

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED 765KV CAMDEN-MBEWU (THETA) POWER LINE

DEA Ref 12/12/20/2029

DRAFT Issues and Responses Report

Version 2

This Issues and Responses Report (IRR) (Version 2) captures the comments and issues raised by stakeholders during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed 765 kV transmission line from the Camden substation near Ermelo in the east of Mpumalanga to the Mbewu (Theta) substation that will be built near Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal.

As part of the announcement, a Background Information Document (BID), with a comment and registration sheet was posted to potential interested and affected parties during October 2010. The BID was also handed out and site notices were put up during the second week of October 2010 along the various alternative corridors being investigated for this proposed development. An advertisement was also placed in various newspapers along the proposed corridors during October 2010 to announce this project.

Stakeholders were notified of the availability of the Draft Scoping Report for comment through the placement of advertisements, notification letters as well as the distribution of a technical summary of the report with a comment sheet. Comments and issues received via fax, email and post have been added to this version of the IRR.

Meetings were held to review the contents of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) from 15 to 23 November 2010 in Ermelo, Piet Retief, Volksrust, Wakkerstroom, Utrecht, Paulpietersburg, Vryheid, Black Mfolozi, Ulundi, Melmoth and Empangeni. Comments and issues raised at these meetings have also been added to this version of the IRR.

This Issues and Responses Report (IRR) will be updated as the EIA unfolds. The various issues have been categorised as follows:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	PROCESS COMMENTS	1
(1.1)	Public Participation	1
(1.2)	Alternatives.....	3
(1.3)	Technical Information.....	9
2	BIOPHYSICAL COMMENTS.....	14
(2.1)	Avi-fauna	14
(2.2)	Ecology.....	16
(2.3)	Heritage.....	16
(2.4)	Soils.....	18
(2.5)	Surface Water and Wetlands	18
(2.6)	Climate	20
3	SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMMENTS	20
(3.1)	Social.....	20
(3.2)	Land Use	24
(3.3)	Visual.....	32
(3.4)	Agriculture and Land Capability	33
(3.5)	Electromagnetic Fields.....	34
(3.6)	Infrastructure	36
(3.7)	Economic / Compensation	38
4	POST EIA COMMENTS	43
(4.1)	Construction	43
5	OTHER	44
(5.1)	Eskom related comments	44

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
1	PROCESS COMMENTS			
(1.1) Public Participation				
1	Some of my neighbours such as the Mdaki family are illiterate and someone should visit them to write down their issues and comments. These Zulu-speaking families will also be hesitant to attend a 18:00 meeting in the town hall, because they live several kilometres away would not want to walk back home in the dark.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 16 October in response to the BID.	Noted. A social impact assessment will be done during this EIA and the Zitholele Consulting team will also visit this area.
2	Did you invite the local municipality to this meeting? The Richards Bay Economic Development Zone (EDZ) should also attend these meetings as well as Transnet and the Department of Agriculture.	Mr Frans van der Walt, Chairperson, uThungulu Strategic Development Committee, PO Box 10376, Meerense, 3901	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	All the organisations mentioned have been invited to this meeting. From experience it is very seldom that authorities will attend a meeting during the Scoping phase. Eskom met with the EDZ two months ago. All future energy needs of the EDZ have been included in the future needs of Richards Bay which has already been given to Eskom.
3	The next meeting should not be in Ulundi, but in the Babanango Valley, because people living in towns are not affected by these power lines. Rather have the meeting near farmers who will have the lines on their properties.	Mr Eric Buthelezi, landowner and emCakwini Trust, PO Box 75, Babanango, 3850	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Ulundi on 22 November 2010	Noted. Should venues be available in the Babanango Valley area, meetings in the Impact Assessment Phase will be held there.
4	In order for land owners to comment they need to have a clear map of where the proposed line will cross their property. Detailed information has not reached landowners as yet.	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykrust farm, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Werner Weber, Mooihoek and Oogle farm, PO Box 222, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Theo du Plessis, Edinburgh, Boommoord and Idalia farms, PO Box 396, Carolina, 1185 P Keeve, Manager Forestry and Timber Processing, TWK, PO Box 128, Piet Retief, 2380	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	Any landowner that wishes to receive such detailed information can contact Zitholele Consulting. At the public meeting Zitholele Consulting undertook to send detailed information to the agricultural union for further distribution to their members. It was noted that the shape files of alternative routes were sent to several forestry companies that requested the information.
5	Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are required to participate in the EIA process.	Ms Quzette Bosman, Mkhondo Resident, Private Bag X5022, Piet Retief	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	Several NGOs such as the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), GroundWork, Earthlife and others have been invited to participate in the process. Comments have also been received from these organisations.
6	Will the municipality have another opportunity to comment on the process?	Mr Leon Grove, Pixley Ka Seme Municipality, Private Bag X 9011, Volksrust, 2470	Public meeting held on 16 November 2010 at 14:00 in Volksrust	Stakeholders have the following opportunities to comment: a) On the Draft Scoping Report until 8 December 2010 b) On the Final Scoping Report early in 2011 c) On the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in March 2011 d) On the Final EIR in April/May 2011 e) Stakeholders can appeal the Environmental Authorisation (EA) that will be issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
7	In which newspapers were the meetings advertised?	Mr Hans Wischhausen, Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	The meetings were advertised in: Ekasi News, Highveld Tribune, Ermelo Farmer, Northern Natal Courier, Recorder Cosmos News, Inkanyezi, Vryheid Herald, Excelsior News, Umlozi Wezindaba, Zululand Observer, eShowe Watch, Zululand Fever, Beeld and Isolezwe.

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8	We have a very negative perception about the EIA process. We believe that public involvement is just for show since Eskom as a parastatal and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) have already decided what should happen with regards to this process. Why would government have such an "open" process whereby the public could have a say? The EIA process allows for the public to provide their comments. In previous processes we have made recommendations that were considered in the process.	Mr R van Ryneveld, PO Box 158, Wakkerstroom, 2480	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	The EIA process provides opportunities for all stakeholders to provide their comments at several intervals. Once the DEA has taken a decision based on the recommendation that the public had inputs into, the decision can be appealed by any registered stakeholder, Eskom or Zitholele as the consultant.
9		Mr John Harrison, Resident Wakkerstroom	Public meeting held on 18 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	The objective of public participation in an EIA is to ensure that the public's comments and inputs are considered with regards to the recommendations made to the Department of Environmental Affairs.
10	The Eskom / Zitholele team should come back to this area and explain the information to the Traditional Leader Mr Douglas Zondo.	Mr Mathunga Masondo, Swart Mfolozi	Public meeting held on 18 November 2010 at 14:00 in Swart Mfolozi	Mr Douglas Zondo was instrumental in the arrangements for the public meeting that took place on 18 November 2010. On the same date however the MEC for Economic Development and the MEC for Agriculture visited the area and Mr Zondo could not attend the public meeting. He is however well informed and the members of the community attending the public meeting said that they will meet with him on 25 November 2010 to brief him on the discussions of the meeting. The Eskom / Zitholele team will again visit the area in March 2011 when the contents of the Environmental Impact Report will be reviewed during public meetings. It was arranged that any community member can take their comment sheets to Karlien at the shop who will post all comment sheets to Zitholele before 8 December 2010 when comments are due on the Draft Scoping Report.
11	Provide proof that local authorities and related infrastructure planning departments have been consulted to ensure that local, regional and national governmental planning is co-operative.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	The list of stakeholders consulted is an appendix to the Final Scoping Report.
12	A concern is raised regarding the Application reference number. During the public meeting as well as on the various sets of information received – reference is made to two different authoritative reference numbers. The one referring mostly to the initial project public advertisements – please refer to the BID dated October 2010 as handed out during the meeting of the 16th of November 2010 (Ref 12/12/20/1776). While the other number appears on the Draft Scoping Report (Ref 12/12/20/2029).	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	The correct number is indeed (Ref 12/12/20/2029). The other number is incorrect.
13	Lion Match (Pty) Ltd owns various farm portions in the vicinity of the proposed AP alignment. Make sure that they are informed of the proposed project.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
14	Many of the possibly affected properties have established homesteads and most have related graves. Please clarify: a. How these possibly affected people will be notified and their concerns noted. Please further provide proof of consultation (including ward councillors and CPA's)	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382 Mr Tl Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	The list of stakeholders consulted is an appendix to the Final Scoping Report. The project was announced in October 2010 and advertisements were placed in the newspapers listed in point 7 above. BIDs were printed, hand delivered, posted and emailed to all on the stakeholder list. The meetings held to discuss the Draft Scoping Report were advertised in the same newspapers as mentioned in point 7. A specialist will be undertaking a Phase 1 heritage assessment where graves will be identified. Any stakeholder has the right to comment and provide their concerns at any stage during the EIA project.

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15	The main railway line between Richards Bay and the Mpumalanga Coal fields is located on various portions of possibly affected properties. Please clarify: a. Whether Spoornet has been consulted	Retief, 2380 Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380 GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382 Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Proof of liaison with ward councillors and CPA's are appended to the Final Scoping Report. Yes, please refer to the list of stakeholders consulted – it is attached as an appendix to the Final Scoping Report.
7	An established Communal Property Association (Ezakheni Communal Property Association) owns a portion of a portion of 13 of the farm Rustplaats. It is recommended that consultation be conducted with the established Ezakheni CPA committee as soon as possible. Please provide proof of such consultation.	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	Contact was established with Mr Shongwe of the Ezakheni CPA and the necessary information was sent to them on 12 January 2010.
8	Has SANRAL been consulted?	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	Yes, please refer to the list of stakeholders consulted – it is attached as an appendix to the Final Scoping Report.
9	We further wish to place on record that we have not received the detail maps for the above mentioned properties as promised during the public meeting. Because of this we may not have included all the matters that we would have wished to be included in your scoping. We wish to reserve our rights in this regard.	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	A full set of maps (shape files and google earth) was sent on 29 November 2010 to Ms Quzette Bosman that was appointed by yourselves to act on your behalf.
10	We have not received the minutes of the public meeting we attended during which many aspects were raised by those present.	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	At the meeting it was clarified that minutes will not be taken, but that all comments, issues and questions will be captured in the Issues and Response Report, which will form part of the final Scoping Report to be submitted to DEA for authorisation. The final scoping report will also be available on Eskom's website (www.eskom.co.za/eia)
(1.2) Alternatives				
1	The Eskom servitude through the Utrecht area was used for the line from the Matuba Power Station to Richards Bay.	Mr Robert Stannard, Chairperson, Utrecht Farmer's Association	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	Noted. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation. It is however important to note that Eskom would like to ensure that the new 765kV power line is not located close to existing power lines in order to ensure reliability. If a natural disaster occurs it may potentially affect all power lines located in close proximity to each other. Additionally this alternative is located near a koppie to the north with a game farm / nature reserve however the alternative will be aligned to avoid this sensitivity by moving slightly south of the koppie. Please refer to Alternative S(bc) on the updated map. "S" denotes

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2	We prefer Route OI to the east of Melmoth, because it misses most of the plantations and sugar cane areas.	All the stakeholders attending the meeting.	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	stakeholder alternative" and "(bc)" denotes that it is close to Alternative BC. Noted. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation. It is important to note that this alternative runs through areas with Rhino habitat, sensitive vegetation and Red Data species. Additionally this alternative will result in the relocation of hundred of people. Please refer to Alternative S(oj) on the updated map. "S" denotes stakeholder alternative" and "(oj)" denotes that it is close to Alternative OI.
3	This EIA should also investigate the use of underground electric cables in sensitive areas such as game parks.	Mr Frans van der Walt, Chairperson, uThungulu Strategic Development Committee, PO Box 10376, Meerensee, 3901	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Underground cables are much more expensive than conventional power lines and nothing may be planted or placed on top of these servitudes. A 400 kV line is the largest ever to be used underground and nobody has yet attempted to use a 765 kV line underground. This risk is simply too high. Additionally the servitude required for underground cables is larger than above ground power lines.
4	Are underground cables being considered as an alternative to aboveground transmission lines?	Mr Johan Schuinz	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	Underground cables are not being considered due to the following reasons: a) It is far too expensive – it will cost almost 20 times more than above ground lines. b) Underground cables are not yet been manufactured to handle 765kV c) The length of the proposed line makes underground cabling impractical.
5	This EIA should investigate an alternative route to the north that avoids the sugar cane and timber. During the previous EIA for a 765 kV line we were told it is impossible to suggest an alternative route.	Mr Gerry Barry, Tongaat Hulett Sugar, Private Bag X02, Felixton, 3875	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Stakeholders can propose alternative routes. These routes will then be screened to assess any fatal flaws. If no fatal flaws are present the alternative will be carried through into the EIA. Consultants should encourage stakeholders to propose alternatives as stakeholders have historical knowledge and a better understanding of the areas where they live. It is, however, not viable to exchange one set of impacts for something similar when moving an alternative. From an biophysical perspective it makes sense to have a line going through sugar cane and forestry plantations, because the areas has already been impacted upon. However the social impact may be higher. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation. It is however important to note that Eskom would like to ensure that the new 765kV power line is not located close to existing power lines in order to ensure reliability. If a natural disaster occurs it may potentially affect all power lines located in close proximity to each other. Additionally, it is important to note that this alternative runs through areas with Rhino habitat, sensitive vegetation and Red Data species. Please refer to Alternative S(ij) on the updated map. "S" denotes stakeholder alternative" and "(ij)" denotes that it is close to Alternative I.J.
6	The route running to the north of Empangeni shows that you do not know the lay of the land.	Various stakeholders	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	A high level assessment has been done to date, because we are in the very beginning of the process and the specialist studies have not yet done on this route. Thus far a helicopter fly-over was done, Google Earth was used and other maps were studied. Detailed information on the area will be presented in the next phase of the project. Any comments from the stakeholders on the nature of the land in this

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<p>7 If you want to avoid any dwellings inside the Wakkerstroom town boundary, then move the proposed BK route 2 km east along the R543 towards Piet Retief. This will give you a route with open fields, but obstacles will then be game fences and wetlands. You would still get complaints from the Wetlands Game Ranch (situated on Oudehoudraai 123HT) and strong objections from Birdlife SA regarding the endangered Crane flight path and nesting issues.</p>	<p>Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom</p>	<p>Email on 16 October in response to the BID.</p>	<p>area would be appreciated, as the public participation aims to get as many issues and inputs, that will help with this EIA process. Thank you for the information. An effort has been made to avoid as many sensitivities as possible during the corridor selection process. The corridors are based on economic, environmental, and social criteria. An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.</p>
<p>8 I need more information regarding route NO, because it will affect me. My farm is in an inaccessible area and I suggest moving the route to follow the Mahlabatini Road</p>	<p>Mr CMF van der Walt, PO Box 640, Vryheid, 3100</p>	<p>Written response to BID in October 2010.</p>	<p>Noted. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation. It is however important to note that Eskom would like to ensure that the new 765kV power line is not located close to existing power lines in order to ensure reliability, if a natural disaster occurs it may potentially affect all power lines located in close proximity to each other. However this alternative is a good route in terms of avoiding buildings. Please refer to <i>Alternative S(no2) on the updated map. "S" denotes stakeholder alternative</i> and <i>"(no2)" denotes that it is close to Alternative NO.</i></p>
<p>9 Why is it not possible to build lines from Pinetown to Richards Bay?</p>	<p>Mr Richard Dinkelmann landowner, PO Box 107, Melmoth, 3835</p>	<p>Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010</p>	<p>Eskom looks at the shortest possible route, with the least impact to keep costs down. The proposed route is also needed to strengthen the whole grid in KZN. All the electricity to one area cannot be transported with one line. Should a veld fire or a breakdown cancel out one line, then an important area such as Empangeni and Richards Bay could then be supplied by an alternative line. The two lines should be seen as back-up to each other. Richards Bay needs more electricity, because international companies will only invest there if the reliability of the electricity supply has been guaranteed. This new road is still too far in the distance and the line needs to be built as soon as possible.</p>
<p>10 One of the main roads being planned for northern KwaZulu-Natal is a new road that will link Empangeni with Gauteng. Why not build the proposed line next to the route of this road?</p>	<p>Mr Frans van der Walt, Chairperson, uThungulu Strategic Development Committee, PO Box 10376, Meerensee, 3901</p>	<p>Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010</p>	<p>Eskom in principle would prefer the shortest route option due to the costs; however Eskom is sensitive to the environmental, social and economic impacts that a proposed transmission line may have and is thus following a legitimate and transparent EIA process which considers all the potential impacts. Eskom abides by the Environmental Authorisation which in many previous instances has not recommended the shortest route.</p>
<p>11 Which of the alternatives is the preferred option for Eskom? If Eskom has a preferred alternative, please disclose it.</p>	<p>Mr Norman Grey, Resident Wakkerstroom Mr Mike Bartolo, Wakkerstroom resident</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom. Email received on 18 November 2010</p>	<p>The following criteria is used in the selection of alternative routes as per page 2 of the Background Information Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise visual impacts, especially over mountainous terrain. • Avoid, where possible sudden changes in the topography such as valley-mountain interfaces. • Avoid unstable geological and soil areas. • Avoid, where possible areas with severe sheet and gully erosion and overgrazed areas. • Avoid where possible sensitive bird areas including foraging, roosting and nesting sites.
<p>12 What are the criteria or the considerations given in selecting alternative routes for such high voltage transmission lines?</p>	<p>Ms Ann Cheal, Wakkerstroom resident, Po Box 216, Wakkerstroom Mr Holger Eckhardt, landowner Jachtidrift, PO Box 704, Paul Pietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p>	<p>The following criteria is used in the selection of alternative routes as per page 2 of the Background Information Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise visual impacts, especially over mountainous terrain. • Avoid, where possible sudden changes in the topography such as valley-mountain interfaces. • Avoid unstable geological and soil areas. • Avoid, where possible areas with severe sheet and gully erosion and overgrazed areas. • Avoid where possible sensitive bird areas including foraging, roosting and nesting sites.

