

**BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr)**

**FINAL COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

**THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132kV POWER LINE AND SUBSTATION FREE STATE PROVINCE**

**SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES/CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS RAISED BY INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTIES**

**JANUARY-DECEMBER 2013**

Stakeholders who contributed issues ranging across all sectors of society are recorded in this Comments and Responses Report (C&RR). Full record of every issue raised is available from the public participation office and is also included in Appendix E6 of the Final Basic Assessment Application Report. Similar issues raised have been grouped together. The name, affiliation and date of the commentator are also indicated. Technical comments made by the project team are not included in the C&RR.

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BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV POWER LINE AND SUBSTATION, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Comments and Response Report – Final Basic Assessment Report (FBAR)

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

<b>BA</b>	Basic Assessment
<b>BAR</b>	Basic Assessment Report
<b>FBAR</b>	Final Basic Assessment Report
<b>BID</b>	Background Information Document
<b>C&amp;RR</b>	Comments and Responses Report
<b>DBAR</b>	Draft Basic Assessment Report
<b>DEA</b>	Department of Environmental Affairs
<b>DMR</b>	Department of Mineral Resources
<b>EA</b>	Environmental Authorisation
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EMPr</b>	Environmental Management Programme
<b>I&amp;AP</b>	Interested and Affected Party
<b>KSW</b>	Key Stakeholder Workshop
<b>MLM</b>	Mafube Local Municipality
<b>SANRAL</b>	South African National Roads Agency Limited

