
Eskom Lethabong Project

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

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



**LANDSCAPE
DYNAMICS**

BACKGROUND

Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants was appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited to apply for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed Lethabong Project. The study area is located north west of Brits, south-east of the Vaalkop Dam in the Beestekraal area and in the jurisdiction of the Madibeng and Rustenburg Local Municipalities (Bojanala District Municipality), North West 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 and R546 (Listing Notice 1 & 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 Lethabong Project

PROJECT APPLICANT

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited - North West Operating Unit: Land Development

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The 11kV network in Brits needs to be strengthened in order to create capacity to accommodate new loads in the area. Numerous applications for connection were received and many of them are being rejected due to a shortage of capacity.

BASIC ASSESSMENT: LISTED ACTIVITIES

Government Notice R544 and GN 546 (Listing Notice 1 & 3) are 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;
23. The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land bigger than 1 hectare

Listing Notice 3

4. The construction of a road wider than 4 metres within a Critical Biodiversity Area

12. The clearance of an area of 300m² or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation within a Critical Biodiversity Area.
13. The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation within close proximity of a Formal Protected Area.

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 entail the following:

- The construction of the proposed Lethabong 88kV / 22kV Substation consisting of:
 - 2 X 20 MVA transformers
 - 4 X 22kV feeder bays
 - 2 X 88kV feeder bays
- An approximate 20km 88kV chickadee power line to be constructed from the Dam Switching Substation to the proposed Lethabong Substation.
- Access roads would be required in order to access the substations as well as to construct and maintain the lines in future.

PROJECT LOCALITY

The study area is located north west of Brits, south-east of the Vaalkop Dam in the Beestekraal area and in the jurisdiction of the Madibeng and Rustenburg Local Municipalities (Bojanala District Municipality), North West Province.

The potentially affected farms include numerous portions of the Farms Hartebeestfontein 228-JQ; Schietfontein 130-JQ; Tweerivier 197-JQ; Yzerfontein 198-JQ; Klipplaat 129-JQ; Beestkraal 199-JQ and Kortbegrip 201-JQ. The relevant portions would be supplied as the EIA process develops. Please refer to the attached Route and Locality Maps for more detail.

ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

Three route alternatives are being investigated. 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 (fauna, flora and aquatic features)
- Bird Impact Assessment
- Heritage 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 not later than 31 January 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) will be compiled in due course 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 Lethabong Project.

DATE OF NOTICE

This notice is being distributed in the week of 5 – 13 December 2013.

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