomuka	Royal HaskoningDHV PO Box 867, Gallo Manor, 2052		 Royal HaskoningDHV <i>Enhancing Society Together</i>
	Tel	011 798 6000	
Royal HaskoningDHV	Fax	011 798 6010	
	Email	sibongile.hlomuka@rhdhv.com	

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88 KV POWER LINES WITHIN A 2 KM CORRIDOR BETWEEN GROOTPAN AND BRAKFORTEIN NEAR OGIES
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

COMMENTS AND REGISTRATION FORM

(MAY 2015)

DEA Ref No: TBA

YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full before** and return to:

Sibongile Hlomuka	Royal HaskoningDHV PO Box 867Gallo Manor,2052,Johannesburg		
	Tel	011 798 6000	
Royal HaskoningDHV	Fax	011 798 6010	
	Email	sibongile.hlomuka@rhdhv.com	

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	

What comments / concerns would you like to raise regarding this proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required)

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PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) ON THE PROJECT DATABASE:

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	
Signature			

IF YOU PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT, AND, WOULD PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT DATABASE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS (CONTACT DETAILS AS PROVIDED ABOVE).

Yes, remove my name