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13	Several alternatives for transmission lines have been proposed for the Wakkerstroom area. This area is a very sensitive birding area and has in all previous EIAs been found not to be suitable for the purpose of constructing of transmission lines. Why do we have to go through this process again, after it has been scientifically investigated not to be a good option?	Residents of Wakkerstroom	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid where possible sensitive nature reserves and wildlife areas. • Avoid where possible wetlands. • Avoid where possible areas of human habitation. • Avoid where possible industrial and mining areas. <p>The Wakkerstroom area has been on route for several transmission lines which have to be constructed. The area remains a possible option for the construction of a transmission line should it be possible to avoid the sensitive bird habitats.</p>
14	The alternative route presented for the Utrecht area follows the alignment of the existing 765kV route in some areas and in some not – why is that? Why can the new proposed route not be aligned with the corridor of the existing 765kV line? We propose that an additional alternative be investigated – one that will be completely aligned with the existing 765kV line.	Mr Robert Stannard, Utrecht Farmer's Association, PO Box 31, Utrecht, 2980	Public meeting held on 17 November at 08:30 in Utrecht Email received in response to the DSR on 15 Dec 2010.	<p>Noted. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation. It is however important to note that Eskom would like to ensure that the new 765kV power line is not located close to existing power lines in order to ensure reliability. If a natural disaster occurs it may potentially affect all power lines located in close proximity to each other.</p> <p>Additionally Alternative S(de) is an area sensitive to Oribi (should not be problematic for a power line). For information on Alternative S(bc) please refer to comment 1 of this section.</p> <p>Please refer to Alternative S(bc) and S(de) on the updated map. "S" denotes "stakeholder alternative" and "(bc)" and "(de)" denote that it is close to Alternative BC or DE.</p>
15	The official comment from the Utrecht Farmer's Association is that through the Utrecht District the Farmer's Association would request that the new proposed powerline follows the same route as the other 765 kv line, i.e. BC, CD and DE, with the alteration of BC to match that of the original line. The farmers and tourism stakeholders definitely strongly object to the proposed KD line, as this would pass through the most scenic part of the district and detract from many tourism facilities in the area. As well as have detrimental impact on rare bird life such as blue cranes and crowned cranes, denhams bustards, blue Korhaans and numerous other species found in this area.	Ralf Kusel, landowner of Weibedacht, PO Box 160, Paul Pietersburg, 3180	Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg	<p>One of the objectives of the process in scoping is to assess the alternatives and to make recommendations for changes to existing alternatives or to bring into the process additional alternatives. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation. It is however important to note that Eskom would like to ensure that the new 765kV power line is not located close to existing power lines in order to ensure reliability. If a natural disaster occurs it may potentially affect all power lines located in close proximity to each other.</p> <p>Please refer to Alternative S(arm) on the updated map. "S" denotes stakeholder alternative" and "(arm)" denotes that it is close to Alternative AM.</p>
16	Can the alternatives presented be changed to include additional alternatives? If so, add as an additional alternative a route that is aligned with the 400kV line in the vicinity of the AM and AP alternatives.	Mr Kerneels van der Walt, landowner, PO Box 640, Vryheid	Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid	<p>Noted. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation. It is however important to note that Eskom would like to ensure that the new 765kV power line is not located close to existing power lines in order to ensure reliability. If a natural disaster occurs it may potentially affect all power lines located in close proximity to each other. However this alternative is a good route in terms of avoiding buildings.</p> <p>Please refer to Alternative S(no2) on the updated map. "S" denotes stakeholder alternative" and "(no2)" denotes that it is close to Alternative NO.</p>
17	Proposed routes should be aligned with farm boundaries. Transmission lines on tribal land will have a far less impact than on game farms.	Mr Kerneels van der Walt, landowner, PO Box 640, Vryheid	Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid	<p>Noted. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation.</p>

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<p>18 Point 5.6 (pg.71) Conservation Areas and Tourism, there is only a 1.5 km gap between the Wakkerstroom Campsite and Oude-outraai conservation areas. And in fact the Wakkerstroom Wetland Reserve and the Wakkerstroom Campsite/Martins Dam are part of the same unit, although described separately. In addition the whole of Marthinus Wesselstroom is being declared a conservation area as we speak in order to allow the proclamation of the greater Ramsar site to proceed. Ekangala Grasslands Trust can give you more current info (Angus Burns). These two matters would change the shape and size of "Green Areas" as shown on your map.</p>	<p>Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom and an email received in response to the DSR on 16 November 2010</p>	<p>The alternative is shorter and crosses over grazing and game farm areas. It is also located near a populated area, Nhlazatshe. Please refer to Alternative S(not) on the updated map. "S" denotes stakeholder alternative" and "(not)" denotes that it is close to Alternative NO.</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>19 What are the possibilities of upgrading existing 400kV lines to 765kV lines? Can the same servitude be used?</p>	<p>Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom Mr Holger Eckhardt, landowner, Jachtdrift, PO Box 704, Paul Pietersburg, 3180 Mr Jan Van Romburg, Silverton, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p>	<p>The current 400kV lines cannot be upgraded to 765kV lines due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eskom needs all the current 400kV lines in their power network to ensure sufficient power to users. • The width of the servitude required for a 765kV line is broader, thus additional land will still be required. • The pylons will have to be replaced (switched off and decommissioned) since a 765kV line requires larger infrastructure.
<p>20 Can the existing infrastructure (pylons) not be changed to accommodate more conductors/circuits so that 400kV and 765kV lines can be supported by the same infrastructure in the same servitudes?</p>	<p>Mr Louis Hoffmann, Eagle Ranch, PO Box 334, Wakkerstroom Mr Harald Niebuhr, landowner of Vlakfontein and Ontevrede, PO Box 5 Paul Pietersburg, 3185</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p>	<p>This is not possible due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The electromagnetic fields of 400kV and 765kV lines on the same infrastructure will not be allowed due to safety reasons • The power network in South Africa is not capable of allowing a disruption of an entire 400kV line for any reason. • The risk of having two major transmission lines on the same infrastructure is too high – e.g. if lightning strikes the interruption will cause havoc
<p>21 Can the new proposed 765kV line run parallel with other existing lines such as the existing 400kV line in the Paul Pietersburg area?</p>	<p>Mr Ralf Küsel, landowner of Weibedacht, PO Box 160, Paul Pietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p>	<p>In principle lines can run parallel if the necessary servitudes are allowed, however Eskom prefers for the lines to be well apart due to common causes of failure, e.g. fire that poses a high risk to the network. This alternative is running parallel to the Normandie – Umfolozi 400kV existing powerline.</p>
<p>22 Many thousands of tons of coal is transported to Richards Bay for export, why can a power station not be built there to prevent such long power lines from the Highveld?</p>	<p>Ralf Küsel, landowner of Weibedacht, PO Box 160, Paul Pietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p>	<p>The coal transported to Richards Bay is for the export market and is a much higher quality coal than used in power stations. Coal producers sell the coal for ten times the price than what Eskom pays for lower grade coal.</p>
<p>23 Why don't you divert alternative GH to the south, that way you will avoid the sugar cane farmers.</p>	<p>All the stakeholders attending the meeting</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 23 November to discuss DSR</p>	<p>Noted. This alternative has been added for consideration to the investigation. The alternative is located in a very hilly area and runs between Mooipleas and Matshenezimpi Nature Reserves and avoids sugar cane and timber plantations. Please refer to Alternative S(gh) on the updated map. "S" denotes stakeholder alternative" and "(gh)" denotes that it is close to Alternative GH.</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
24	Alternative BK is not advisable due to the environmental impact with specific reference to the impact of disturbance on invasive alien plants. The Department of Water Affairs has invested over a R 1 million in this area over the past five years.	Ms Kathleen Saunders, Department of Water Affairs, Private Bag X11259, Nelspruit, 1200	Comment sheet in response to the BID in November 2010	Invasive alien vegetation only takes place if vegetation is removed and not rehabilitated properly. Eskom does not intend to remove vegetation in the servitude other than large trees and areas where the pylon footings are placed. Proper rehabilitation measures will be outlined in the EMPProg to ensure that alien invasive plants are minimal.
25	Route AM is located on the periphery of the recently declared Kwamandlangampisi Protected Environment (KPE) – declared September 2010 and should not go through the declared area due to its biodiversity value and beauty. The proposed AM line would also impact on future expansions of the KPE and thus should not be located anywhere near the Luneburg area. Proposed alignment AM and AP are in close proximity to the Nkangala Grasslands Project as driven by the World Wide Fund For Nature in Partnership with SANBI. These alignments are further proposed over a protected area known as Kwamandlangampisi. The AP and PO routes should be avoided and alternatives need to be found.	Mr Angus Burns, WWF-SA (Enkangala Grasslands Project), PO Box 21106, Newcastle, 2940 GCS on behalf of the Piet Relief Agricultural Union Mr Kuno August Engelbrecht, PO Box 224, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Rolf Michael Bohmer, Rondekopje, PO Box 824, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Frits W Klingenberg, Ostberg, Morgenson, Wonderfontein, Vlijoensrust, PO Box 310, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Viakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment sheet in response to the BID in November 2010 Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Thank you for your inputs, this will taken into consideration during the impact assessment phase.
26	The route proposed through the town Wakerstroom – route BK – is of serious concern given that the town is an international tourist destination and is thus reliant on the self evident natural beauty and viable bird populations that draw such tourists. This proposed route has major implications for the only established tourism destination in the Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality and must be avoided at all costs. The area is also earmarked for further protected area expansion in the near future and thus best be avoided. The power line route through Volksrust – route BC – is probably the best alternative at this point, pending the further detailed studies.	Mr Angus Burns, WWF-SA (Enkangala Grasslands Project), PO Box 21106, Newcastle, 2940	Comment sheet in response to the BID in November 2010	Thank you for your inputs, this will taken into consideration.
27	Proposed alignment AM and AP are located over an catchment which has been classed as irreplaceable in term of aquatic biodiversity (Please refer to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Conservation Plan).	GCS on behalf of the Piet Relief Agricultural Union.	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Thank you for your inputs, this will taken into consideration during the impact assessment phase.
28	Is coal fired power stations the only alternative? What about the drive for sustainable cleaner alternative energy that will reduce global warming. Camden is an old power station. Will a power station closer to the area where power is required not be a more effective option?	Mr Ralf Gevers, Vaderland, Knooppaan, PO Box 745, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Carl Hinze, Knooppaan, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Frits W Klingenberg, Ostberg, Morgenson, Wonderfontein, Vlijoensrust,	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	This is being dealt with by the Department of Energy and the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa (NERSA).

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
		PO Box 310, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Vlakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Kuno August Engelbrecht, PO Box 224, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Carl Hinze, Knooppaan, Paulpietersburg, 3180		
29	The Knooppaan community requests that the line's route be reconsidered due to the following: Two schools are in the proposed path of the power line More than 50 families in the Knooppaan community would need new homes away from the danger and the noise associated with a power line The community will draw no benefit from the proposed line – no jobs and the same expensive price for electricity The power line brings with it a huge fire hazard as it is surrounded by plantations.		Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Thank you for your inputs, this will taken into consideration.
30	What will be the noise impact associated with the line? We do not want a noisy line close to us.	Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welvediend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Frits W Klingenberg, Ostberg, Morgenson, Wonderfontein, Viljoensrust, PO Box 310, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Rolf Michael Bohmer, Rondekopje, PO Box 824, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mt RF Johannes, Welvediend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Paul Lourens, Driefontein and Utizigt, PO Box 2002, Vryheid, 3100	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	The proposed noise impact will adhere to the national standards.
31	Build the proposed line on the grass plains.		Fax on 11 January 2011 in response to DSR	Noted
(1.3) Technical Information				
1	Will the servitude be two kilometres wide?	Mr Richard Dinkelmann landowner, PO Box 107, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	The area to be investigated during this EIAs is two kilometres wide. The eventual servitude will be 94 m or 104 m in forestry areas.
2	Why do we have to deal with a new consultancy again? Eskom should appoint one consultant to do all the EIAs in one specific area.	Mr Patrick Addison, landowner Addison Farm, PO Box 133, Empangeni, 3880 And other stakeholders.	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Eskom has to undertake a tender process for each EIA and therefore evaluates proposals submitted by environmental consultants on a project specific basis.
3	Consultants such as Karin Bowler have recently done EIA's for	Mr Frans van der Wall,	Meeting to discuss	Zitholele Consulting received all relevant data from Eskom regarding EIAs

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
Eskom in this region with data that could assist this EIA.	Chairperson, uThungulu Strategic Development Committee, PO Box 10376, Meerensee, 3901	the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	done for them in the vicinity of the proposed routes. This information will be taken into consideration.
4 What type of agricultural area is preferred for a transmission line – sugar cane or a game farm?	Mr Greg Nelson, landowner GSA Farm, Riverside Estate, Nutman's Hill, PO Box 143, Empangeni, 3980 Various stakeholders	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	It is impossible to answer, because there are various factors that are investigated during the EIA process. This will be illustrated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report
5 Would specialist assessments be conducted on all the alternative routes?	Mr Johan Celliers, Weltevreden Farm, PO Box 1136, Ermelo 2350	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	Specialist assessments will be conducted on all the alternatives. These studies will provide the baseline information according to which a decision is made for the preferred alternative. The studies will be completed by March 2011 and stakeholders will have the opportunity to review the reports as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
6 Which activities are applied for in this EIA?	Mr Andries van Rensburg, TLU Eastern Region and Natal Postnet Suite 1268, Private Bag X9013, Ermelo, 2350	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	The activities applied for are listed in the BID and Draft Scoping Report. In terms of Government Notice (GN) R. 545 of 2010, the following listed activity requires that a full EIA be undertaken and are applicable to this proposed project: Activity 8: The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275kV or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex. In terms of GN R. 544 of 2010 the following activities are also included: Activity 10, 22, 24, 26, 38 and 47.
7 Specialists will not be allowed on farms without them following the necessary protocol of at least first calling the farm owner before access. Should the farm owner be difficult to reach, the chairperson of the relevant agricultural union should be contacted.	Mr Andries van Rensburg, TLU Eastern Region and Natal Postnet Suite 1268, Private Bag X9013, Ermelo, 2350	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	Specialists will observe and follow the necessary protocol.
8 When will stakeholders know which of the alternatives are preferred for the proposed 765kV line.	Mr Zakheleli Kunene, Swart Mfolozi	Public meeting held on 18 November 2010 at 14:00 in Swart Mfolozi	It is anticipated that the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) would provide their decision around July to August 2011.
9 Similar studies proposed for this project were conducted in 2006 by BKS for a high voltage transmission line. Zitholele Consulting is urged to refer to these studies as part of the information gathering for this particular study.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom and Kristi Garland from Bridliffe South Africa	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	Noted.
10 Include all other Eskom transmission lines on the maps.	Mr Waido Hein, landowner of Goedgelooft, PO Box 450 Vryheid, 3100	Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid	Noted
11 Regarding your list of Affected Properties Under your listing of affected properties there is no latest data shown regarding the properties listed under Marthinus Wesselstroom 121 HT. Some of the portion numbers and therefore their ownership info that has been published in your list is either no longer valid or out of date. Accordingly you may be assuming unspecified portions to be under Seme Council, in the case of municipal townlands, instead of actual private ownership, size, use etc. Anyway some of the portion numbers shown no longer exist or are now part of larger portion numbers.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom and an email received in response to the DSR on 16 November 2010	Noted

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
	<p>For example my property portion 131 is not listed in your list. Prior to 2003 part of it was listed as portion 61 which you show, to which was added portion 130 in 2003, the two jointly registered since 2003 as one portion in the deeds office as portion 131 and is not listed in your list.</p> <p>Similarly, my fence neighbours at the Weavers Nest Hotel/Country Village site is also made up into a new 25ha portion, consisting of the former 20ha portion 103 plus the original smaller 4ha portion of which I do not have the info.</p> <p>Similarly my other neighbour across the road which was portion 22 of only 4Ha now 25ha consisting of a new larger entity which includes also the 20ha portion 129. I do not know what that larger 25ha portion number is.</p> <p>I suspect therefore that this situation exists at other smallholdings because owners were all given options in 2003 to purchase an additional 20Ha from the Council, to make their smallholdings sizes up to 25Ha, some accepted, some did not take the offer up. So your data may still only show old 4Ha portions, no longer valid due to the redevelopment of the area since 2003 and therefore not showing developments.</p>			
12	<p>Looking at the drawing on pg 87 of the DSR at the Volksrust corridor area there is a red line indicating a 765kV line from Majuba power station crossing the R543 Volksrust/Wakkerstroom road, which we know about.</p> <p>Is the red line on the drawing masking a 400kV yellow line which lies underneath it?</p> <p>At a site inspection three power lines, a 400kV right next to a new 765kV, and a third one, other 400kV line which lies 2 kms away, closer to Volksrust all running parallel into Natal.</p> <p>There is a 2km gap between the two 400kV lines, no other line in-between them. The new 765 kV line is on the Wakkerstroom side of one 400 kV line.</p> <p>This gap may provide a suitable pathway for a second 765kV line inside that corridor.</p> <p>That corridor also provides a very favourable descent path into Natal, running smoothly downhill, rather than the more abrupt escarpment alternatives elsewhere and lots of serviceable access roads.</p>	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom and an email received in response to the DSR on 26 November 2010	No.
13	<p>How far apart from each other can transmission lines be constructed?</p>	Mr Corne Meyer, Farm Assegai, PO Box 1968, Piet Retief, 2380	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	Lines can be constructed between 50 and 80 metres apart, depending on the size of the line and its pylons. This distance allows for the necessary safety precautions.
14	<p>Can lines not be constructed on top of each other on the same pylon?</p>	Mr Heinz Bencke, Mooihoek, PO Box 218, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Corne Meyer, Plaas Assegai, PO Box 1968, Piet Retief, 2380	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	<p>This has never been done before due to the following reasons:</p> <p>a) During construction the existing line will have to be disrupted which will cause long-term power cuts</p> <p>b) It will not be cost effective due to the proposed height of the towers and the bigger foundations that will be necessary</p> <p>c) Wider servitudes will have to be negotiated</p> <p>d) It poses serious safety concerns to have too many conductors per pylon.</p>
15	<p>Most of the general issues and concerns have been addressed in the DSR. Specific issues pertaining to our landholding, timber and servitudes will be addressed in due course.</p>	Mr Theo du Plessis, Edinburgh, Boommoord and Idalla farms, PO Box 396,	Comment sheet received in response to the DSR	Noted

