

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT
FOR THE 1 COLENZO/GOWRIE 88kV 2.2KM
POWERLINE DEVIATION**



Project title	1 Colenso/Gowrie 88kV 2.2km Powerline Deviation		
Application type	Basic assessment		
Competent authority	National Department of Environmental Affairs		
Municipality	Umtshezi Local municipality		
District	Uthukela District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal		
Project coordinates (Lats & Longs)	Start 29°53'25.612E 29°0'27.547S	Middle 29°53'28.557E 29°0'1.832S	End 29°52'43.041E 29°69'59.68S
Contact for registration of I&AP	Dudu Ngidi		
	Ludloko Developments		
	P.O. Box 22964		
	Southgate, Pietermaritzburg, 3200		
	Fax: 086 570 8493; Cell: 084 565 0531		
	Email: dudungidi@vodamail.co.za		
Applicant	Blurock Quarries (Pty) Ltd		

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the background information document is to inform the public about the proposed deviation of the existing 1 Colenso/Gowrie 88kV powerline to be located about 200m from its current location. The need for deviation of the powerline is to provide space for the planned expansion of Blurock Quarry. The deviation will also provide adequate space required for safe blasting distance. In addition to providing background information about the proposed project this document will provide interested and affected parties with the opportunity to:

- Register as interested and affected parties during the public participation process
- Provide comments and concerns about the proposed project and/or the environmental assessment process
- Provide suggestion towards the project
- Comment on the basic assessment report as well as the environmental management plan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Blurock quarry is proposing to deviate approximately 2.2 km of existing 1 Colenso/Gowrie 88kV powerline. The affected portion of the powerline is situated on the outskirts of the town of Estcourt. Estcourt is a town in the uThukela District of KwaZulu-Natal Province. This portion of the powerline and the proposed deviation route are situated on the east of Klein Boesman's river and north of Boesman's river. Alternative routes were considered and investigated. Figure 2 & 3 below shows ortho-photo map with alternative routes. Alternative route 1 (red route) is restricted by presence of houses. The red route will cross the river at two places. Alternative route 2 (yellow route) runs along adjacent private property. The yellow route is also long and will be costly to construct. The black route is the preferred route. The route lies within Blurock property and is preferred by the applicant. The existing route (blue route) is presently situated along land needed for expansion of the quarry. The existing route runs close to existing quarry operations. Towers range from 15m to 25m in height. The typical servitude for 88kV is 32m total width. Figure 1 shows tower types.

Table 1 Project activity description

Planned activities	Action	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dismantle 2.2km of existing Colenso/Gowrie 88kV powerline 1 between specified towers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor to dismantle the specified section of the line 	Unbolting of structures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dig holes to accommodate pile foundations for the 2.2km towers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dig holes according to engineering specification Separate topsoil and sub-soil 	Digging to be done within demarcated work area to limit disturbance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erect the new section of the dismantled powerline along the preferred route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assembling of powerline structure including stringing of conductors and earth wire 	Construction of the tower is done on the ground and is erected on the pile foundation once the foundation has been established
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose/recycle dismantled structures according to Eskom requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of dismantled material according to Eskom requirements 	Contractor to remove all dismantled material

The following activities will not be done:

- Construction of access tracks to work area as access is available
- Disturbance of the riparian areas as the preferred section of the route is located away from a nearby river

Figure 1 Tower type 248C & Milliken Suspension towers against windmill, truck and man

