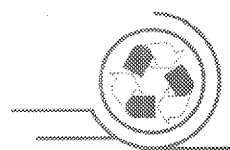
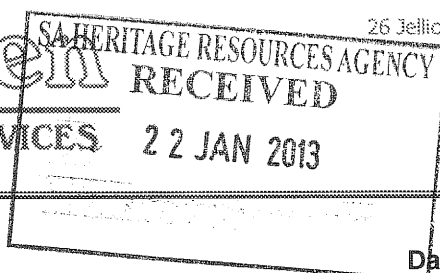


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Margen

INDUSTRIAL SERVICES



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CK No: 2002/087973/23

Date: 11 January 2013

Dear Participant

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
(BASIC ASSESSMENT)**

**PROPOSED ESKOM DISTRIBUTION ACTIVITY: (DEAT REF: 14/12/16/3/3/1/795)
CONSTRUCTION OF ONE NEW ±30M LONG 132KV DISTRIBUTION POWER LINE.**

Margen Industrial Services has been appointed by Eskom Distribution to undertake the necessary investigations for environmental authorization for the above-mentioned project. The study entails Basic Assessment of which a comprehensive public involvement programme forms a component in order to meet the legislative requirements.

The public participation programme of the study seeks to identify and involve Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the project so that they can be provided with an opportunity to raise any concerns that they may have with regard to the proposed development. Issues and concerns raised during the study will be investigated in detail through specialist involvement.

You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) or regulatory authority for this project. A background information document and a map are attached to provide you with further information about the project and the process being adopted for the study. Additionally a response sheet is also attached and you are requested to complete and return it. An opportunity for stakeholders to interact with the study team will be arranged.

Your participation in the study process is greatly valued.

Yours faithfully

Solly Mohlala
Public Participation Officer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)
ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) PROCESS
SORATA – WITSIESHOEK DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE PROJECT
(DEA REF NO. 14/12/16/3/3/1/795)

The proposed project consists of:

- Construction of new proposed 1 x 132kV Distribution powerline from the existing Sorata Switching Station to Witsieshoek Substation

BACKGROUND

The existing 132kV that supplies Witsieshoek, QwaQwa, Phuthaditjhaba and Tsheseng is a single Wolf line. This resulted in a forced load shedding on this network in August 2011. The station has damaged sanitation, gutters and there are incidents of vandalism. The surrounding Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba areas expect about 25 000 connections over the next 5 years. There are existing voltage problems on the 132kV networks that supply the Sorata, Groenkop and Jordan bus bars. The Wolf conductor has already operated at 117% (101.86MVA) of its thermal rating and has also tripped on overload in 2011.

Eskom Distribution has initiated the proposed project to meet electricity demand around the areas of Phuthaditjhaba (formerly known as Witsieshoek) in the Free State Province. The proposed 132kV power line will feed the existing Witsieshoek Substation. This document is meant to update and give background to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the proposed project (Please see attached maps for proposed route options). The proposed new powerline will strengthen the existing electricity network in the area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed new Eskom Distribution 132kV powerline will come from the existing Sorata Switching Station to Witsieshoek Substation which is approximately ±30 kilometres.

The project area straddles Phuthaditjhaba (formerly Witsieshoek) town and surroundings.

ROUTE OPTIONS

- **Route 1:** 1 x 132kV power line will evacuate Sorata Switching Station on farm Wellington 853 following an existing 132kV Witsieshoek Rural-Sorata power line through Maanhaar 854 and Kaltyniloiris 851. It will then turn south through Elands River Drift 189 and will turn southwest along the secondary road and cross Elands River on farm Elands River Drift 189 still following the secondary road and will then pass on the western section of Vaalkop 1712. It will turn south cutting through farms Cornelia 194 and Kroonberg 1531 along the existing Witsieshoek Rural-Sorata 132kV power line and eventually terminates at Witsieshoek Substation on Bluegum Bosch 189.
- **Route 2:** 1 x 132kV power line will evacuate Sorata Switching Station on farm Wellington 853 following an existing 132kV Witsieshoek rural-Sorata power line through Maanhaar 854 and Kaltyniloiris 861. It then turns west and follows the existing Witsieshoek rural-Sorata 132kV power line through farms Elands River Drift 189, Wijnstok 855 and Korfstok 1788. It then turns south along the existing power line through farms Korfskop 1788, Niekerkspruit 194, Diepvlei 146,

- Avifauna (Birds)
- Wetlands and Rivers
- Heritage

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Respond to relevant newspaper advertisements that will be placed in your area
- Complete and submit the registration sheet that will be provided at the meetings and attached to documents.
- Provide us with your contact details via telephone, E-mail, fax or post
- Attend the public participation events that will be held during the process
- Review the project documentation that will be placed at suitable venues in the area and those that will be posted to you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Margen Industrial Services

PO Box 12822

Leraatsfontein, 1038

Tel: 013 656 1212

Fax: 013 656 2233

Solly Mohlala: mohlalass@telkomsa.net

Tšepo Lepono: tšepo@gmail.com

BASIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NEW SORATA WITSIESHOEK 132KV POWER LINE (DEAT REF 14/12/16/3/3/1/795)

In order to ensure that you are registered as an Interested and/or Affected Party and obtain further information, please submit your name and contact details to the consultant detailed below:

Margen Industrial Services, P O Box 12822, Leraatsfontein, 1038
E-mail: mohlalass@telkomsa.net Fax: 013 – 656 2233
Attention: Solly Mohlala or Moses Mahlangu

PERSONAL DETAILS:

TITLE (Prof, Dr, Mr, Mrs Ms)		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION			
CAPACITY			
ADDRESS			
POSTAL CODE		TEL NO	
CELL NO		FAX NO	
E-MAIL ADDRESS			

1. What is your main interest in this project:

.....

.....

.....

2. What potential impacts do you foresee with regards to the construction of the proposed power line?

.....

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.....

.....

3. If you are farming, please specify type of farming activity and what the potential impact of the project will be on your business and the name of your farm and portion number?

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Any other comments?

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.....

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Thank you for your participation!



This assessment is being conducted on behalf of Eskom.



Legend

Witsieshoek SS.kml



Sorata SS.kml



Corridor1



Corridor 2



Corridor 3