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
16	We would like to know if impacts on bats could be an issue in terms of the "humming" (described as a noise impact) and the electro-magnetic fields associated with high voltage lines.	Carolina, 1185 Ms Carolyn Schwegman EIA Co-ordinator, WESSA KZN, PO Box 343, Pennington, 4184	Comment received in response to the DSR	An avi-fauna and EMF assessment will be undertaken in the Impact Assessment Phase of the project.
17	<p>In terms of impacts on agricultural enterprises the following mitigation provided in similar Eskom projects are of value –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if possible, align the proposed transmission line to cross forestry plantations and farms (a) next to their borders to reduce the affected area under crop or forestry and/or (b) along the area of the farm that is not used for any economic activity. - If possible, give preference of the corridor over the large-scale farms rather than small-scale farms to minimise the impact on small-scale farmers who are more susceptible to the loss of area under cultivation. - if possible, prioritise the corridor over farms where the transmission line would cross the farm in the width rather than in the length to allocate the adverse effects over a number of farms rather than clustering them on one farm, posing a threat to its viability. - Encourage farmers, and if possible, assist them financially and through training to engage in other crop cultivation within the servitude, to increase the production output and income from the land. - Routing of the transmission line could be done in such a way as to avoid traversing agricultural land in the middle minimising the area that will need to be cleared out of crops and forestry plantations. - Where avoidance of agricultural land is impossible, farmers could be assisted with the establishment of alternative crops should it be required within the servitude to be able to still receive income from the land. - Careful selection of tower positions could also reduce the potential negative impacts, in particular, the impacts on subsistence farming. - Develop a Monitoring Framework to monitor positive and negative impacts and their management. 	Ms Carolyn Schwegman EIA Co-ordinator, WESSA KZN, PO Box 343, Pennington, 4184	Comment received in response to the DSR	Noted
18	Provide the cumulative impacts – on the biophysical, social and economic spheres of the environment.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	This will be responded to in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).
19	Section 5.6 of the Draft Scoping Report is to be amended to include the Nu-Scotland Bavaria (in vicinity of the AP alignment) the Oribi Custodians (in the vicinity of the AM and AP alignments).	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
20	<p>The presence of the line will increase the risk of veld and forest fires due to the increased potential of arcing.</p> <p>a) Please provide technical information regarding the correlation of veld and forest fires with the presence of power lines. An increase in veld and forest fires will not only increase the risk of surrounding plantations being destroyed but will also have</p>	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet	Comments received per email on 8 Dec 2010 and per letter on 3 December 2010 in response to the DSR	<p>a) A terrestrial ecology specialist study will be undertaken to investigate the impact of the power lines on veld areas.</p> <p>b) Eskom has got a standard agreement which is used for all commercial foresters. This agreement includes the maintenance of servitudes and upkeep of fire breaks. In this agreement, it will be decided who will be responsible.</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
<p>financial implications during the fire season.</p> <p>b) Who will be responsible for the maintenance for fire breaks, especially around the power line and</p> <p>c) should an agreement be entered into between the landowners and Eskom, such an agreement should be finalised prior to the consideration of an environmental authorisation.</p>	<p>Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwemties, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382</p> <p>Mr TI Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Vlakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Johannes Abraham Scheepers, Rondekopje, PO Box 273, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Christian Schütte, Private Bag X317, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Jan Van Romburg, Silverton, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Kuno August Engelbrecht, PO Box 224, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Rolf Michael Bohmer, Rondekopje, PO Box 824, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union</p> <p>Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union</p> <p>Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380</p>	<p>Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR</p> <p>Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR</p>	<p>c) Eskom has got a standard agreement which is used for all commercial foresters. This agreement includes the maintenance of servitudes and upkeep of fire breaks. In this agreement, it will be decided who will be responsible.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Tower structures would be placed in servitude where no other structures are allowed. Eskom would prefer to obtain servitudes where no or minimal homesteads are affected. Should homesteads be affected Eskom will relocate stakeholders and compensate stakeholders accordingly.</p> <p>It is also important to note that, the best position for the power lines will be determined during the negotiation process between the landowner and</p>
<p>21</p> <p>The use of "fire bombing" as a technique in fire fighting employed by aircraft will be impacted due to the fact that the collision risk with the proposed line will be increased. Fire fighting is conducted in very windy conditions with almost zero visibility above the canopy which will be in line with proposed transmission line (please note that a safety clearance of approximately 200 feet is required above agl). Therefore during such conditions, these aircraft will not be able to reach any burning portion of trees which are located too close to the proposed power line.</p>			
<p>22</p> <p>Where will tower structures be placed in relation to existing homesteads, it is assumed that no homestead will be directly affected or required to be moved. If not, such detail will have to be considered during the EIA phase of the application.</p>			

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
23	A concern is raised regarding the data received in Shapefile format. The properties as listed which are being affected (refer to your Appendix K of the Draft Scoping Report) are not in line with the proposed alignment of the Google Earth Image depicting the various alternative routes.	Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382 Mr Ti Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380 Ms Claire Jordaan, Kortbegrip, Koubad, Pivaansbad, Reddersdal, Roodeloop, Vrijwilliger, Wildgelegen, Zeerust, PO Box 895, Paulietersburg, 3180	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Eskom negotiator within the authorised 2km corridor, after receipt of the Environmental Authorisation.
24	The main railway line between Richard Bay and the Mpumalanga Coal fields is located on various portions of possibly affected properties. Please clarify: a. Where tower structures will be placed in relation to the railway line.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nooitgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	The Google earth layer showing the routes is the centre line of the proposed alternatives. However the project will look at a corridor of 1 km each side of the centre line. The list of properties in the report includes all the properties that could be identified in the corridors for all the alternatives, while the Google Earth Image merely shows the centre lines. The position of towers has not yet been identified. Tower positions will be confirmed once the Department of Environmental Affairs has approved a corridor. Once a corridor has been approved more detailed investigations are undertaken by surveyors and line designers to pin point tower positions along the entire alignment.
2 BIOPHYSICAL COMMENTS				
(2.1) Avi-fauna				
1	Wakkerstroom is one of the last natural wetlands in South Africa and home to numerous endemic species. It is a well-known birding area. The proposed power line is a severe threat to this environmentally sensitive area.	Ms Julia Howie, Property owner in Wakkerstroom, PO Box 130799, Bryanston, 2021 Mr Hans Wischhausen Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480	BID comment sheet in October 2010. Email on 8 November in response to the BID.	Various specialist studies will be done during the EIA process to minimise the impact of the proposed transmission line of both humans and animals. It is important to note that the corridor through Wakkerstroom is just one of the alternatives being assessed. During the Impact Assessment Phase of the project a comparative impact assessment will be done on all alternatives to determine which corridor has the least potential impact. An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.
2	The area in Wakkerstroom that the proposed line is going through is an internationally renowned wetland. On the vlei in front of our plot is a breeding pair of crowned cranes, a severely endangered bird. Our farmhouse and other buildings are also directly within the servitude of the proposed line.	Mr David Tarrant, Property owner in Wakkerstroom, PO Box 71400, Bryanston, 2021	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife. Eskom will always try and stay clear of dwellings when building transmission lines. It is important to note that the corridor for each alternative is 2km wide and the servitude required is 94m. Therefore Eskom has the potential to deviate the line around any buildings and

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
3 Investigate the impact of the proposed line with regard to birds.	Mr Jabulani Biyela, Ezemvelo, PO Box 759, Ujundi, 3838	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	other sensitivities. The line you are referring to as going directly over your house is the centre point of the 2km corridor being assessed.
4 The grasslands are the breeding areas for birds such as the Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes as well as the Bald Ibis. The grasslands are also prime stock area that can also be affected by power lines. The Wakkerstroom district also has world renowned wetlands.	Ms Glenn Ramke, EWT Crane Conservation Programme, PO Box 289, Wakkerstroom, 2480 Mr Tommy Fereers, PO Box 147, Pret Retief, 2380	BID comment sheet in October 2010. Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife. An avi-fauna assessment as well as a terrestrial ecology assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.
5 Wakkerstroom is an ecologically sensitive area and the birdlife will also be affected.	Mr Colin Morris, PO Box 653467, Benmore, 2010	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.
6 Many flocks of endangered birds are prolific in the grasslands. Furthermore, the grasslands are prime stock areas which too can be affected by power lines. Likewise the danger to the surrounding wetlands.	Ms Verity Hawarden, Property owner in Wakkerstroom, Saxonworld, Johannesburg	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	An avi-fauna assessment as well as a terrestrial ecology assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.
7 Investigate the possible effect on large raptors and migratory species as well as rare and endangered species.	Ms Kristi Garland, Birdlife South Africa, Wakkerstroom Centre, PO Box 169, Wakkerstroom.	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.
8 If the line must go over my property, then rather build it next to the existing 400 kV on my property to lessen the impact on birds. I have already found numerous dead birds such as a blue crane, a secretary bird, and a martial eagle underneath the current line.	Mr J Middel, Farm Weltevreden (New name Bethesda) PO Box 2759, Ermelo	Phone call on 18 November 2010	Noted. An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.
9 The EIA should also investigate the impact on endemic bird species.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Noted. An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.
10 My house in Wakkerstroom is 102 years old and in terms of the criteria for the selection of alternatives this should be avoided. This can easily be avoided since the structure is obvious and we fully understand the behavior of humans that will move in and around the house. However, one cannot easily avoid the "homes" of certain birds as we still not 100% understand their movements. Close to my house is a breeding spot for the "geel koeester" – this should be avoided at all costs as these birds cannot move just to another house.	Ds JL van der Walt, Owner of Plot 20, PO Box 4, Wakkerstroom	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.
11 The Wakkerstroom area has important Bird Areas (IBA) status and should be avoided at all costs. The selection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) has been a particularly effective way of identifying conservation priorities. IBAs are key sites for conservation – small enough to be conserved in their entirety and often already part of a protected-area network. IBAs do one (or more) of three things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold significant numbers of one or more globally threatened species • Are one of a set of sites that together hold a suite of restricted-range species or biome-restricted species • Have exceptionally large numbers of migratory or congregatory species 	Ms Kristi Garland, Birdlife South Africa, Wakkerstroom Centre, PO Box 169, Wakkerstroom.	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	An avi-fauna assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
12	The Yellow Pippet is only found in about three small areas in the world, with my plot being one of them. The proposed line will also impact on the birdlife and tourism in Wakkerstroom.	Ms Susanne van der Walt, Plot 81, PO Box 123, Wakkerstroom, 2480	In response to the DSR on 9 November 2010	An avi-fauna and ecology assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors to assess the impact on birdlife and ecology.
(2.2) Ecology				
1	A route near Wakkerstroom would impact on farms, properties, wildlife, birds and animals. The areas has applied for Ramsar (Wetlands protected under the Ramsar Convention) status. The whole area from Wakkerstroom to Luneburg has been approved as a protected environment.	Mr Rupert Lawlor, Chairperson of the Wakkerstroom Natural Heritage Association, PO Box 261, Wakkerstroom, 2480	BID comment sheet on 27 October 2010	Various specialist studies will be done during the EIA process to minimise the impact of the proposed transmission line of both humans and animals. It is important to note that the corridor through Wakkerstroom is just one of the alternatives being assessed. During the Impact Assessment Phase of the project a comparative impact assessment will be done on all alternatives to determine which corridor has the least potential impact.
2	Investigate the biodiversity on the area.	Ms Kristi Garland, Birdlife South Africa, Wakkerstroom Centre, PO Box 169, Wakkerstroom. Mr Hans Wischhausen Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480	Email in response to the BID in October 2010 Email on 8 November in response to the BID.	Various specialist studies will be done during the EIA process to minimise the impact of the proposed transmission line of both humans and animals. Biodiversity will be assessed in by the terrestrial ecology and avi-fauna specialists.
3	According to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Conservation Plan (C-plan) alternatives AB and BC will have the least impact. Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity on the other alternatives are irreplaceable or Highly Significant in large parts. Irreplaceable areas support unique biodiversity features, such as endangered species or rare habitat patches that do not occur anywhere else in the province. These features have already been so reduced by loss of natural habitat that 100% of what remains must be protected (Lötter M.C. & Ferrar A.A., 2006). Highly significant / important & necessary areas are those where biodiversity has been heavily compromised and very few options remain to meet biodiversity targets. Natural vegetation cover in these areas should be maintained or restored. (Lötter M.C. & Ferrar A.A., 2006). The maps sent with this comment have been attached to the report.	Mr Vaino Prinsloo, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, P.O. Box 1250, Groblersdal, 0470	Email on 9 November 2010 in response to the BID.	Noted. An ecologist will undertake a Terrestrial Ecology specialist study in the Impact Assessment Phase of the project. There will be no impact on the aquatic biodiversity as no pylons will be placed in water bodies or in their buffer zones.
4	The KaNgwane Montane Grasslands is prevalent in the area and should be noted by specialists in the assessment of the ecology.	Ms Quzette Bosman, MKhondo Resident, Private Bag X5022, Piet Retief	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	Noted.
(2.3) Heritage				
1	The proposed route near Wakkerstroom crosses some grave sites as well as old established and newly planted windbreak trees.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 16 October in response to the BID.	Thank you for the information. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as well as a terrestrial ecology assessment will be done during this EIA to determine the exact impact of all the various alternative corridors and how to avoid such sensitivities. Grave sites will be specifically mitigated during the walk-down phase of the HIA. National legislation requires that a safety area of 25m be adhered to around the perimeter of graves or cemeteries. This is easily accommodated through specific pylon placement.
2	Three power lines are already crossing my smallholding and fossils have also been discovered on this property.	Mr Gerhard Greeff, Landowner, PO Box	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	Thank you for this information. A HIA will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. Although no fossiliferous breccias banks could be identified in this

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
<p>3 In some of our forests there are possible archaeological interests such as old gold mines.</p>	<p>141, Melmoth, 3835</p>	<p>Meeting to discuss the DSR at Melmoth on 23 November 2010.</p>	<p>area it will be appreciated if further information as to the specific types of fossils and their context could be made available. (location, type, age etc). Thank you for this information. A Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. Historic sites of heritage value were identified within forestry areas through the Amata database. These will also be mitigated during the walk-down phase of the project. Further information as to specific localities will however be appreciated.</p>
<p>4 Wakkerstroom has several identified significant heritage features and war historical sites and these should be considered in the EIA.</p>	<p>Mr Carl van Loggerenberg, Sappi Forests, PO Box 7, Kwambanambi, 3915</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom</p>	<p>A Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. The information relayed here was incorporated into the HIA management document. Although these all refer to localised, physical sites (and these will be handled during walk-down) the combination of their attributes could be seen as specific to a cultural landscape. Should this be found to be the case it will be treated as such in the HIA report.</p>
<p>5 Regarding historical sites in Wakkerstroom, near or inside to this proposed corridor over Wakkerstroom Townlands There are lots of early San, Zulu, Swazi, German, Boer and Brit sites in and around the town and inside the proposed corridor. Amongst which are the grave site in the townlands, of Swart Dirk Uys and his family, the Voortrekker leader who fought and won at Blood River. Swart Dirk Uys is the founder of Wakkerstroom (Marthinus Wesselstroom). The re-located grave sites to the townlands from a large area of Mpumalanga of Boer soldiers and British soldiers who died in both Anglo-Boer Wars. There are probably more than 100 of these graves and monuments. There are further Boer monuments inside the grounds of the NG Kerk. This whole large historical cemetery and grave site, including that of Swart Dirk Uys has recently been renovated and signposted for tourism and posterity purposes by the community of Wakkerstroom and from donations received in South Africa and abroad. There are two other Boer settler family grave sites within 1 km of the corridor at the Driefontein turnoff on the town boundary, another 1 km down the Driefontein road and there are two family group Black family graves, one inside the proposed corridor on Rudd's Hill farm (Mooiplaas, next to Zwerversrus) and the other is on the airport dirt road just past the airport turn in on or near the Morris's property. Two km down the Driefontein road from the turnoff is the Boer /Brit battle site of Naudeshoogte where annual mock-battles are staged for tourism and local benefit. For more detailed information on the British block houses, the trenches on Ossewakop and fortifications, camp sites, the concentration camp site, the Boer Long Tom gun positions and other visitor interests please contact Mr. Chris Smit, of Oppikoppie Museum in Wakkerstroom, he is our local historian at Tel 017 7300284. There are also three registered and labelled National Monument buildings in Wakkerstroom which draw visitors here, other than for birding reasons. One structure is the Paul Kruger Bridge in the Wetlands; presented to the people of Wakkerstroom by the then President after his wagon got stuck in the wetlands.</p>	<p>Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom and an email received in response to the DSR on 16 November 2010</p>	<p>Thank you for this information. A Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. The information relayed here was incorporated into the HIA management document. Although these all refer to localised, physical sites (and these will be handled during walk-down) the combination of their attributes could be seen as specific to a cultural landscape. Should this be found to be the case it will be treated as such in the HIA report.</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
	Rider Haggard the American author also reportedly resided here during his tenure as the local magistrate, his wooden -iron home is still standing and used.			
	Wakkerstroom town is currently also the Mpumalanga town of the year 2010, judged as the best in Mpumalanga for tourism and historical and other interest and development.			
6	All heritage features as identified by land occupiers are to be considered during the Heritage Assessment.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	A Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. It is presumed, as outlined in the HIA report in the Presumptions Section, that any specific information regarding heritage sites will be received through the public comments phase of the project and that these will be comprehensive enough. Information received after this phase has been completed can be mitigated during the walk-down phase.
7	Various heritage and cultural resources is established on portion 13 of the farm Rustplaats and will require documentation during a Heritage Assessment in terms of the Heritage Act.	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	Thank you for this information. A HIA will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. Due to the large areas covered by the survey it is impossible to comprehensively document all the heritage sites of all the affected properties. Specific information as to these perceived sites of heritage value (location and description) will be appreciated and taken into account. Major indicators of sensitive cultural landscape types have however already been comprehensively identified and the property at Rustplaats does not fall within one of these. The localised sites will however still receive the proper mitigation measures to ensure their protection.
8	A possible heritage structure is located on the farm Umgwempies. A Heritage Assessment is required to investigate the school which is around 110 years old. Where will tower structures be placed in relation to this heritage resource?	Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Viakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	Thank you for this information. A HIA will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. With the placement of the towers Eskom will take due care not to disturb any heritage features. Due to the large areas covered by the survey it is impossible to comprehensively document all the heritage sites of all the affected properties. Specific information as to these perceived sites of heritage value (location and description) will be appreciated and taken into account. The historic nature of this school will be taken into consideration during the walk-down phase of the HIA and pylons will be placed appropriately to ensure its protection.
9	A possible heritage structure is located on the farm Heyshope. A Heritage Assessment is required. Where will tower structures be placed in relation to this heritage resource?	Mr Tl Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	Thank you for this information. A HIA will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. The historic nature of this possible structure will be taken into consideration during the walk-down phase of the HIA and pylons will be placed appropriately to ensure its protection.
(2.4) Soils				
1	The areas proposed for the power line are in difficult terrain where no road access exists. A service road will be required for maintenance and we are concerned about erosion and visual disturbance to the landscape and rivers (sedimentation).	Ms Claire Jordaan, Kortbegrip, Koubad, Pivaansbad, Reddersdal, Roodeloop, Vrijwilliger, Wildgelegen, Zeerust, PO Box 895, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	A Soil and Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA.
(2.5) Surface Water and Wetlands				
1	There will be a huge environmental impact on the protected wetlands in the Wakkerstroom district in the whole two kilometre corridor of the proposed route.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 16 October in response to the BID.	A corridor of 2 km wide for each of the various alternatives is being investigated to assess environmental, economic and social impacts. Thus, within the 2km wide corridor, the power line (with a 94 m wide servitude and 104 m in commercial forest area) could be placed anywhere. Another reason for assessing a 2 km wide corridor is to be