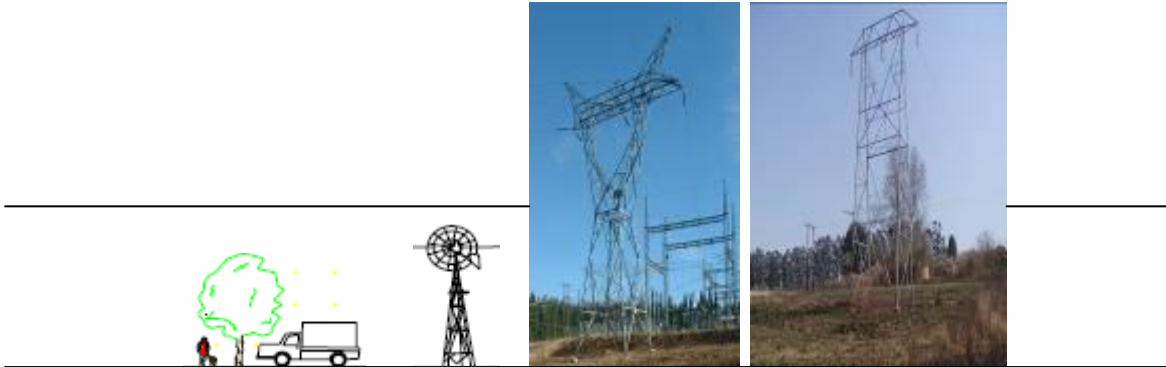


Figure 2 Ortho-photo showing alternative routes

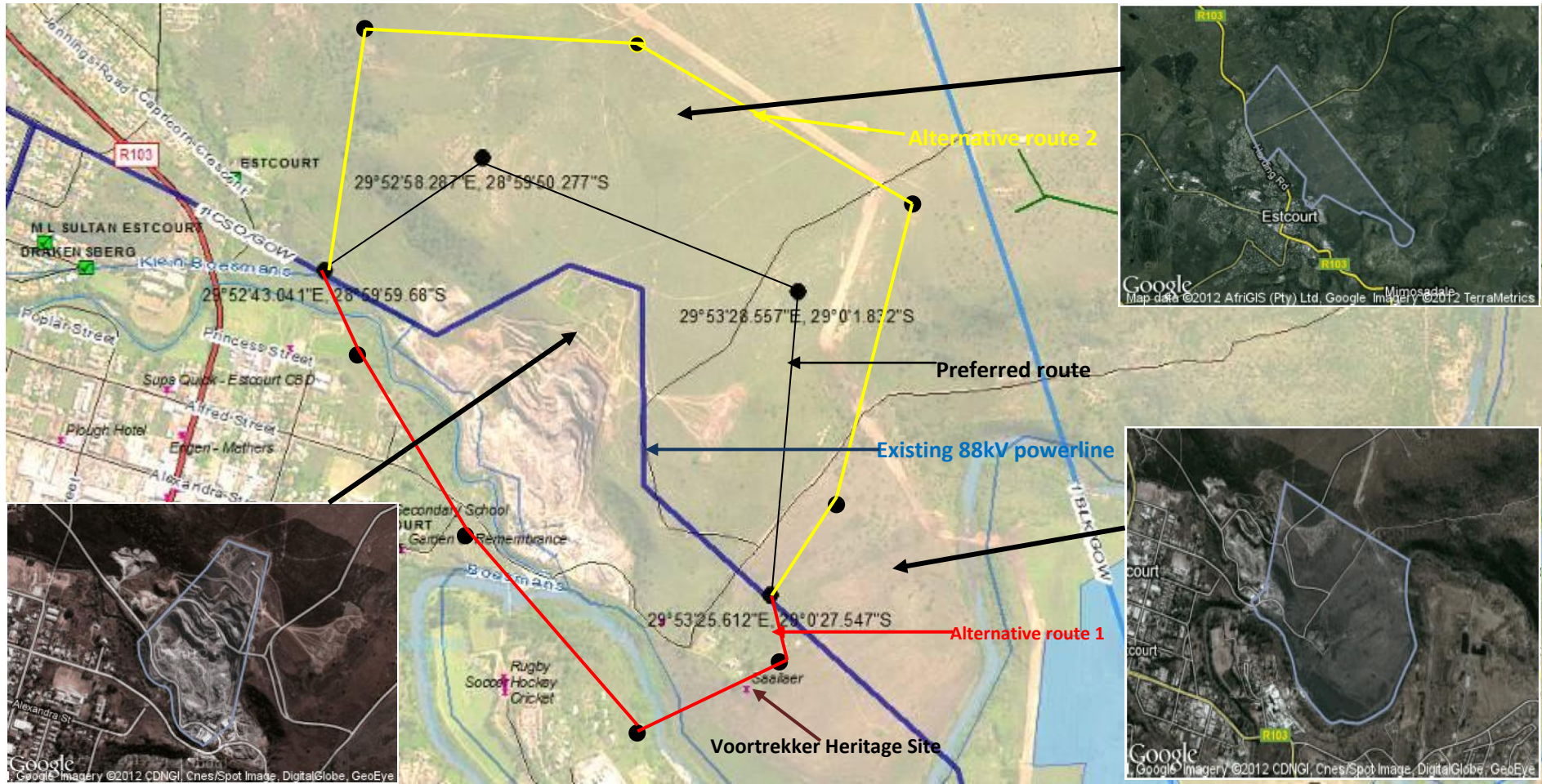


Figure 3 Google Earth Ortho-photo showing alternative routes



SITE LOCATION

Property type	Erf Number	Owner
Private	4565	Individual
Company	4563	Trust
Company	4564	Trust

PROJECT COORDINATES

	Latitude	Longitude
1	29°52'43.041"E	28°69'59.68"S
2	29°52'58.287"E	28°59'50.277"S
3	29°53'28.557"E	29°0'1.832"S

KEY LEGAL ASPECTS

The construction of an electrical power line with a capacity more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts is a listed activity that requires environmental authorisation prior to commencement of the project. Construction of the proposed 132/22 kV multi-circuit power line is an activity listed in Listing Notice 1 of GNR 544 and requires application of the procedure described in Part 2 of GNR 543 of the EIA Regulations under sections 24(5), 24M and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The procedure stipulated in Part 2 of GNR 543 describes the basic assessment process for undertaking an

SPECIALIST STUDIES

The project may require that the project alternative routes be subjected to heritage and avi-fauna impact assessment.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

1. By responding (by phone, fax or email) to the invitation for your participation which is attached and will appear in the local newspaper
2. By mailing, faxing or emailing the attached registration and comment form to Ludloko Developments consultants
3. By phoning us if you have a query, comments or requiring further information on the project
4. By commenting on the draft basic assessment report within 40 days

STEPS IN THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. Application form submitted to national department of environmental affairs
2. DEA provides a reference number
3. I&AP and relevant authorities are identified
4. A BID is prepared and distributed
5. The proposed project is advertised in local newspaper(s)
6. Basic assessment (BA) study is undertaken together with specialist studies
7. Draft copy of the BA report and a general environmental management plan are prepared
