
Eskom Fibre-Groblershoop Project

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 to apply for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Fibre-Groblershoop Project. The study area starts in Groblershoop and runs southeast towards the small town of Marydale in the Northern Cape Province.

The Consultants are undertaking the Basic 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 R546 (Listing Notice 3) are applicable and a Basic Assessment Report has to be compiled. This Public Participation Programme forms part thereof.

The decision-making authority for this Basic Assessment 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 impacts 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 Fibre-Groblershoop Project

PROJECT APPLICANT

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited - represented by Eskom Distribution Land Development, Western Operating Unit

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The proposed new Fibre-Groblershoop powerline forms part of a complex system in order to upgrade the electrical network within the Prieska and Groblershoop areas. Some of the lines running in this area are around 40 years old and currently in a very bad condition. A new powerline is required to connect the Groblershoop and Fibre substations. This new line route will result in bringing the substations closer to the load centres, thereby ensuring a more secure and reliable electrical load.

BASIC ASSESSMENT: LISTED ACTIVITIES

Government Notice R544 (Listing Notice 1) is applicable and a Basic Assessment Report has to be compiled. 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.

Listing Notice 3 (relevancy to be confirmed during site investigations and specialist studies)

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 entails the construction of an approximate 70km 132kV Kingbird powerline between the Fibre and Groblershoop substations.
- The Groblershoop Substation is not yet constructed but it received DEA approval from another EIA process. The Fibre Substation will be upgraded, but the footprint of the existing Fibre substation will remain the same.

PROJECT LOCALITY

The study area starts in Groblershoop and runs southeast towards the small town of Marydale in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed powerline runs along the N10 highway for most of the route.

The properties that could be directly affected by this project are:

Farm 11/2, Farm 11/10, Farm 11/14, Farm 11/1, Farm 10/10, Farm 10/8, Farm 8/5, Farm 10/5, Farm 10/6, Farm 8/1, Farm 8/2, Farm 5(rem), Farm 5/2, Farm 3/1, Farm 2(rem), Erf 2642, Farm 8/7 and Erf 1885.

SITE ALTERNATIVES

Two route alternatives are being investigated: the alternatives run on both sides of the N10 highway (please refer to the attached Route Map).

SPECIALIST STUDIES

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

- Ecological Impact Assessment
- Bird Impact Assessment
- Heritage Impact Assessment
- Aquatic Impact Assessment

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 before 30 August 2014. 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.

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT (Draft Environmental Management Plan included)

The Draft Basic Assessment Report (Draft BAR) would be compiled after the completion of the specialist studies and will contain detail about the project, the need and desirability of the project, specialist studies and other relevant information.

All comment / objections received up to this date will be addressed in the Draft BAR. This document will be made available for public input.

FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT (Final Environmental Management Plan included)

The Final BAR will contain the comment received on the Draft BAR, the consultants' responses thereto as well as any amendments that came about as a result of these comments. The Final BAR will be submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs for their perusal, comment and ultimately, the issuing of environmental authorisation for this Eskom Fibre-Groblershoop Project.

DATE OF NOTICE

This notice is being distributed in the week of 23 July 2013.

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