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
		Mr Hans Wischhausen Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480	Email on 8 November 2010 in response to the BID.	able to make sure that a proposed line does not cross any buildings or sensitive areas. The specialist will investigate all the identified corridors and the corridor with the least potential impact will be proposed for approval by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Although Eskom does not place pylons within water bodies, there is a potential impact associated with the visual and avi-fauna aspects in the area. These will be investigated by visual and ornithological specialists in the next phase, the Impact Assessment Phase, of the project.
2	investigate the potential impacts on surface water i.e. Wetlands	Mr Ramabulana Ndumato, Assistant Director: Water Management, Directorate: Water Use and Irrigation Development Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Email in response to BID on 25 October 2010	A surface water investigation will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA. During this study the impact of the project on wetlands will be assessed.
3	As per the Draft Scoping Report, the river that is called "an unnamed tributary of the Slang" in the Wakkerstroom area is known as the Wakkerstroom River, which is part of the Wakkerstroom wetland system.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom and an email received in response to the DSR on 16 November 2010	Noted
4	Various aquatic habitats occur on and around the Pampoenkraal property. A waterfall and related aquatic environment is well known in the area as a "conserved area" used for tourism purposes. The Umgwempies River feeds this waterfall. The entire area is underlain by TMS Sandstone. a. How will the sensitivity of these environments be established as there may be various orange and red data plant species (such as grass orchids, aloes and proteas) present on site. The area further hosts various bird species of importance such as the Bald Ibis and Blue Crane which visits the area from time to time. b. Where will tower placing be proposed in relation to the aquatic features and resources? c. If so required, provide proof of water use registration of related water uses in terms of the National Water Act, 1989 (Act No 36 of 1989).	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	a) The area will be visited by an terrestrial ecology specialist, avi-fauna specialist and the visual specialist to assess the status quo of the area and identify an sensitivities. b) No towers will be placed within water bodies. c) Since no towers will be placed in water bodies no Water Use License is required.
5	Various aquatic habitats occur on and around the Umgwempies property as well as a river which is in close proximity to the farm Ernstdraai. a. How will the sensitivity of these environments be established? b. Where will tower placing be proposed in relation to the aquatic features and resources? c. If so required, provide proof of water use registration of related water uses in terms of the National Water Act, 1989 (Act No 36 of 1989).	Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	a) Specialists will undertake fieldwork in the study area, b) No towers will be placed within water bodies. c) Since no towers will be placed in water bodies no Water Use License is required.
	Various aquatic habitats occur on and around the Heyshope property as well as a river which is in close proximity to the farm	Mr Tl Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet	Comment received per email on 8	a) Specialists will undertake fieldwork in the study area, b) No towers will be placed within water bodies.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
<p>Kromrivier:</p> <p>a. How will the sensitivity of these environments be established?</p> <p>b. Where will tower placing be proposed in relation to the aquatic features and resources?</p> <p>c. If so required, provide proof of water use registration of related water uses in terms of the National Water Act, 1989 (Act No 36 of 1989).</p>		Relief, 2380	December in response to the DSR	c) Since no towers will be placed in water bodies no Water Use License is required.
(2.6) Climate				
1	The Wakkerstroom area is known for its unusually high rainfall, undulating topography, erosion and the highest occurrence of lightning storms in the country. Please consider this in the EIA.	Mr Hulert Shawe, Dwarsbalk, PO Box 15, Utrecht, 2980	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	Noted
2	The area is experiences strong winds (westerly) and the occurrence of lightning is very high. The combination of power lines, strong winds and lightning increases fire risks in a plantation area.	Mr Raif Gevers, Vaderland, Knooppaan, PO Box 745, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Noted
3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMMENTS				
(3.1) Social				
JOBS				
1	Workers will have to be retrenched should the proposed transmission line result in the selling of our property.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 16 October in response to the BID.	A social impact assessment will be done during this EIA. Page 26 in part 3 Socio-economic comments 3.1 Social under Safety row 3 dealing with sparks. What is explained by Andries is applicable to Distribution low voltage lines typically constructed of wood poles. We are aware of this problem on Distribution lines. The live line phase to earth gaps on 765kV lines is much bigger and there is no possibility that the same can happen on 765kV lines. As a matter of fact we do not even install bird guards on our 765kV towers like we do on 400kV towers, since bird streamers cannot bridge the live to earth gaps on 765kV lines for example. A social impact assessment will be done during this EIA.
2	There are some social costs which we are concerned with that are not covered in the BID.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 30 October in response to the BID.	Noted. A social impact assessment will be done during this EIA.
3	This line can put hundreds of people out of work, because if you add up all the hectares lost in the sugar cane and forestry industry, fewer workers will be needed on the farms.	Mr John Readman, landowner Mevamhlope, PO Box 14, Empangeni, 3880 Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welvediend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Noted. This will be addressed in the Social Impact Assessment.
4	Employment is at 47% in this area. The loss of agricultural land will increase unemployment.	Mr Frans van der Walt, Chairperson, uThungulu Strategic Development Committee, PO Box 10376, Meerensee, 3901	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Noted. This will be addressed in the Social Impact Assessment.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
5	Agriculture is the biggest source of employment in Empanjeni. There is no large industrial sector in town not related to agriculture that provides employment. A decrease in agricultural land will affect the whole town.	Question asked before the meeting starting while studying the maps of the proposed alternatives GCS on behalf of the Piet Relief Agricultural Union Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empanjeni on 23 November 2010 Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted. An agricultural / land capability assessment will be done during this EIA.
6	Will any local labour be trained and used during the construction and operations of the proposed line (specific consideration is to be awarded to the clearing of vegetation for construction purposes).	Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Viakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382 Mr TI Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Yes, there is an ASGISA programme for each project, which includes the appointment of local labour and education before construction starts.
7	The proposed power line will increase the collision risk with the line by aircraft using the landing strip on the farm Wildrand. This facility is used on a weekly basis and the safety risks will be increased (if not disabling the use of the landing strip completely). It is further used by the aircraft of the Forest Fire Air-Tanker Association as a fill-up point during the fire fighting season. What will be done by Eskom to ensure that the facility will be able to function without an increased collision risk, should the proposed line be established along the AP alignment? It is further recommended that the Forest Fire Tanker Association be contacted regarding the proposed power line.	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Viakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382 Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	An effort is being made to ensure that no airfields are affected by the proposed power line. This will be taken into consideration when ranking the various alternatives.
8	The proposed power line will increase the risk of aircraft colliding with the power line. Note that the proposed AM and AP alignments are located mainly on forestry land, it is proposed that all landing strips (Mondi and private) be plotted on the map to indicate the vicinity of these with the proposed alignments.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Relief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
9	Formal and traditional labour housing for many employees and their families (approximately 300 people) will also be severely impacted because of possible relocations.	Mr RM Niebuhr, Rondekopje, Halberton, Welverdiend, PO Box 34, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
10	The whole Piet Relief community is going to be affected by the removal of land suitable for housing.	John Davis, PO Box 320, Piet Retief	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Noted
SAFETY				
1	The safety of both humans and animals must be considered.	Clir Ernest Mhlophe, PO Box	Comments in	Various specialist studies will be done during the EIA process to minimise