8. DEA receives the copy of the draft BA report
9. Registered I&AP are notified of the availability of the draft BA report and are notified of comment period of 40 days
10. The BA report is placed at local library or municipality
11. Comments from I&AP are sent to DEA
12. Comments submitted by I&AP and authorities are compiled into a final BA report
13. The final BA report is distributed for final comments 21 days
14. Final BA report is submitted to DEA
15. Registered I&AP are notified of DEA decision as well as appeal process of 14 days

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The proposed project will be advertised in the local newspaper and interested and affected parties can write to the consultant mentioned in the advert and enquire about the project and also express their views about the proposed project. Relevant authorities will be notified about the project. The public will be given an opportunity to attend meetings where the proposed project will be presented, explained and discussed. At these meetings the public will express their views, concerns, comments and suggestions. The basic assessment report will be made available to the public for perusal. The report will be placed at the local library or at municipality

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

Please complete and return by fax, post or by email to:

Dudu Ngidi
Ludloko Developments
P.O. Box 22964
Southgate
Pietermaritzburg
3200

Fax: 086 570 8493
Email: dudungidi@vodamail.co.za

Title (Prof/Dr./Mr/Mrs/Ms)	
First name	
Surname	
Organisation	
Postal Address	
Tel	
Fax	
Email	
Cell	

Please formally register me as an interested and affected party so that I may receive further information and notification during the BA process. Circle applicable

YES NO

I would like to receive my notification by (tick)

Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	<input type="checkbox"/>
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COMMENTS

Please write any comments, queries, concerns and suggestions you may have on the proposed project. Please use additional page, if required.