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Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<b>1. Communication Related Comments / Issues</b>		
<p>Enquired if the preferred route of the proposed development is along the R34 and if all affected landowners were duly consulted with prior to acquiring the servitude.</p>	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <b>Michael Sikhala</b>  <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b>  <b>Town Planner</b>  <b>KSW</b></p>	<p>The landowners, as identified, on the various alternatives received a copy of the BID and were invited to a FGM.  <b>Nicolene Venter, Zitholele/SiVEST</b></p> <p>Eskom has been in consultation with all the potentially affected landowners along the preferred power line corridor and substation location. Provisional agreements have already been secured with the potentially affected landowners at risk by Eskom.  <b>Shaun Taylor - SiVEST</b></p> <p>Furthermore, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) was informed by Eskom regarding the negotiation process that was undertaken at risk prior to consulting the farmers/ landowners.  <b>Andrea Van Gensen - Eskom</b></p> <p>It was re-iterated that consultation with the potentially affected landowners was done at risk considering that the Environmental Authorisation (EA) that may or may not be granted for the environmentally preferred route and substation location.  <b>Nicolene Venter - Zitholele/SiVEST</b></p>
<p>A Google file (kml format) of the proposed development was requested in order ascertain whether the proposed development may have any impact on the MLM future developments.</p>	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <b>Michael Sikhala</b>  <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b>  <b>Town Planner</b>  <b>KSW</b></p>	<p>It was acknowledged that the requested Google files will be sent through.  <b>Shaun Taylor - SiVEST</b></p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b>                      The requested shape Google (kml format) was sent on Monday 25 November 2013.</p>
<b>2. Biodiversity Related Comments / Issues</b>		
None.	None.	None.
<b>3. Surface Water Related Comments / Issues</b>		
None.	None.	None.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<b>4. Heritage Related Comments / Issues</b>		
None.	None.	None.
<b>5. Soils and Agricultural Potential Related Comments / Issues</b>		
None.	None.	None.
<b>6. Socio-economic Related Comments / Issues</b>		
None.	None.	None.
<b>7. Mining Rights Related Comments/ Issues</b>		
Elaborated the role DMR plays in projects of this nature by explaining that DMR checks and verifies the status of the land that will be affected by the proposed development in terms of the Mining Rights and Mining Prospecting Rights.	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <i>Kalipa Kewuti</i>  <i>Department of Mineral Resource</i>  <i>Acting Regional Manager</i>  <b>KSW</b></p>	The DMR's participation in BAs and EIAs of this nature is noted. <b>Nicolene Venter- Zitholele/SiVEST</b>
Requested SiVEST to send through the potentially affected property names and portion numbers so that it could be checked whether the proposed development may have an influence on current and future planned Mining developments and Mining- and Prospecting Rights issued.		DMR's request is noted and the property information will be sent to the DMR. <b>Nicolene Venter- Zitholele/SiVEST</b>  <u>Post-meeting note:</u> The requested shape Google (kml format) was sent on Monday 25 November 2013.
<b>8. Construction Related Comments/ Issues</b>		
Queried when construction activities would commence should the EA be granted.	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <i>Nolufa Radebe</i>  <i>Mafube Local Municipality</i>  <i>Acting Director: Planning and Infrastructure</i>  <b>KSW</b></p>	From date the EA is granted, it will take ±12 months before construction commences. <b>Piet Van Der Heever - Eskom</b>
Queried about the length of time that is envisaged for the construction activities.	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <i>Nolufa Radebe</i>  <i>Mafube Local Municipality</i>  <i>Acting Director: Ranning and Infrastructure</i>  <b>KSW</b></p>	Budget constraints play a role in the construction period. The construction will be done in phases according to the four sections of the proposed power line and substation (e.g. from Heilbron to Frankfort and from Frankfort to Villiers). It is likely that the proposed power line from Heilbron to Frankfort would be constructed first. <b>Piet Van Der Heever - Eskom</b>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<b>9. Electricity / Technical Related Comments/ Issues</b>		
Explained that MLM is in serious need of electricity as there is an electricity constraint within the MLM and no development can currently be undertaken.	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <b>Nolufa Radebe</b>  <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b>  <b>Acting Director: Ranning and Infrastructure</b>  <b>KSW</b></p>	<p>This was noted and it is believed that the proposed development would, in some way, address this issue.  <b>Shaun Taylor - SiVEST</b></p>
Questioned about the voltage of the proposed line and the number of houses that will be supplied with electricity by the proposed development	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <b>Michael Sikhala</b>  <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b>  <b>Town Planner</b>  <b>KSW</b></p>	<p>Initially the power supply will be at 88kV but the line will be built to 132kV specifications.                       A response regarding the number of houses that could be supplied with electricity can only be provided by Eskom when the information is known.  <b>Piet Van Der Heever- Eskom</b></p>
What type of conductor will Eskom use for stringing.	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <b>Peter Mofokeng</b>  <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b>  <b>Electrician</b>  <b>KSW</b></p>	<p>A Kingbird conductor will be used for the proposed development.  <b>Piet Van Der Heever- Eskom</b></p>
<b>10. Community Related Comments/ Issues</b>		
The townships in the Mafube Local Municipality area are increasing on a yearly base, and it was requested that Eskom should consider such growth in all their future projects.	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>  <b>Nolufa Radebe</b>  <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b>  <b>Acting Director: Ranning and Infrastructure</b>  <b>KSW</b></p>	<p>It is believed that Eskom and MLM do liaise with regards to future and planned developments in the municipality to inform future energy developments.  <b>Nicolene Venter- Zitholele/SiVEST</b>                       Future developments are considered for the next 25 years in Eskom's electrical infrastructure planning.  <b>Piet Van Der Heever- Eskom</b>                       The MLM should inform Eskom of their plans regarding future developments which will assist Eskom with their future planning.  <b>Andrea Van Gensen- Eskom</b></p>
<b>11. Basic Assessment Process Related Comments / Issues</b>		
None.	None.	None.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<b>12. Project Related Comments / Issues</b>		
It was stated that the proposed Eskom infrastructure was not planned in close proximity to the National Road or crosses the National Road and therefore approval from the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) was granted to proceed.	<b>5th March 2013</b> <b>Mr. C. J. Landman</b> <b>Regional Manager: Eastern Region</b> <b>SANRAL</b> <b>Via Letter</b>	Approval is noted and will be included in the BA Report for submission to the authorities. <b>SiVEST, Shaun Taylor</b>
The proposed development is not subject to the provisions of the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act, 1970 (Act. No. 70 of 1970) as the above property belongs to the municipality (State). Registrations of transactions on the above property will therefore no longer require a letter from this Department.	<b>26th March 2013</b> <b>Ms. MC Marubini</b> <b>Delegate of the Minister: Land Use and Soil Management</b> <b>Via Letter</b>	The contents of the letter dated 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2013 are noted and will be included in the BA Report for submission to the authorities. <b>SiVEST, Shaun Taylor</b>
Informed SiVEST that the Mafube Local Municipality (MLM) was in support of the proposed development.  Confirmed that a letter could be sent stating the Mafube Local Municipality's support for the proposed development.	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b> <b>Sipho Radebe</b> <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b> <b>Manager: Administration Legal Services</b> <b>KSW</b>	SiVEST requested whether a letter could be sent from the Mafube Local Municipality stating as such. <b>Nicolene Venter - Zitholele/SiVEST</b>
It was questioned if the 31m servitude will need to be registered with the MLM Town Planning Department.	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b> <b>Michael Sikhala</b> <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b> <b>Town Planner</b> <b>KSW</b>	Potentially if the final route goes through municipal land. <b>Shaun Taylor - SiVEST</b>
Requested that, in future, an invitation should be extended to the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) for all projects of this nature.	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b> <b>Kalipa Kewuti</b> <b>Department of Mineral Resource</b> <b>Acting Regional Manager</b> <b>KSW</b>	SiVEST strives to involve all relevant governmental departments for projects that have national and provincial relevance, as has been done for this proposed development <b>Nicolene Venter - Zitholele/SiVEST</b>
Queried if copies of the minutes of all meetings held be sent to the MLM so that the MLM is informed of all issues raised by interested and affected parties (I&APs).	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b> <b>Sipho Radebe</b> <b>Mafube Local Municipality</b> <b>Manager: Administration Legal Services</b> <b>KSW</b>	SiVEST will send through the minutes of all meetings that were undertaken as well as the Comments and Response Report (CRR) as requested. <b>Shaun Taylor - SiVEST</b>
<b>13. General Related Comments / Issues</b>		
A digital copy of the invitation letter to participate in the Basic Assessment process was requested.	<b>19th February 2013</b> <b>Mr. Jack Armour</b> <b>Free State Agricultural Representative</b>	A digital copy of the Background Information Document (BID) and Map of the proposed Power Line routes along with the registration form was forwarded for distribution.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	<i>Via Email</i>	<i>SiVEST, Shaun Taylor</i>

**COMMENTS ON DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<b>14. Draft BA Report Related Comments / Issues</b>		
None.	None.	None.