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
2	Specific attention should be paid to safety and security on farms. Cattle theft is also a great problem. With the construction of the line and afterwards maintenance special care should be taken with security and safety measures. It is expected that the person that will be conducting the social assessment will have prior knowledge of cattle theft, its implications and occurrence.	6497, Mahlabathini, 3865 Andries van Rensburg, TLU Eastern Region and Natal Postnet Suite 1268, Private Bag X9013, Ermelo, 2350	response to the BID on 25 October 2010 Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	the impact of the proposed transmission line of both humans and animals. An Environmental Management Plan will be compiled as part of the EIA process. This document will clearly stipulate measures to ensure safety and security. Landowners will have the opportunity to comment on this document and its proposed measures. An Environmental Control Officer (ECO) will also be appointed by Eskom to ensure adherence to the EMP before and during construction of the proposed line.
3	Sparks from transmission lines could potentially cause veld fires. Birds colliding into transmission lines could also cause fires. This is a serious problem for farmers and a more coordinated approach between Eskom and land owners is required.	Andries van Rensburg, TLU Eastern Region and Natal Postnet Suite 1268, Private Bag X9013, Ermelo, 2350	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	Eskom is aware of this problem that can occur on distribution low voltage lines typically constructed of wood poles. The live line phase to earth gaps on 765kV lines is much bigger and there is no possibility that the same can happen on 765kV lines. As a matter of fact we do not even install bird guards on our 765kV towers like we do on 400kV towers, since bird streamers cannot bridge the live to earth gaps on 765kV lines. Landowners should not have such problems with contractors – it is not acceptable. Eskom should be contacted immediately in the case of such problems so that Eskom can take problems up with their contractors.
4	With a previous Eskom project the landowner experienced serious problems with the contractors which caused loss of animals, damage to crops and infrastructure and their behaviour posed a safety concern. What can be done to avoid problems with contractors in future?	Ms Mandy Hattingh, Beginsel Boerdery, PO Box 456, Volksrust, 2470	Public meeting held on 16 November 2010 at 14:00 in Volksrust	The following measures are in place and should assist landowners: a) An Environmental Control Officer (ECO) is appointed for every project to make sure that contractors follow the requirements mentioned in the Environmental Management Programme (EMP) which is a legally binding document. b) Eskom audits the work of the ECO* on a regular basis to ensure that the ECO performs on his/her duties. c) In the servitude contract, the last page stipulates special requests from landowners which are contractually binding between Eskom and the landowner. In addition, the following was discussed at the meeting which will be investigated by Eskom for future projects: a) The last page of the servitude agreement between Eskom and the landowner that states special requirements from the landowner should be elaborated on to ensure that all eventualities are covered. b) Contractors should upon award of the contract pay an amount to Eskom which can be kept in the event that compensation needs to be paid to landowners. This will motivate contractors to keep in line with agreements, but will also assist landowners to access money without having to go to court, etc c) The contact number of the ECO as well as the Eskom project manager for the EIA and the negotiator needs to be made available to landowners d) The rights of landowners should be provided to them in writing, e.g. they need to know that if Eskom and their contractors contravene the specifications in the EMP, the DEA's green scorpions can be contacted to take further action.
5	Fire fighting becomes very dangerous when such high pylons are in the area. Helicopters don't have enough space to land especially in cases of emergencies.	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykstuit farm, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	Noted
6	What educational safety precautions will be taken and provided to the communities regarding the power line.	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to	Eskom presently conducts safety precaution programmes through various media and schools. If institutions want to invite Eskom for educational programmes, it can be arranged.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
		Retief, 2380 Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382 Mr TI Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	the DSR	
7	The possibility of increased spread of fire will increase dramatically which has serious social and economic consequences. Plantation insurance will immediately increase – how will we be compensated for the increase costs?	Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr RM Niebuhr, Rondekopje, Halberton, Welverdiend, PO Box 34, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Ms Claire Jordaan, Kortbegrip, Koubad, Pivaansbad, Reddersdal, Roodeloop, Vrijwilliger, Wildgelegen, Zeerust, PO Box 895, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	The increased spread of fire concern is probably related to the experience with the existing 11kV and 22kV lines supplying the foresters. The risk of this occurring with the 765kV line is negligible. Compensations will be dealt with in accordance with the Expropriation Act, which states that actual losses should be compensated for.
8	We already have Eskom lines running through our property and encounter security problems with entrances, gates being left open, poaching and veld fires in winter. The areas proposed are in difficult terrain where no road access exists.			Noted
SOCIAL BENEFITS				
1	Investigate the social benefits of the proposed project for rural dwellers, especially the supply of power by the card system to uplift the lives of rural dwellers. Eskom refuses to accommodate rural dwellers in this light and all these big plans at the expense of rural dwellers are not seen as very positive.	Mr Gary Day, Landowner, PO Box 124, Piet Retief, 2380	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	A social impact assessment will be done during this EIA.
2	Black Mfolozi needs electricity to develop. The area has a substation called Ujikoms and it is on the Alfa Rural Network running from Langkrans. There is a great need for electricity such as Pay as U Go and the residents are more than willing to buy electricity. We have the names and ID numbers of 500 people that would like to have electricity.	Ms Karlien van Rooyen, Black Mfolozi on behalf of Inkozi DV Zondo and the community of Black Mfolozi	Comments in response to the BID in October 2010	This issue has been noted and it will be referred to Eskom Distribution.
3	I wish Eskom speed up the process so that the community will be assisted with electricity.	Cllr Ernest Mhlophe, PO Box 6497, Mahlabathini, 3865	Comments in response to the BID on 25 October 2010	In order for Eskom to supply electricity various steps must be taken. In the planning phase Eskom determines which areas are in need of upgrades to the existing infrastructure as well as new projects. Once this has been approved funding must be sourced, thereafter several environmental and technical process need to be undertaken before Eskom receives the sign off to go ahead with construction. Eskom is in the process of strengthening the grid in the area.
4	It seems that the persons who will have to make the sacrifices now will in the long run not reap any benefits. There is no benefit for the local inhabitants.	VH Bohmer, Ujizock 197, PO Box 1, Lüneburg, 3183 Mr Ralf Gevers, Vaderland, Knooppaan, PO Box 745,	Letter received on 3 December 2010 in response to the DSR	A Social Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the impact Assessment phase of the project.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
		<p>Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Frits W Klingenberg, Ostberg, Morgenson, Wonderfontein, Viljoensrust, PO Box 310, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Ms Amanda Klingenberg, Morgenzon, PO Box 289, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Viakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Johannes Abraham Scheepers, Rondekopje, PO Box 273, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Kuno August Engelbrecht, PO Box 224, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Rolf Michael Bohmer, Rondekopje, PO Box 824, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mt RF Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p>		
(3.2) Land Use				
FORESTRY				
1	Can we have a copy of the shape files for the proposed power line to see which NCT members will be affected	Mr Zak Oumar, GIS Specialist (MSc GIS & Remote Sensing), NCT Forestry Co-operative Limited, P O Box 1445, Pietermaritzburg, 3200	Email in response to BID on 26 October 2010	The relevant maps were sent to NCT on 26 October 2010.
2	Our farm has already been divided by a national road, a railway line and Eskom lines, leaving us with very little to farm on. Timber is our livelihood.	Mr Waldo Hein, PO Box 450, Vryheid, 450	BID comment sheet on 12 October 2010.	Noted.
3	Alien vegetation has come up in the Eskom servitude on my property. Eskom must keep the servitude clean, especially in the forestry areas. All our timber is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified but if we have a problem with alien vegetation, this could be jeopardised.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Noted. The Environmental Management Programme (EMProg) will provide guidance in this matter.
4	It is important that land use is considered very carefully. Land	Dr David Everard, Sappi	BID comment sheet in	Noted. Land use will be taken into consideration.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
<p>uses that can continue under power lines should help determine the route chosen. Forestry cannot take place in the servitude underneath power lines. The displacement of forestry is not only very costly, but there is a shortage of forestry land and also due to the unavailability of water user licenses. Displacement means loss of fibre with the associated financial losses.</p> <p>Investigate the financial implications for the timber industry and the individual timber growers</p>	<p>Forests, PO Box 13124, Cascades, 3202</p> <p>Mr Craig Norris, Manager, NCT Forestry Co-operative, PO Box 1445, Pietermaritzburg</p> <p>Mr Christopher Burchmore, Monci, PO Box 39, Pietermaritzburg, 3200</p> <p>Mr Zak Omar, NCT Forestry Co-operative Limited, P O Box 1445, Pietermaritzburg, 3200</p> <p>Mr Reinhold and Mrs Delarese Weiss, PO Box 246, Vryheid, 3100</p> <p>Mrs Rencia Gey von Pittius, 64 Kruger Gardens, Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth</p> <p>Mr Carl van Loggerenberg, Sappi Forests, PO Box 7, Kwambanambi, 3915</p>	<p>October 2010.</p> <p>BID comment sheet in October 2010.</p> <p>BID comment sheet in October 2010.</p>	<p>An agricultural / land capability assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors.</p>
<p>Investigate the financial implications for the timber industry.</p>	<p>Mr Philip Day, KB Day and Sons, PO Box 124, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr Harald Niebuhr, landowner of Vlakfontein and Ontevrede, PO Box 5 Paul Pietersburg, 3185</p> <p>Mrs Tammy Venter, Wida Farms cc, PO Box 675, Vryheid, 3100 and Mr Waldo Hein, landowner of Goedgeloof, PO Box 450 Vryheid, 3100</p> <p>GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union.</p> <p>Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380</p>	<p>Email in response to BID on 26 October 2010</p> <p>Written response to BID in October 2010.</p> <p>Written response to BID in October 2010.</p> <p>Meeting to discuss the DSR at Melmoth on 23 November 2010.</p> <p>BID comment sheet in October 2010. The issue was also raised by Mr Gary Day at a meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief on behalf of Mr Philip Day.</p> <p>Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p> <p>Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid</p> <p>Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR</p>	<p>An agricultural / land capability assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors.</p>
<p>Eskom must arrange for the exchange of water user licenses for forestry and irrigation land where these have to be removed to make way for the transmission line.</p> <p>It was also noted that Eskom proposes to meet with the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) on the matter of water use licenses. The Paul Pietersburg and Vryheid landowners requested that they would like to be present at negotiations with the DWA to state their case.</p> <p>Eskom has to write a motivation to the DWA to explain the loss of commercial forestry land due to the needs for servitudes. It is most unlikely that landowners will acquire permits once they have lost their servitudes to Eskom and this is not fair.</p> <p>Tree planting permits - should the proposed power line cross any plantation which will be required to be cleared, the tree planting permit, as issued by the Department of Forestry and Fisheries, will be lost (as this permit is specific to an area). How will the issues of these permits be addressed?</p>	<p>Mr Philip Day, KB Day and Sons, PO Box 124, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr Harald Niebuhr, landowner of Vlakfontein and Ontevrede, PO Box 5 Paul Pietersburg, 3185</p> <p>Mrs Tammy Venter, Wida Farms cc, PO Box 675, Vryheid, 3100 and Mr Waldo Hein, landowner of Goedgeloof, PO Box 450 Vryheid, 3100</p> <p>GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union.</p> <p>Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380</p>	<p>BID comment sheet in October 2010. The issue was also raised by Mr Gary Day at a meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief on behalf of Mr Philip Day.</p> <p>Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p> <p>Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid</p> <p>Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR</p>	<p>Eskom has taken note of this and will work on the matter.</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
	<p>Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382</p> <p>Mr Ti Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr RM Niebuhr, Rondekopje, Halberton, Weverdiend, PO Box 34, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Vlakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Johannes Abraham Scheepers, Rondekopje, PO Box 273, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Roif Michael Bohmer, Rondekopje, PO Box 824, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p>		
8		<p>The map in the BID is not clear enough.</p>	<p>Large maps of the relevant area were emailed to Mr Klopper.</p> <p>A large map of the relevant area was posted to Ms Kusche.</p> <p>A large map of the relevant area was posted to Mr Lourens.</p>
9	<p>Where exactly does option AP go through the Farm Wiklip 207 HT? The farm is only 400 m wide and if your servitude goes through it, we will be forced to halt our farming operations.</p>	<p>Mr Vernon Filter, Landowner, 141 Camella Ave, Lynnwoodridge, 0081</p>	<p>Fax on 17 November 2010.</p> <p>A large map of the relevant area was emailed to Mr Filter.</p>
10	<p>Only 19 ha of the portion of Uitzoek (426.4 ha) is planted with trees – this is the most valuable portion of the farm. The proposed line will destroy more than 50% of the 19 ha. Please investigate alternative routes for the power line.</p>	<p>Mrs Ann Kusche, PO Box 207, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr Paul Lourens, Driefontein and Uitzigt, PO Box 2002, Vryheid, 3100</p> <p>VH Bohmer, Uitzoek 197, PO Box 1, Lüneburg, 3183</p>	<p>Fax in response to BID on 10 November 2010</p> <p>Fax in response to BID on 11 November 2010</p> <p>Fax on 11 January 2011 in response to BID</p> <p>Letter received on 3 December 2010 in response to the DSR</p> <p>Noted.</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
	Power lines in combination with trees are posing a very high fire risk in an area where lives have already been lost due to fire. Paulpietersburg is a densely populated rural area. Power lines have caused many fires in the area where strong westerly winds blow in winter.	Mr Ralf Gevers, Vaderland, Knoopaan, PO Box 745, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Letter received on 3 December 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted.
	Most of the farms Vaderland and Knoopaan are covered under plantations. We farm according to a rotation system that makes our farming more sustainable. Should we lose any of the land under plantations for the proposed servitude, we do not have any other land that could be used to make up for the loss in production of timber. We will most likely also not get tree planting permits again. This will have a serious impact on sustainable plantations.	Mr Maarten Grobbelaar, landowner, Bayfibre, PO Box 329, Melmoth, 3835 Mr Jan Van Romburg, Silverton, Paulpietersburg, 3180	BID comment sheet in October 2010. Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	The servitude required by a 765 kV transmission line is 94 m for agricultural activities and 104 m for forestry. Timber cannot be planted in the servitude because of the height of the trees, but sugarcane and citrus can be negotiated. Landowners will be compensated by Eskom at the current land value for the loss of property.
	SUGAR CANE 1 What will the full impact be on high value agricultural land such as timber, sugarcane and citrus? What areas will be taken out of production and what impact will this have on long-term grower profitability? Investigate alternatives to go around timber and sugar cane.	Mr Brendon Nothard, SA Canegrowers Association, PO Box 413, Gingindlovu, 3800	BID comment sheet on 15 October 2010.	A social impact assessment will be undertaken in the next phase of this EIA.
	2 Investigate the effect of the proposed transmission line on the socio-economic situation of the sugarcane farmers.	Mr Luke Harel Umthathuzi Valley Sugar Company, PO Box 511, Empangeni, 3880	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	Please note that the proposed substation EIA is with the Department of Environmental Affairs and the decision on whether to grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation is still pending.
	3 The proposed line traverses land of rich agricultural value and the same appears to apply as far as the site of the proposed substation is concerned. Profitability is directly affected by economics of scale and the removal of sugar cane crop from the suggested areas will probably result in the demise of a profitable economic entity.	Ms Tina Hattingh, Tongaat Hulett Properties Limited, PO Box 22319, Glenashley, 4022	Written response to BID in October 2010.	A land capability assessment will be undertaken in the next phase of the project to determine which corridor has the least impact on land uses. The requested information has been sent to Ms Hattingh.
	4 Please send us a list of properties likely to be affected by the proposed routes.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Noted. An agricultural / land capability assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors.
	5 I already have two 400 kV lines on my farm. Adding a third line will have a huge economic impact on our farm, both on timber and sugar cane.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Noted. An agricultural / land capability assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors.
	6 The whole sugarcane industry in the district will suffer from the loss of land, because negotiations with transport companies to transport sugar cane to the nearest mill are based on the total area under sugar cane in the district. If Melmoth loses hundreds of hectares of sugar cane, it will decrease our bargaining power to get a competitive transport price.	Mr Richard Dinkelmann landowner, PO Box 107, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Sugar cane can be grown underneath transmission lines when 'green harvesting' is used. The burning of sugar cane to get rid of the fibre is not allowed underneath power lines. Eskom is investigating the possibility of raising the pylons in sugar cane areas to allow burning underneath and has had lengthy discussions with the South African Cane Growers
	7 Why does Eskom not want sugar cane to be grown underneath transmission lines? What can be done to grow sugar cane underneath them?			

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
8	Almost every hectare in the Melmoth district is being utilised for plantations, sugar cane or other farming activities. There is a bit of a mixed bag of agricultural activities in the area.	Mr Maarten Grobbelaar, landowner, Bayfibre, PO Box 329, Melmoth, 3835.	Meeting to discuss the DSR at Melmoth on 23 November 2010.	Association in this regard. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed between the two parties. No answer is available at this stage, but Eskom hope to have an answer early in the 2011.
9	Raising the height of the pylons will be to the advantage of the sugar cane farmers, but I will only believe this when it is official Eskom policy. Eskom told us during a previous process that we can burn underneath the lines, but that decision was then reversed once the line was finished. The goalposts have been moved too many times by Eskom for us to believe them.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Eskom is also investigating the possibility of signing a MoU with the forestry industry as well. Eskom asked the landowners at the Melmoth meeting to use their local knowledge and identify a possible route with the least impact on farming activities. A route to the east of Melmoth was suggested, because it is mainly used for cattle grazing and very little plantations and sugar cane. Noted. Eskom will provide more clarity in the Impact Assessment Phase.
10	Confirmed that there was a meeting between Eskom and the Cane Growers Association. The deciding factor regarding the higher pylons in sugar cane areas will come down to a cost issue, because the higher pylons will be more expensive. The Eskom report regarding this issue is still with the Association and will soon be returned to Eskom.	Mr Brendon Nothard, South African Cane Growers Association, PO Box 413, Empangeni, 3880	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Noted.
11	I have two 400 kV lines on my farm and I know from experience that a farmer cannot just burn sugar cane under a 400 kV line. Sometimes Eskom also says it is impossible to switch off a line and the farmer has to wait until Eskom is ready. Reality is that raising the pylons and burning underneath the pylons whenever a farmer wants to is just pie in the sky at this stage. Eskom has not yet taken a decision on it and it is therefore not relevant to discuss it. Let us rather discuss what is real. Eskom actually prefer lines with nothing underneath them. This is a very sensitive subject, because these farms are more than just a source of income. It is also our pensions and all farms provide employment to many people. If a line devalues your farm, then you have no future and no pension.	Mr John Readman, landowner Mevamhlope, PO Box 14, Empangeni, 3880	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Noted. Eskom has been testing the burning of sugar cane underneath power lines at its testing facilities in Johannesburg and have burnt truck loads of sugar cane in this process. The Sugar Cane Association is very interested in the testing Eskom is doing to solve the problem of sugar cane burning and power lines. Eskom would have loved to announce that higher pylons will be used, but that decision has not yet been taken. This is not a pie in the sky idea, but something that could be turned into reality in the new year. Eskom has no problem with sugar cane growing beneath a 765 kV line.
12	Eskom is already having talks with the SA Cane growers Association. Are there other organisations in the area that Eskom must engage with?	Mr Archibold Mogokonyane, Eskom	Meetings to discuss the DSR in Melmoth and Empangeni on 22 and 23 November 2010	Yes, contact has been made with the SA Sugar Millers' Association and the tribal authorities.
URBAN AREAS				
1	The proposed route will directly take out our new R5 million (the cost of seven years ago) home and two other newly built guest dwellings and sheds and our 25 ha property (all on the red line) and our business, our own radio tower, underground telephone cabling, apart from the whole of the Weavers Nest Hotel complex, currently owned by the IDC (our neighbour) as well as five other houses and other buildings in the neighbourhood as indicated by the map.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 16 October in response to the BID.	A corridor of 2 km wide for each of the various alternatives is being investigated to assess environmental, economic and social impacts. Thus, within the 2km wide corridor, the power line (with a 94 m wide servitude and 104 m in commercial forest area) could be placed anywhere. Another reason for assessing a 2 km wide corridor is to be able to make sure that a proposed line does not cross any building.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
<p>2 I am the Atrox distributor for the district and store and distribute about 2000 kg of liquid petroleum gas in cylinders from the premises, which would carry a real additional cost if this storage had to be relocated. This would also present a problem should the new site be relocated into town, because then a guard must be appointed.</p>	<p>Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom</p>	<p>Email on 16 October in response to the BID.</p>	<p>A corridor of 2 km wide for each of the various alternatives is being investigated to assess environmental, economic and social impacts. Thus, within the 2km wide corridor, the power line (with a 94 m wide servitude and 104 m in commercial forest area) could be placed anywhere. Another reason for assessing a 2 km wide corridor is to be able to make sure that a proposed line does not cross any building. Should your property be directly affected by the proposed development after authorization has been received, Eskom will enter into negotiations with affected landowners to negotiate compensation.</p>
<p>3 An economic assessment of potential impacts is required. In determining the criteria for the alternative routes, Eskom's financial criteria were considered. It is necessary for an economic study to be undertaken to determine the potential economic impacts to individual landowners.</p>	<p>Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykstuit farm, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief</p>	<p>An Economic Assessment will be done during the impact assessment phase.</p>
<p>4 The proposed transmission line over my land divides the farm in such a way that it cannot be used for the same farming practices.</p>	<p>Mr Reinhard Röhrs, landowner of Silverton, PO Box 261, Paul Pietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p>	<p>In the event that the proposed line servitude leaves farms in portions uneconomical to farm, buying of the whole farm will be considered by Eskom.</p>
TOURISM AND CONSERVATION			
<p>1 Tourism and specifically avian tourism will suffer irrecoverable losses.</p>	<p>Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom</p>	<p>Email on 16 October in response to the BID.</p>	<p>A corridor of 2 km wide for each of the various alternatives is being investigated to assess environmental, economic and social impacts. During this assessment consideration will be taken of the land uses in the study area.</p>
<p>2 This is not the first time Eskom had suggested a route for power lines through the Babanango Valley. With seemingly easier alternatives, where lines already run, I fail to understand Eskom's persistence. In January 2002 I drew up a report (The full report is attached to the IRR) for the company doing the EIA, when Eskom last attempted a proposal to build a line through our property.</p> <p>We are in tourism and our marketing for 20 years has reflected the pristine nature of our property. The construction of a power line will severely impact on this.</p> <p>Our property is one of the biggest Natural Heritage Sites in private ownership. If Eskom constructs this line, it will discredit Government's commitment to this project. We therefore object to the route through the Babanango Valley.</p>	<p>Dr John Turner, Landowner, Babanango Valley Lodge and Environmental Adventures, Babanango Valley</p>	<p>Various emails in October 2010.</p>	<p>Noted. Your concerns will be taken into consideration and further investigated in the EIA phase of this project. Eskom has made a concerted effort to select alternatives that have a minimal impact on conservation areas.</p> <p>This will be assessed during the Land Capability specialist study.</p>
<p>3 If the proposed route comes over my properties and Eskom is prepared to negotiate the exact route with me, then we could negotiate. Tourism is very important for us and the line should be away from the area visited by tourists. It should not be near our lodge or bush camp.</p>	<p>Mr Eric Buthelezi, landowner and emCakwini Trust, PO Box 75, Babanango, 3850</p>	<p>Meeting to discuss the DSR in Ulundi on 22 November 2010</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>4 We object to this development, because of our proposed development of a "Big Five" Game reserve in a Joint Venture (JV) between us and the emCakwini community, most of whose land is directly affected. The construction of this section of the proposed power line would cut through the heart of the area and probably destroy the possibility of such a JV because it would spoil the scenic beauty and pristine nature of the area.</p>	<p>Dr John Turner, Landowner, Babanango Valley Lodge and Environmental Adventures, Babanango Valley</p>	<p>Email on 11 November 2010</p>	<p>Noted. Various specialist studies will be undertaken in the next phase of the project including a Visual Impact Assessment.</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
<p>The documents state the dates in which they were first compiled and verify that this is not just a new rabbit pulled out of the hat to try and stop the lines. Secondly, it indicates the progression of thinking and level of detail attained.</p>			
<p>The three spreadsheets are effectively the same proposal. The first (December 2006) was compiled after initial discussions and feasibility for distribution. The second (dated January 2007) gave a little more detail and refined the first one. The third (July 2008) was reworked, breaking the development into individual projects, when it looked like there may have been a breakthrough with the LCC. The January 2007 draft is probably the best should you need to verify our intentions of establishing a "Big Five" game reserve and the benefits for the community?</p> <p>We would also welcome discussions with your consultants (which I expect will be doing field work, ground truthing and reports) to show them the area and the sensitivity of the issue.</p> <p>All the documents mentioned (three spreadsheets summarising the scope, cost and benefits in terms of jobs and people development that such a JV could bring) have been attached to the report.</p>			
<p>5 Wakkerstroom area is a well-known tourism destination and attracts bird-watchers from overseas. The "sense of place" of the area should be noted and is in a radius of about 50 to 60km around the Wakkerstroom village.</p>	<p>Mr Hans Wischhausen, Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>6 The Amajuba District Council has done a Tourism Node Study and as part of that identified and mapped out tourism routes. It looks as though suggested routes KD, CD and KC may traverse the identified tourism routes. Many private game farms are situated on suggested route KD and it will have a negative impact on their operations.</p>	<p>Mr Robert Stannard, Utrecht Farmer's Association, PO Box 31, Utrecht, 2980</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 17 November at 08:30 in Utrecht</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>7 The proposed line goes through a valley of natural beauty where my family has farmed for six generations. It is a protected area registered as irreplaceable grassland and a breeding site for many bird species. My farm is small and will be split in two by the proposed line.</p>	<p>Mr Heniz Schütte, Vaderland 14, Portion 2 and 4, PO Box 292, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Fax in response to the DSR on 18 November 2010</p>	<p>Noted. Various specialist studies will be undertaken in the next phase of the project.</p>
<p>8 Rustplaats (Pnt 17 & 18) (Which is owned by Viamo Trust and leased by the Eggers Group) is largely used for game conservation purposes. The 650 Ha area further houses an educational facility used for environmental training. This is a fenced area which has been established over 15 years ago. Various game species as well as Oribi is being conserved in this area.</p>	<p>Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380</p>	<p>Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>9 Umgwempies is largely used for game conservation purposes. As such, the area has been declared as a Oribi Custodian by the following organisations: a. Endangered Wildlife Trust; b. Ezemvelo Wildlife; and c. Oribi Working Group. How will the proposed power line be constructed and maintained</p>	<p>Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Viakplaats, Umgwempies, Basei, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382</p>	<p>Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR</p>	<p>An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be compiled and all construction and operational activities will have to comply with the conditions within the EMP</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
10	<p>in a manner which will not affect the conservation area, or which will have a minimum impact thereon. It is further requested that all of the parties as mentioned above be notified about the proposed development and notification proof be provided.</p> <p>The area (Paulpietersburg, Utrecht, Lunenburg) are more and more being developed for tourism and the esthetic value will definitely decrease with the presence of a power line.</p>	<p>Mr Ralf Gevers, Vaderland, Knoopaan, PO Box 745, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Frits W Klingenberg, Osberg, Morgenson, Wonderfontein, Viljoensrust, PO Box 310, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr RM Niebuhr, Rondekopje, Halberton, Welverdiend, PO Box 34, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Viakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Kuno August Engelbrecht, PO Box 224, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Rolf Michael Bohmer, Rondekopje, PO Box 824, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Louis Hinze, Silverton, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR</p>	<p>Further specialist studies, including agricultural/land capability, visual impact and economic impact assessment studies will be done to advise on the least impacting route and possible mitigation measures.</p>
11	<p>The construction of an additional power line will have extreme negative impacts on our farm due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Farm Silverton is part of a game farm officially registered as such with government. b) A herd of fifty disease-free buffaloes roam freely on the farm. c) The temperament of buffaloes does not allow them to be moved for the construction of a power line. d) Vehicles entering the farm have to be disinfected to ensure that no disease is spread on the property. e) With the construction of a line on the farm construction workers will have to be monitored at all times to ensure no impacts on the buffalo and this is an impossible task due to the other duties on the farm. f) An additional power line will make a large part of the farm ineffective for farming and in our experience power lines lead to direct damage. 	<p>Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Viakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR</p>	<p>Noted</p>
12	<p>The proposed power line will have a negative impact on the ecosystem.</p>	<p>Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p> <p>Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Viakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180</p>	<p>Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR</p>	<p>Noted. A terrestrial ecology specialist study will be undertaken in the Impact Assessment Phase of the project.</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
13	The paragliders will not be able to continue with their National Championships in the Paulpietersburg area if the line will be constructed. This will also have a negative impact on tourism. The Dumebe mountain is used by paragliders.	Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr RM Niebuhr, Rondekopje, Halberton, Welverdiend, PO Box 34, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mt RF Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Ms Claire Jordaan, Kortbegrip, Koubad, Pivaansbad, Reddersdal, Roodeloop, Vrijwilliger, Widgelegen, Zeerust, PO Box 895, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Noted.
14	All our farms are enclosed in an electrical game fence – we are a registered game farm as well as a cattle ranch with 1 300 animals. We have grave concerns as to the environmental impact that an additional lie will bring.	Ms Claire Jordaan, Kortbegrip, Koubad, Pivaansbad, Reddersdal, Roodeloop, Vrijwilliger, Widgelegen, Zeerust, PO Box 895, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Noted
15	The power line will have a negative impact on the wetlands as habitat of cranes, vultures and secretary birds.	Mr Izak David Venter, Rem of Manzana or Traklaat, Voorkeurplaats, PO Box 675, Vryheid, 3100 Mt RF Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	An avi-fauna specialist study will be undertaken in the Impact Assessment Phase of the project
(3.3) Visual				
1	The proposed route near Wakkerstroom will have strong visual impacts. It will be visible to all dwellings and hotels anywhere within view of the present 2km corridor.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom Ms Kristi Garland, Birdlife South Africa, Wakkerstroom Centre, PO Box 169, Wakkerstroom. Mr Hans Wischhausen, Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480 Mr Clive Kelly, Clive Kelly Family Trust, PO Box 36, Empangeni, 3880	Email on 16 October in response to the BID. Email in October in response to the BID. Email on 8 November 2010 in response to the BID. Email in October in response to the BID.	A visual impact assessment will be done during this EIA to determine the exact impact of all the various alternative routes.
2	Investigate the visual impacts of the transmission line.	Mr Clive Kelly, Clive Kelly Family Trust, PO Box 36, Empangeni, 3880	Email in October in response to the BID.	A visual impact assessment will be done during this EIA to determine the exact impact of all the various alternative routes.
3	Will it not decrease the visual impact if the pylons/towers are painted green?	Mr Eric Buthelezi, landowner and emCakwini Trust, PO Box 75, Babanango, 3850	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Ulundi on 22 November 2010	The pylons tend to be shiny when they are new, but become dull after a few years, making them a little less obvious. Eskom's experience is that painted pylons stand out more than unpainted pylons.
4	We also worried about the aesthetics of this beautiful area. Laurens van der Post described the area from Melmoth to the Babanango Valley as one of the most beautiful in South Africa.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Noted.
5	Utrecht's focus is tourism. A transmission line closer to the town	Mr Robert Stannard, Utrecht	Public meeting held	A visual impact assessment will be done during this EIA to determine the

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
	will have a negative visual impact.	Farmer's Association, PO Box 31, Utrecht, 2980	on 17 November at 08:30 in Utrecht	exact impact of all the various alternative routes.
6	We have a guest house and the reason why people visit is for the beautiful and unspoilt scenery. A power line will destroy this.	Mr Johannes van der Walt, Plot 79, Wakkerstroom, 2480	In response to the DSR on 9 November 2010	A visual impact assessment will be done during this EIA to determine the exact impact of all the various alternative routes.
7	A power line in this area will have a visual impact, especially for the learners at the Sonkela school and the homesteads close by.	Mr Raif Gevers, Vaderland, Knoopaan, PO Box 745, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	A visual impact assessment will be done during this EIA.
9	We have grave concerns as to the visual impact of the proposed line.	Ms Claire Jordaan, Kortbegrip, Koubad, Pivaansbad, Reddersdal, Roodeloop, Vrijwilliger, Wildgelegen, Zeerust, PO Box 895, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Frits W Klingenberg, Ostberg, Morgenson, Wonderfontein, Vijoensrust, PO Box 310, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Harald Gunther Niebuhr, Viakfontein, Ontevrede, PO Box 5, Paulpietersburg, 3180		A visual impact assessment will be done during this EIA.
(3.4) Agriculture and Land Capability				
1	Investigate the potential impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry • Sugar Cane • Livestock Farming 	Mr Ramabulana Ndawato, Assistant Director: Water Management, Directorate: Water Use and Irrigation Development Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Kristi Garland, Birdlife South Africa, Wakkerstroom Centre, PO Box 169, Wakkerstroom. Mr Hans Wischhausen Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480	Email in response to BID on 25 October 2010	An agricultural / land capability assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors.
2	Investigate the potential agricultural loss due to this project.	Ms Kristi Garland, Birdlife South Africa, Wakkerstroom Centre, PO Box 169, Wakkerstroom. Mr Hans Wischhausen Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480	Written response to BID in October 2010. Written response to BID on 8 November 2010.	An agricultural / land capability assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors.
3	Agriculture is the only place of employment in Melmoth. There is no industrial sector in Melmoth to provide employment. A decrease in agricultural land will affect the whole town.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Noted. An agricultural / land capability assessment as well as a Social Impact Assessment will be done during this EIA on all the various alternative corridors.
4	What will happen if one of our pivot irrigation systems is in the proposed servitude?	Ms Mandy Hattingh, Beginseel Boerdery, PO Box 456, Volksrust, 2470	Public meeting held on 16 November 2010 at 14:00 in Volksrust	No infrastructure is allowed in any of the Eskom servitudes. In principle, Eskom will endeavour to construct the line in open areas to avoid any infrastructure. If that is not possible, Eskom will negotiate on an individual basis compensation for their losses.
5	I have a 400kV line on my farm and underneath each pylon there	Mr Johan van der Meulen,	Fax on 10 November	That is the reason why Eskom pays a landowner for the servitude, to

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
	is a large area that cannot be planted.	Landowner, Bührmansvallei, PO Box 2764, Ermelo, 2350	2010 in response to the BID	compensate for this loss of usable land.
6	Agricultural potential assessments have to be conducted and should be linked with an economic assessment to address land value and an exponential, continuous loss of income.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Johann Schutte, JSHS Investments, PO Box 4, Pie Retief, 2380 Mr Hans Filter, P/Bag X 5022, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	An Economic Assessment will be done during the impact assessment phase.
7	Heyshope and Kromrivier is largely used for commercial grain, maize, soybean (rain fed, pivot) and cattle stud purposes. How will the proposed power line be constructed and maintained in a manner which will not affect the production area, or which will have a minimum impact thereon.	Mr TI Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	An EMP will be compiled specifying how the line will be constructed.
8	Eskom have of late mowed the grass under existing power lines on the property, prior to the winter and related cutting season. To what extent does this practice impact on the cattle carrying capacity of the farm and what impact will this have on the profitability of this division?	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykstuit, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	The landowner can dictate what happens to the cut grass, for example, grass being baled and stored for future grazing.
9	The farm Lodewykstuit and Speenkoppies hosts four existing power lines and a railway line dividing the properties. At what point and to what extent does the cumulative impact of these power lines and a railway line effect a diversified farm to such an extent that the property cannot be used for conducting an agricultural business or where the cumulative impact becomes so intrusive that it is difficult to conduct such a business. How will this be determined during the Impact Assessment Phase?	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykstuit, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	An Economic Assessment will be done during the impact assessment phase.
10	My farm is enclosed with game fence and the proposed line will force me to split up camps at my cost. This may be dangerous to my animals and will be at very high costs. Smaller camps are also not good as the animals will have smaller areas to roam in.	Mr Johann Stolz, Zambli 35 Ply Ltd and Rooipoort land owner	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Noted
(3.5) Electromagnetic Fields				
1	Investigate the impact of the electromagnetic field generated by a 765 kv power line on the electricity supply and infrastructure of the railway line between Camden and Richards Bay.	Mr Philip de Klerk, Transnet Freight Rail, Private Bag X 637, Pretoria, 0001	BID comment sheet in October 2010.	Eskom's lines are designed to meet international EMF standards and will therefore not cause any harmful EMF's. Further information on EMF's will be included in the Environmental Impact Report.
2	Is it dangerous for a person using a pacemaker to walk beneath a 765 kv transmission line?	Mr David McIlraith, landowner, PO Box 34, Empangeni, 3880	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Nobody at the meeting could provide an answer. (Can someone assist?) An EMF study will be undertaken for the 765kV power line.
3	Who has done the research towards the compilation of the Electromagnetic Fields study for 400kV lines?	Mr Hendrik Mills, TLU Eastern Region and Natal Postnet Suite 372, Private Bag X9013, ZITHOLELE CONSULTING	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	Mr Bertie Jacobs, Eskom responded that several countries are involved in research on EMFs and that Eskom often work internationally to ensure that they have the latest information with regards to EMFs.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
4	Is there a magnetic field around transmission lines? How does it work? How will the electromagnetic field, of such a high voltage line, impact on the game, cattle, timber and vegetation on all possibly affected properties?	<p>Mr Leon Grove, Pixley Ka Seme Municipality, Private Bag X 9011, Volksrust, 2470 Ermelo, 2350</p> <p>Mr Herbert Röhrs, landowner of Silverton, PO Box 261, Paul Pietersburg</p> <p>GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union</p> <p>Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nooitgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwemples, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382</p> <p>Mr Tl Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delif, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380</p> <p>Mr Izak David Venter, Rem of Manzana or Traktaat, Voorkeurplaats, PO Box 675, Vryheid, 3100</p>	<p>Public meeting held on 16 November 2010 at 14:00 in Volksrust</p> <p>Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg</p> <p>Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR</p> <p>Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR</p> <p>Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR</p>	<p>Yes, electric magnetic fields are prevalent around electric infrastructure that transmits power. As part of the EIA the potential impact of the electromagnetic field of the proposed 765kV line will be assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric and magnetic fields are created, in varying levels from transmission lines • The voltage applied to a conductor and the current flowing on a conductor produce magnetic fields • Many studies (epidemiology, laboratory and live animal) have been conducted • The main focus of the research has been on a possible association between long-term exposure to magnetic fields and childhood leukaemia • Studies on behaviour, reproduction, health, meat and milk production have found minimal or no effects of EMFs on animals. • Similarly, studies have found no significant effect of EMFs on plant growth, crop production and seed germination. • South Africa currently has no regulations (under the Hazardous Substances Act (Act 15 of 1973)) in terms of exposure to power frequency EMFs but ICNIRP guidelines receive worldwide support and are endorsed by the Department of Health in South Africa. • Occupational and public reference levels are set at 10 kV/m and 5 kV/m, respectively, for electric fields • Thus, Eskom adopts a conservative or precautionary approach
5	Cattle grazing under power lines produce 50% less calves than cattle in areas with power lines.	<p>Mr Johan van der Meulen, Landowner, Buihmansvallei, PO Box 2764, Ermelo, 2350</p>	<p>Fax on 10 November 2010 in response to the BID</p>	<p>Studies on behaviour, reproduction, health, meat and milk production have found minimal or no effects of EMFs on animals.</p>
6	The main railway line between Richards bay and the Mpumalanga Coast fields is located on various portions of possibly affected properties. Please clarify: a. Whether the electromagnetic field will impact on the railway line, should it be in close proximity to the line.	<p>GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union</p> <p>Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nooitgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380</p>	<p>Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR</p>	<p>The only impact power lines have on railway lines is on the communication system and this is mitigated with Transnet.</p>

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
<p>(3.6) Infrastructure</p>				
1	Infrastructure like airfields for fire fighting purposes should be avoided.	Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ermstdraai, Viakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382	Dr David Everard, Sappi Forests, PO Box 13124, Cascades, 3202 Mr Carl van Loggerenberg, Sappi Forests, PO Box 7, Kwambanambi, 3915	The various airfields have been taken into consideration during the selection of corridors. A corridor of 2 km wide for each of the various alternatives is being investigated to assess environmental, economic and social impacts. Thus, within the 2km wide corridor, the power line (with a 94 m wide servitude and 104 m in commercial forest area) could be placed anywhere. Another reason for assessing a 2km wide corridor is to be able to make sure that a proposed line does not cross any building. However should airfields be identified within any of the corridors and be unavoidable, these corridors will be fatally flawed and therefore not feasible. The relevant maps were sent to MTN.
2	Send me the map in SHP or TAB format. We need to overlay the alternate routes to determine which (if any) of our infrastructure is affected by the proposed line – in order that we may give you feedback.	Ms Nomswazi Tinus, GIS Analyst, Mobile Telephone Networks (MTN)	Email in response to BID on 25 October 2010	
3	The proposed line will have an impact on aircraft traffic at the Wakkerstroom airfield	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 16 October in response to the BID.	A corridor of 2 km wide for each of the various alternatives is being investigated to assess environmental, economic and social impacts. Thus, within the 2 km wide corridor, the power line (with a 94 m wide servitude and 104 m in commercial forest area) could be placed anywhere. Another reason for assessing a 2km wide corridor is to be able to make sure that a proposed line does not cross any building Mr McMurray showed the exact location of the airfield to Ms Hex. This will be investigated further in the EIA process.
4	One of the proposed alternative routes is near an airfield. This airfield is vital for Melmoth, because it is used for fighting fires in the timber industry and for crop spraying in the sugar cane industry. Another line will increase the risk of pilots flying into transmission lines. Planes are also used to spray a ripening agent on the sugar cane, which is vital for this industry. During the fire season there are two water bombers and a spotter plane based at this airfield.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	Various specialist studies will be done during the EIA process to minimise the impact of the proposed transmission line of both humans and animals. Mr McMurray showed the exact location of the airfield to Ms Hex.
5	I am a licensed Radio Ham (ZS6ROC) and a 765 kV transmission line will have a severe impact on my reception. It will force me to relocate my radio tower at additional expense and great cost.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 28 October in response to the BID.	
6	One of the proposed alternative routes is near an airfield. This airfield is vital for Melmoth, because it is also used by the Air Ambulance transporting doctors and medical supplies to Melmoth.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Viakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Melmoth on 23 November 2010	
7	The proposed line will have an impact on aircraft traffic at the Wakkerstroom airfield	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom Mr Louis Hoffmann, Eagle Ranch, PO Box 334, Wakkerstroom Mr Werner Weber, Mooihoek farm, PO Box 222, Piet Retief.	Email on 16 October in response to the BID. Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief Public meeting held on 16 November at	A corridor of 2 km wide for each of the various alternatives is being investigated to assess environmental, economic and social impacts. Thus, within the 2 km wide corridor, the power line (with a 94 m wide servitude and 104 m in commercial forest area) could be placed anywhere. Another reason for assessing a 2km wide corridor is to be able to make sure that a proposed line does not cross any building One of the criteria for selecting alternative routes is to look at the alignment of transmission lines to other infrastructure such as roads and
8	Consolidate the Eskom infrastructure to make sure that various lines do not cut farms into small uneconomically portions of land.			

	COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
	It is recommended that the 765kV line be aligned to existing 400kV and other lines on route to Empangeni. Are power lines ever dismantled?	2380 Ms Ann Cheai, Wakkerstroom resident, PO Box 216, Wakkerstroom Mr Frans van Niekerk, landowner of Gerust, PO Box 946, Vryheid	08:30 in Plet Retief Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid	lines where possible. Eskom does not want all their infrastructure aligned due to safety risks, e.g. fire and lightning. No, Eskom has a serious need to upgrade their network and all available lines are being used. It is possible that it may be done in the far future.
9	A serious concern is raised regarding the proposed alignment of line AP which, as per the Shapefiles (on Google earth) received will cross over various existing power lines which serve to connect an Eskom Substation located adjacent to Pnt 13 of the farm Rustplaats. During the public meeting which was held on the 16th of November – it was categorically stated that a power line of this magnitude may not be constructed above another transmission line. Please clarify whether the proposed alignment will cross any Distribution power lines and whether Eskom Distribution has been contacted in this regard. If these power lines which are to be crossed are however Transmission lines, clarity regarding the public meeting statement is required as well as technical details of such a crossing.	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Plet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	When crossing perpendicular to other power lines the designers carefully look at the clearances requirements between the different lines and lines will be designed to meet clearance regulations etc. This information of existing power line heights etc will only be available once the detail survey data has been received and only then will detailed discussions with Distribution commence.
11	What is the impact of the proposed line on the probability of cattle grazing in the vicinity of line being killed by lightning?	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Plet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Major transmission lines have earth mats installed under the towers to naturalise lightning.
12	The proposed line will be directly next to a homestead and almost directly across informal settlements on the farm. The primary school Sonkela is also in the area. Earlier the Department of Water Affairs has investigated the possibility of constructing a dam (Pongola Dam) in the area which will be traversed by the proposed power line.	Mr Raif Gevers, Vaderland, Knoopaan, PO Box 745, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Letter received on 3 December 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
13	The proposed power line servitude will cross homesteads on our farm.	Mr Heindrich Hagen, Eersteling, PO Box 31, Commondale, 2385 Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Frits W Klingenberg, Ostberg, Morgenson, Wonderfontein, Vijoenrust, PO Box 310, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr RM Niebuhr, Rondekopje, Halberton, Welverdiend, PO Box 34, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Jan Van Romburg, Silverton, Paulpietersburg,	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Noted
14	Will our own power line be affected by the proposed 765kV line? We are generating hydro power on our farm and have our own	Mr Jan Van Romburg, Silverton, Paulpietersburg,	Comment received per letter on 3	A corridor of 2km is being assessed in order to deviate the power line from any such infrastructure where possible.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
	power line.	3180	December in response to the DSR	
15	My game farm is enclosed by game fencing and the proposed construction of the line poses serious threats to this infrastructure as well as to the game which may escape if the fence will have to be moved.	Mr Johann Stolz, Rooipoort, Zambili 35 (Pty) Ltd	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	A corridor of 2km is being assessed in order to deviate the power line from any such infrastructure where possible.
16	Our farm is already a small farm with a large portion that is taken up by mining operations. The plantation compartments on the farm is already small – 5 to 10 ha in size which may get smaller and become uneconomical units. We already have an existing Eskom servitude on the farm. There are bound to be effects from blasting at the mine on the power lines and their foundations – Eskom must take responsibility for this.	John Davis, PO Box 320, Piet Retief	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Noted
(3.7) Economic / Compensation				
1	Should this transmission line be built over our property, how would we be compensated for our loss? Will it include the total cost of re-purchase and relocation to another 25 ha smallholding with housing and luxury finishes for us in the Wakkerstroom municipal area with exactly what we have here?	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 16 October in response to the BID.	The conclusion of the EIA process is an environmental authorization for only one route by the Department of Environmental Affairs. Once that authorization was granted, Eskom will send their team of negotiators to landowners for discussions on compensation for the servitude that is required. Yes, Eskom will compensate landowners in accordance with the Expropriation Act. The relocation costs of people and animals will also be paid.
2	According to your map there are twelve families living within the Wakkerstroom municipal boundary affected by the proposed development. How will we be compensated?	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Email on 16 October in response to the BID.	The conclusion of the EIA process is an environmental authorization for only one route by the Department of Environmental Affairs. Once that authorization was granted, Eskom will send their team of negotiators to landowners for discussions on compensation for the servitude that is required.
3	Will Eskom compensate farmers?	Mrs CAJ Hatting, PO Box 156, Vryheid, 3100	Email on 15 October in response to the BID.	Eskom will compensate landowners at 100% of the current market value for the servitude, including improvements affected by the transmission line.
4	Will Eskom compensate a farmer for trees that will be chopped down to clear the servitude for the transmission line?	Mr Eric Buthelezi, landowner and emCakwini Trust, PO Box 75, Babanango, 3850	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Ulundi on 22 November 2010	Yes, Eskom has various categories of land use from grasslands for grazing to forestry and the landowner will be compensated accordingly.
5	What rights does a land owner have who does not agree with the value Eskom's evaluator has worked out for an affected property? Can a landowner refuse to sell to Eskom?	Mr Greg Nelson, landowner GSA Farm, Riverside Estate, Nutman's Hill, PO Box 143, Empangeni, 3880	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Property valuation is a well-regulated industry. If you are unhappy with a valuation, you may appoint your own valuer (at your own cost) or complain to the South African Council for Valuers. Expropriation is the last resort should a landowner be unwilling to sell and Eskom tries its utmost to avoid any negotiating process ever reaching this step.
6	Compensation must be paid to fringe companies, such as transport companies, sugar and wood mills indirectly affected by a transmission line.	Mr Gerry Barry, Tongaat Hulett Sugar, Private Bag X02, Felixton, 3875	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Noted. Eskom currently only pays compensation to landowners directly affected by a development.
7	Eskom should investigate going into a lease agreement with landowners for servitudes and should paid them an income equivalent to what was produced previously.	Mr Gerry Barry, Tongaat Hulett Sugar, Private Bag X02, Felixton, 3875	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Eskom cannot go into such an agreement with landowners. Payment is done according to the Expropriation Act.
8	Eskom will have more chance of amending an Act, because it has a 'bigger voice' than a group of landowners from Empangeni.	Various stakeholders	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Noted.

	COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
9	Clarify "Market Value" when it comes to evaluating property. The market value is normally what the property would trade at under natural circumstances, what the normal buyer is prepared to pay, not what Eskom is prepared to pay for expropriated properties. In this instance, given that the process of negotiation with owners would only take place once the route go-ahead was authorised by Government, the affected property and its surrounds would immediately lose its market value and would certainly not attract a likely buyer under normal circumstances and there would no longer be a market value as in a normal free market trade situation. There needs to be a "normal commercial circumstances" clause and understanding as if nothing had happened to cause this situation to happen, ie no loss of circumstances caused by an unwanted Eskom intervention.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	November 2010 Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom and an email received in response to the DSR on 16 November 2010	The issue actually defines the method of compensation proposed by the Expropriation Act. The payment of financial impacts is covered by the above Act.
10	Although it is understood that Eskom negotiates for the necessary servitudes within the ambit of the Expropriation Act, Eskom should look into the option of renting the servitudes necessary for this proposed project from farmers. In this way the proposed compensation would be regarded as sustainable and if a farm is sold, the new owner will receive the rental income for the servitude. The TLU representing the Eastern Region and KwaZulu-Natal would like to bring this proposed option to Eskom at the beginning of this process.	Andries van Rensburg, TLU Eastern Region and Natal Postnet Suite 1268, Private Bag X9013, Ermelo, 2350	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	Mr Simphiwe Ntuzini, Eskom responded that Eskom acts within the Expropriation Act and the option of renting of servitudes is not covered in the Act. Proposals towards changes of the Act cannot be driven by Eskom alone and he said that comments received such as these could lead to Parliamentarians' renewed discussions of the Act.
11	Can Eskom appropriate farms?	Mr Fritz Meyer, Umkonka 150, PO Box 4972, Piet Retief, 2380	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	Eskom acts within the ambit of the Expropriation Act and can appropriate, however Eskom first negotiate with land owners to ensure a fair, just and equitable outcome as part of a negotiation process.
12	We have a problem with the principles upon which a valuator values the land. A valuator takes cognisance of the land use, however due consideration is not taken in terms of the disruptions that can be caused, for example, should a servitude disturb the pivot line and the pivot has to be moved for its optimal functioning, Eskom does not compensate for that. In another instance, Eskom does not compensate landowners for the extra fire breaks that have to be burnt. Eskom does also not compensate landowners for their income losses in perpetuity. We would like these points to be included in the specifications according to which the valuator has to value the land that is lost.	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust farm, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Paul Lourens, Driefontein and Utzigit, PO Box 2002, Vryheid, 3100	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief Fax on 11 January 2011	This is noted and Eskom will consider the inclusion of these points in the specifications to the valutors.
13	Landowners should be compensated annually for the income loss due to the servitude right sold to Eskom. Another alternative is for Eskom to pay rent to land owners for the servitude on an annual basis. It was mentioned that Mondi pays R2000 per hectare to landowners per annum. The amount increases with inflation per year.	Mr Werner Weber, Mooihoek farm, PO Box 222, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Harald Niebuhr, landowner of Vlakfontein and Ortevrede, PO Box 5 Paul Pretoriusburg, 3185	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg	The Expropriation Act under which Eskom negotiates does not currently allow for that option, however the matter is noted.
14	A two km corridor is being investigated, however does Eskom want to acquire a 2 km servitude?	Mr Woegie Böhmer, Böhmer Farming and G&M Boerdery, PO Box 1415, Piet Retief, 2380	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	The 2km corridor that is being assessed is to ensure that Eskom may have some leniency with regards to the placement of the line. Eskom requires only a 94m servitude over agricultural land and a 104m servitude in areas planted with sugarcane and plantations.
15	Who will compensate for the loss of labourers homesteads?	Mr Bernd Röhrs, Kleinfontein	Public meeting held	Eskom will pay for the resettlement and relocation of labourers should

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
16	What will happen if my house is in the way of the proposed servitude for the 765kV line?	Farm, PO Box 77, Piet Retief, 2385 Ms Mandy Hatting, Beginsel Boerdery, PO Box 456, Volksrust, 2470 Mrs Joyce Nyandeni, Swart Mfoloji	on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief and at 14:00 in Volksrust Public meeting held on 18 November 2010 at 14:00 in Swart Mfoloji	their homes be in the servitude required. A two km wide corridor is being assessed by specialists during the EIA. Within the 2km corridor Eskom only requires a servitude of about 100m. Once the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has granted Environmental Authorisation (EA) to one of the alternatives, a "walk down" of the approved route will take place to ensure that the proposed line will not be constructed over houses or other infrastructure. After these measures were taken and a house is still in the way, Eskom will compensate the owner of the house in such a way that the owner will be able to buy another house of the same value at another location.
17	Will Eskom compensate landowners for the future loss of potential income which they could have made on the land for servitudes? Should an area no longer be used for timber production, a continuous exponential loss will be incurred by the landowner. How will this exponential loss be determined and compensated for as the timber price varies from year to year?	Ms Mandy Hattingh, Beginsel Boerdery, PO Box 456, Volksrust, 2470 GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union. Mr H Geiken, Pampoenkraal, Ermsdraai, Viakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382 Mr TI Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykslust, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Izak David Venter, Rem of Manzana or Traktaat, Voorkeurplaats, PO Box 675, Vryheid, 3100	Public meeting held on 16 November 2010 at 14:00 in Volksrust Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	At present Eskom pays according to the Expropriation Act which states that actual financial loss should be compensated for.
18	How is it possible that if Eskom appoints and pay a valuator that such a person can provide an independent service? Is this not a direct conflict of interest?	Mr Hans Wischhausen, Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	Registered valuers are appointed that subscribe to the norms and ethics of their profession. They also need to act according to the Property Valuers Professions Act, 47 of 2000. They are thus independent in terms of their findings and have to adhere to the standards set by the South African Council for Valuers. Should a landowner not be satisfied with the valuation of the valuator the landowner may appoint his/her own valuator for an additional valuation.
19	A transmission line on a property impacts negatively on the value of the property. Does the valuator assess the value of the property before the construction of a line or thereafter?	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom Mr Mike Bartolo, Wakkerstroom resident	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom Email received on 18	The valuator that Eskom appoints does what is called a "strip" valuation. That means that he will do more or less a desk top exercise valuating properties without visiting each specific landowner's property. If the landowner is not satisfied with the valuation received, the landowner can ask for a specific valuation. This means that the valuator will then visit the individual landowner to assess his property.

	COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
20	Registered valuers, whether they are appointed by Eskom or by individual landowners will end with a valuation within the same price range as each other, since they prescribe to the same laws, principles and standards.	Mr Huliert Shawe, Dwarsbalk, PO Box 15, Utrecht, 2930	November 2010 Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	Noted
21	The period of uncertainty - whether a transmission line will be constructed or not - will also influence the value of the land.	Mr Nigel Mason, PO Box 302, Wakkerstroom	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	Noted
22	Does Eskom compensate for loss of value? The Wakkerstroom area has a special sense of place and is a very special place for all its residents. To us our property has special value and we will have to be compensated for that.	Mr Hans Wischhausen, Wakkerstroom Tourism Association, PO Box 172, Wakkerstroom, 2480	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom	At present Eskom pays according to the Expropriation Act which states that actual financial loss should be compensated for.
23	What happens if a landowner disagrees with the valuation of the land at the end of the process or if a landowner does not want to sell his/her property?	Mr Reinhard Röhrs, landowner of Silvertown, PO Box 261, Paul Pietersburg, 3180 Mr Frans van Niekerk, landowner of Gerust, PO Box 946, Vryheid	Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid	Eskom's principle is to negotiate until such a time that all parties agree, however if it is not possible, Eskom may request for the expropriation of the servitudes it requires.
24	Leasing servitudes from landowners is a far more acceptable option, since the price for the servitude right is too low, especially in comparison to the price landowners pay for electricity. Tariffs for electricity should increase with inflation in the same fashion as Eskom inflates their prices for buying servitudes.	Mr Flip Raath, landowner of Boschkrans, PO Box 684, Paul Pietersburg, 3180	Public meeting held on 17 November at 14:00 in Paul Pietersburg	The Expropriation Act, under which Eskom negotiates does not currently allow for that option, however the matter is noted.
25	Our Trust has a rental agreement with Mondri and if Route AP is approved, the Trust will lose that agreement. I suggest that the same rental agreement should apply that we have with Mondri for the area we will lose to a transmission line. We do not want more money, just the same income as what we receive from Mondri.	Mr Selwyn Böhmer, trustee, PO Box 402, Piet Retief, 2380	Fax on 18 November 2010 in response to the BID	The Expropriation Act, under which Eskom negotiates does not currently allow for this option, however the matter is noted. Eskom pays a market-related price for the servitude.
26	The proposed route AP will pass within 200 metres of our quarry operation and will go over future reserves.	Mr John Davies, Eskay Crushers, Weivardiend 148, Portion 57, PO Box 320, Piet Retief, 2380	Fax on 17 November 2010.	Noted. Please note that the corridor being assessed is 2 km wide and only a 94m wide corridor is required (104m in plantation areas). There is a possibility that the line might be further or closer to your property.
27	What will happen to the value of properties in Wakkerstroom once a power line is constructed on the property? What will be the impact on the value of properties around a property that has such a huge tower on it? It is clear that the value will drop, but the question is by how much will it drop?	Mr Mike Bartolo, Wakkerstroom resident	Email received on 18 November 2010	An economic impact assessment will be undertaken in the next phase of the project.
28	On various properties which may be affected, various parastatal and government organisations require (or have acquired) property for: roads, railways and now a power line. A concern is raised that the cumulative effect of land being used for non-agricultural and non-profitable uses are increasing to the detriment of the land owners. Please indicate what measures have been taken to consider the cumulative impact - financially - on the losses incurred by landowners of land being expropriated for infrastructure requirements. What impact will this have on tannin extract, pulp-fibre security and structural wood? What impact will the proposed power line have on food security?	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ermstdraat, Vlakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe, 2382	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted. These issues will be taken into consideration during the impact assessment phase.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
		Mr TI Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykstuit, Speenkoppies, Delft, Welkom, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380 Mr Alwin Klingenberg, Hoopwel, Welgelegen, PO Box 364, Paulpietersburg, 3180		
29	We are in the process to redistribute half of the property to a previously disadvantaged community. If the proposed power line traverses the property, plantations will have to be taken out and the redistribution project would be doomed for failure as it would no longer be economically viable.	Mr Heinrich Hagen, Eersteling, PO Box 31, Commondale, 2385	Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
30	Existing plantations will have to be removed to make way for the power line, we have no alternative land to plant trees and it will have a huge economic impact on out farming practices and income.	Mr Heinrich Hagen, Eersteling, PO Box 31, Commondale, 2385 Mr RF Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
31	The proposed servitude puts us in a disadvantaged financial position as land value escalates. A once-off payment for a servitude is not a long term investment.	Mr Heinrich Hagen, Eersteling, PO Box 31, Commondale, 2385	Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
32	An additional power line will be an economic disaster on the timber farming aspect, regarding loss of forestry land, loss of plantation permits – farms will no longer be economic viable units.	Mr Rudolf Friedrich Johannes, Welverdiend, Scheepersrust, Rondekopje, PO Box 17, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Jan Van Romburg, Silverton, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted
33	The power line will divide my farm in uneconomical units. We already have Eskom power lines and a railway line. Nothing viable will remain of the farm – I'm gravely against the construction of the line on my property. In addition, Mr Van Romburgh already has one 400kV line and two railway lines going through his land.	Ms Amanda Kingenberg, Morgenzon, PO Box 289, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Christian Schütte, Private Bag X317, Paulpietersburg, 3180 Mr Jan Van Romburg, Silverton, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Noted

COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
4 POST EIA COMMENTS				
(4.1) Construction				
1	What are the time lines with regards to the construction of the proposed 765kV line?	Mr Johan Ceiliers, Weltevreden Farm, PO Box 1136, Ermelo 2350	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	Construction is planned to commence in 2012 with completion planned for 2016.
2	In a recent experience with a construction of a transmission line on our farm we have experienced huge problems with Eskom's contractors. When we have reported the problems we came up against a brick wall until such time that we have locked our gates and hired an external company to patrol our land to prevent contractors from entering our farm.	Ms Mandy Hattingh, Beginsel Boerdery, PO Box 456, Volksrust, 2470	Public meeting held on 16 November 2010 at 14:00 in Volksrust	These problems are unacceptable. Stakeholders are requested to take pictures and to write a report to Eskom in the instance that they have difficulty with contractors. Eskom's principal is to compensate for any losses and damage to property, livestock, etc. Eskom and their contractors have to adhere to the conditions that were specified in the Environmental Authorisation and the Environmental Management Programme.
3	Will a Water Use License Application or registration be required during the construction phase of the proposed development? Will any water be taken from any river, stream or drainage line? Therefore in terms of the Scoping Phase – details regarding all water uses and provision is required to be included in the EIA phase.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	No water will be abstracted from water courses and no towers will be placed within water bodies, therefore no water use license is required for the proposed project.
4	Where will water be sourced from during the construction phase of the northern section of the line and how much water will be required? Has assurance been provided that water is available? Please provide proof of water availability from wherever received. Note that the Mkhondo area experiences various water provision related problems, with water supply being cut for entire days.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	This will be determined once the Environmental Authorisation has been issued. Should a water use permit be required, all the necessary permits will be obtained before commencement.
5	Where will construction material, especially sand and earth material (where applicable) be sourced from if required. If soil or sand is planned to be taken from a borrow pit –provide details regarding the planned permitting of such pits.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	This will be determined once the Environmental Authorisation has been issued. Eskom might buy the construction material or use a borrow pit. Should a borrow pit be a viable option, all the necessary permits will be obtained before commencement.
6	Where will construction waste be disposed of and what volume is expected to be generated?	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Where possible construction waste will be recycled and no recyclables will be disposed of at a licensed landfill site. These details for waste management will be included in the EMP.
7	What energy efficiency measures, if any, are being considered during the construction and operational phases of the proposed line?	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	This be addressed in the EMP
8	How will the location of constructions camps be determined? Provide an estimate of: a. How many labourers will be housed in construction camps; b. What entertainment, if any, will be provided to these labourers; c. Where domestic waste of these labourers will be stored and disposed off.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	This will be answered during the impact assessment phase.
9	How much water will be used during construction and stringing of the line and where will this water be sourced from? Will a water use registration be required?	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nooitgedacht, Wildrand, Rustplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	This will be determined once the Environmental Authorisation has been issued. Should a water use permit be required, all the necessary permits will be obtained before commencement.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
		Mr H Gerken, Pampoenkraal, Ernstdraai, Vlakplaats, Umgwempies, Basel, PO Box 70, iswepe, 23824		
10	How much construction waste will be generated for the northern section and where will this waste be disposed of?	Mr TI Ferreira, Heyshope, Kromrivier, PO Box 147, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	The quantities of waste are unknown at this stage however all non recyclable waste will be disposed of at a licensed landfill.
11	Will any construction camp be placed in the vicinity of any homestead and will this be considered in the Social Impact Assessment as mentioned in the DSR to be conducted?	Mr E Eggers, Pampoenkraal, Nootgedacht, Wildrand, Rustiplaats, PO Box 34, Piet Retief, 2380	Comment received per email on 8 December in response to the DSR	Yes, the EIA (social impact assessment) should address the issues of construction camps and also identify and advise on the least impacting areas. The EMP will also address the issue of construction camps.
5	OTHER			
(5.1) Eskom related comments				
1	Let me know whether a decision has been made (RoD) regarding the site of the Theta Substation	Mr Clive Kelly, Clive Kelly Family Trust, PO Box 36, Empangeni, 3880	Email in October in response to the BID.	Your contact details will be sent to Eskom to add your name to the Theta Substation database. You will then be notified when Eskom receives a response from the relevant authorising authority.
2	There are still many farms and households in this area without electricity. When will that happen?	Mr Eric Buthelezi, landowner and emCakwini Trust, PO Box 75, Babanango, 3850	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Ulundi on 22 November 2010	Government is striving to provide universal access to electricity for all households by 2012.
3	If a farmer wants electricity on his farm, then the farmer must pay for the connection from the nearest distribution line to his farm.	Mr Eric Buthelezi, landowner and emCakwini Trust, PO Box 75, Babanango, 3850	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Ulundi on 22 November 2010	Noted.
4	Plantations owners are unhappy with Eskom's policy of cutting trees encroaching into an existing line servitude. We would prefer Eskom telling us about the problem and then we will cut the tree down ourselves, because Eskom employees cut the tree down in small pieces only suitable for firewood.	Mr Maarten Grobbelaar, landowner, Bayfibre, PO Box 329, Melmoth, 3835.	Meeting to discuss the DSR at Melmoth on 23 November 2010.	Eskom has got a standard agreement which is used for all commercial foresters. This agreement includes the maintenance of servitudes and upkeep of fire breaks. In this agreement, it will be decided who will be responsible. This must be negotiated with the relevant Eskom Region.
5	It is almost impossible to change a pre-arranged date with Eskom for the switching off of a specific line when it is time to burn fire breaks. Sometimes the wind is too strong or coming from the wrong direction making it impossible to burn. I have also noticed that lines are sometimes live (a distinct humming noise) when Eskom insisted they are off.	Mr Maarten Grobbelaar, landowner, Bayfibre, PO Box 329, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR at Melmoth on 23 November 2010.	Noted

	COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
6	We must phone Eskom three days before we want to burn near their lines. Sometimes not possible burn on the specific day due to strong wind, or a change in the wind direction. This throws our whole routine out on the farms, because we have to build or schedules around Eskom.	Mr Alistair McMurray, landowner Vlakpoort Trust, PO Box 223, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR at Melmoth on 23 November 2010.	The reason for giving Eskom three days notice is because the line must be switched off when the farmers are burning and the electricity load must be deviated along a different route. If burning does take place and the line is not switched off, then it can trip the line, causing a drop in voltage which leads to power failures. This is the reason why we need to strengthen the grid to prevent power failures.
7	I am the final Eskom client on a specific line in the district and suffer from power failures on a regular basis. When the power comes on again it is always too powerful and the surge in current has destroyed many electrical appliances on my farm. The last person I spoke to was Ms Lauren Jones and my Eskom reference number is 344384.	Mr Maarten Grobbelaar, landowner, Bayfibre, PO Box 329, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR at Melmoth on 23 November 2010.	Eskom promised to investigate and Mr Jacob Mbele said he will discuss this in New Germany with Eskom's KwaZulu-Natal management of Distribution.
8	I have spoken to so many people at Eskom about Eskom-related issues. What are you going to do about communication?	Mr Maarten Grobbelaar, landowner, Bayfibre, PO Box 329, Melmoth, 3835	Meeting to discuss the DSR at Melmoth on 23 November 2010.	During the construction of this line and Environmental Control Officer will monitor all construction to ensure that contractors adhere to the EMPProg. Eskom will also have a Farm Liaison Officer that will be the landowners' link to report all problems regarding this line.
9	What 765 kV line comes in from the north to the proposed Mbewu (Theta) Substation?	Question asked before the meeting starting while studying the maps of the proposed alternatives	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	It is the Umfolozu-Mbewu line.
10	Why did the name of the proposed Substation change from Theta to Mbewu?	Mr Luke Hare, Umhlatuzi Valley Sugar Company, PO Box 511, Empangeni, 3880	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Eskom uses the Greek alphabet to provide temporary names to proposed substations until they are officially named. Theta is the eight letter in the Greek alphabet and was used until the name Mbewu was given to this proposed substation that will be built near Empangeni.
11	Can you give an indication of all the nine lines that will eventually be connected to the Mbewu Substation?	Mr John Readman, landowner Mevamthlope, PO Box 14, Empangeni, 3880	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	The lines that will eventually connect Mbewu Substation to the national grid are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camden – Mbewu 765 kV (this study); • Umfolozu – Mbewu 765 kV line; • Invubu – Mbewu 400kV line; • Sigma – Mbewu 2x 400kV lines; • Loop into Mbewu: Umfolozu – Athene 400kV line (two lines); and • Loop into Mbewu: Umfolozu – Invubu 400kV line (two lines).
12	There are private companies in this region who are looking at generating own energy such in this region that could be operational by 2016. Umbane is looking at building a power station, while other companies are investigating wind power. Should that materialise it will not be necessary for Eskom to build additional transmission lines to this region.	Mr Frans van der Walt, Chairperson, uThungulu Strategic Development Committee, PO Box 10376, Meerensee, 3901	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Eskom Transmission's present plans to supply electricity include this line. A number of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are now entering the market through NERSA which makes the need for this line even more necessary because IPPs also have to be integrated into the system. Eskom is aware of Umbane and has been in correspondence with them. Eskom has not heard anything from Umbane recently. Eskom asked for the contact details of companies interested in alternative energy to be forwarded to them.
13	What about old servitudes on farmlands that have not been used by Eskom? When will these servitudes be lifted?	Mr Frans van der Walt, Chairperson, uThungulu Strategic Development Committee, PO Box 10376, Meerensee, 3901	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Eskom has got strategic servitudes throughout the country which will be used in future.
14	The possibility of a bio-diesel power plant running on sugar cane waste (fibres) is also being investigated.	Mr Frans van der Walt, Chairperson, uThungulu Strategic Development Committee, PO Box 10376, Meerensee,	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Noted.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES		COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
15	Why did Eskom not wait for the EIA of the proposed Mbewu (Theta) substation to be finalised before starting with this project?	3901 Various stakeholders	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	The EIA for the Mbewu Substation was supposed to be finalised by June 2010, but it has been delayed due to a review of the geotechnical studies by the Council for Geoscience. Eskom cannot delay all projects while waiting for one project to be finalised. It is unfortunate that the position of the substation has not yet been confirmed, but the other studies in the strengthening project cannot be delayed due to one project running late.
16	Sugar cane waste (fibres) has been declared a renewable resource and a study has been undertaken looking to generate 70 MW from the sugar cane waste in Empangeni. If this project becomes a reality Eskom could downscale the proposed line and reduce the impact on the environment. Studies have shown that there is enough sugar cane waste in KZN to produce 186 MW of electricity.	Mr Rusty Tedder, landowner, Tedder Farm, PO Box 139, Empangeni, 3880	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Eskom does not know anything about this. If there is a proposal to generate electricity from bio-fuel then Eskom should be contacted to discuss this.
17	The reason why Eskom does not know anything about the studies regarding sugar cane waste as an alternative energy source is probably because all talks have been with the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA).	Mr Pierre Redinger, Crystal Holdings, Private Bag X 20004, Empangeni, 3880	Meeting to discuss the DSR in Empangeni on 23 November 2010	Noted.
18	Are any substation planned on the proposed 765kV route?	Mr Kemeels van der Walt, landowner, PO Box 640, Vryheid	Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid	No, the line will be constructed from Camden substation to Mbewu (Theta) substation.
19	Has Eskom considered DC lines instead of AC lines?	Mr Waido Hein, landowner of Goedgeloof, PO Box 450 Vryheid, 3100	Public meeting held on 18 November at 08:30 in Vryheid	DC lines are very expensive and usually used for much longer lines (800km and more). South Africa receives power from the Kahora Bassa Dam with a DC line. The network in the country is based on AC technology, therefore a DC line cannot just be built, since it will not connect with the current AC technology.
20	Is it true that Camden power station only provides power to the aluminium plant in Mozambique (Mozal)?	Mr Johan Celliers, Weltevreden Farm, PO Box 1136, Ermelo 2350	Public meeting held on 15 November at 12:00 in Ermelo	Mr Bertie Jacobs, Eskom responded that Camden exports power to Mozambique, however it also supplies power to Normandie. Camden will also supply power for the new 765kV line towards Mbewu substation.
21	The closing of gates where Eskom has existing servitudes remains a problem. Several farmers brought this up.	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodewykst farm, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	In the agreement that individual landowners has with Eskom, the closing of gates is a condition. Landowners have the right to take the matter up directly with Eskom to take them to task. It should also be noted that once the EMP (with all its conditions) is approved, it becomes a legally binding document. Violation of any of the conditions constitutes a legal contravention according to NEMA.
22	The community was under the impression that the public meeting was held by Eskom to provide individuals the opportunity to sign up so that they can receive electricity.	Several stakeholders from the Swart Mfolozi area who attended the public meeting.	Public meeting held on 18 November 2010 at 14:00 in Swart Mfolozi	The purpose of the meeting was to review the contents of the Draft Scoping Report and to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to raise their concerns with regards to the EIA for the proposed 765 kV transmission line from Camden, Mpumalanga to Empangeni, KwaZulu Natal.
23	Why can the proposed 765kV line from Ermelo to Empangeni not provide us in this community with electricity?	Mr Zakhelehi Kunene, Swart Mfolozi	Public meeting held on 18 November 2010 at 14:00 in Swart Mfolozi	The proposed 765kV line is a transmission line, which is meant to strengthen the grid. Distribution lines take electricity from substations to houses in communities. The 765kV line will help to make sure that sufficient power will be available to substations for distribution of power to houses and communities. The proposed route past the Swart Mfolozi area is one of several alternatives and may not necessarily be the recommended route.
24	Eskom is responsible for the maintenance and clearing of their servitudes, yet farmers need to go to their offices at own costs to arrange for the burning of fire breaks. Eskom wants to acquire further servitudes and again landowners must attend meetings in their own time on their own costs. Eskom needs to come to us individually or we	Mr Hans Gerken, Basel, PO Box 70, Iswepe	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	Noted

	COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
25	Proposals for the development of renewable energy in the area have been heard from private developers. Is Eskom liaising with these companies to ensure that once the power has to be transported that the same lines can be used, since landowners do not want another set of lines on the farms. If the same lines cannot be used, Eskom and the developers of renewable energy should discuss the alignment of lines over farm land.	Mr Tito Vorster, Lodevynsklust farm, PO Box 1028, Piet Retief, 2380	Public meeting held on 16 November at 08:30 in Piet Retief	Noted. Good proposal – this is being implemented under NERSA's supervision.
26	What is the difference between a 400kV line and a 765kV line?	Ms Mandy Hattingh, Beginsel Boerdery, PO Box 456, Volksrust, 2470	Public meeting held on 16 November 2010 at 14:00 in Volksrust	A 765kV transmission line transmits more power than a 400kV line, thus the infrastructure is larger in size. The Pylons are bigger – between 50 to 60m high and bigger servitudes are required – 94m or 104m depending on whether it is agricultural or forestry/sugarcane area.
27	Eskom's 086 toll free telephone number is not working. Eskom does not give their cooperation with regards to fire breaks. As landowners we cannot wait to burn fire breaks and Eskom is often late with their procedure.	Ms Mandy Hattingh, Beginsel Boerdery, PO Box 456, Volksrust, 2470	Public meeting held on 16 November 2010 at 14:00 in Volksrust	Eskom will in future provide the specific telephone number of the Eskom maintenance teams to landowners. Landowners should not have to dial the 086 number, but instead should know exactly who they should liaise with at the time when it is necessary to burn fire breaks.
28	Can a nuclear power plant not be built in Richard's Bay to supply KwaZulu-Natal with power?	Mr Robert Stannard, Utrecht Farmer's Association, PO Box 31, Utrecht, 2980	Public meeting held on 17 November at 08:30 in Utrecht	The climatic (high humidity) conditions do not allow for the construction of a nuclear power plant in KwaZulu-Natal.
29	There was mention made at the Wakkerstroom meeting of other new Mpumalaga power station/s coming on stream around 2013 onwards. Should cognisance not also be taken of the transmission line routes required for those as well as for the Camden/Theta line and therefore the scope be widened (in view of the Environmental impacts) to accommodate a corridor area for future lines, otherwise the whole countryside could potentially end up with multi corridors, line cross-overs, more EIA's etc etc? The process will just get more difficult as time goes on as more and more land is transformed into protected areas, more plantations, dwellings, expansion of railways, roads, fuel pipelines, new planned water affairs dam construction projects, etc etc.	Mr Roland Stone, Landowner, PO Box 125, Wakkerstroom	Public meeting held on 16 November at 18:00 in Wakkerstroom and email in response to the DSR, 20 November 2010	Noted
30	The community at Yakwamabula near the Swart Mfolozi would like to receive power. In the vicinity of Yakwamabula 96 households are without electricity.	Ms Ngema Zmubuntu, resident of Yakwamabula, PO Box 30, Swart Mfolozi, 3115	Reply sheet received in response to the BID	Noted, this will be referred to the relevant Distribution office.
31	Has consideration been given to the possible power station which may be erected by Eskom Generation in the vicinity of the AM alignment? It is requested that proof of consultation be provided. Furthermore it is recommended that Kangra Coal, as the land owners, be contacted in this regard. Refer to Mr Takalani Ndoou (Head of the Department Technical Services) contact nr. 017 826 9700.	GCS on behalf of the Piet Retief Agricultural Union	Comment received per email on 8 Dec 2010 in response to the DSR	Ms Olivia Radebe, Environmental Control Officer at Kangra Coal (PTY) LTD was contacted and the necessary information was sent to her. Proof of consultation is appended to the FSR.
32	There are so many negative comments about Eskom. I cannot allow a power line to cross my farm from power which was generated through a non-green method.	Mr Jan Van Romburg, Silverton, Paulpietersburg, 3180	Comment received per letter on 3 December in response to the DSR	Noted

