

Distribution environmental screening document (DESD)
Reticulation Powerlines and Ancillary Services

Ratified and accepted by
Environmental Practitioner
Environmental Specialist
Head of Engineering Survey
(one signature please)

Accepted by Land Owner/s/Users
I have seen the completed document and accept the
recommendations made

Assessor/s

Form completed by: EARL DANIELS Signature:
in consultation with: Signature:
CAPACITY (e.g. land owner, specialist):

Instructions

1. Fill the report in as neatly and completely as possible.
2. Where the question / statement is not applicable mark N/A.
3. The form must be completed in consultation with someone who knows the area well and who can also predict if any future development is envisaged (e.g. a land owner, land user, specialist, etc.).
4. Indicate sensitive areas on a map and/or spanning plans.
5. When in doubt, consult the Environmental Practitioner in your region.

The purpose of this *DESD* is to:

1. Determine whether or not the project should be subject to R386 or R387, published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998.
2. Identify and mitigate the negative impact of Eskom's activities to a minimum in line with both Legislation and Eskom's Environmental Policies.
3. This report is a guide to Route Selection, Construction and Field Services.

NOTE Complete the report before the survey!!!

This is not an office exercise.

Extra sheets of paper may be added and referenced if insufficient space has been provided.

1 Project description

Project name/Survey

Area Bethlehem

Project number NW-STM-1209-1876-00005 File number

Rural scheme/
Feeder Lindley Munic-Vooros Voltage 22kV

Supply from LVS1
(Scheme name, pole numbers for tee-off)

Supply to LVS227
(Farm name, etc.)

2 Properties traversed

Farm name

Registration number and Division Sub-division

Compilation number Line length/Site area (m²) 50Km

Lindley Munic-De-load Vooros feeder from Burma

3 Brief description of the surrounding area

Undulating plane covered with moist cold Highveld grasslands. There are also cultivated lands and maize crops present. Grazing cattle and birds were observed along the route of the proposed line. The route of the line is also covered with trees and shrubs. There is a river, small streams and vleis present along the route of the proposed line.

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Could the proposed project have an impact on or be constrained by any of the following environmental aspects?

Encircle the appropriate aspect, giving a description of the present state as well as an indication of the possible negative impact. **Note that mitigating measures for these impacts are to be included in the Environmental Management Programme.**

4 Physical environment

4.1 Water: streams rivers dams wetlands springs floodplains OTHER

Present condition: The line is crossing the perennial Valsriver on farm Brandhoek 20 and Lloyd George 750 (See image 1). The line is connecting to pole mounted transformer (E 27° 56' 43.8", S -27° 52' 57.5") close to the Valsriver on farm Williesdeel 974. There is a perennial stream with eroded banks where the proposed line is crossing farm Jacobasrust 692 and Maresrust 515 (See image 2). The proposed line will be crossing a non-perennial stream twice on farm Onverwag 1013. The line crosses another part of the Herbstspruit on farm Driekant 835, Vlakspruit 423, Franshoek 842, Herbstspruit 346 and Babsie 497. There is a cemented farm dam present on farm Triangle 598 where the line is going to stand (See image 3). Farm Groenvallei 54 has non perennial streams on it where the proposed line is crossing. A non-perennial pan is present on farm Stonehenge 264. Farm Bulthoek 950 has a high underground water table with a water well present (See image 4).

Potential impact (e.g. threat of pollution): There is a potential risk of water pollution or altering of banks of water bodies. The loss of biodiversity and their habitats. The disturbance or divergence of the natural flow of storm water or water in a stream.

Comments/ mitigating measures: Do not construct or plant poles within a distance of 100m from the edge of river bank or any water body. No poles should be planted within the 100 year flood line of a river or stream. No excavations should be made within a water body. Refrain from any sort of littering in and around the water bodies. No driving in or through water bodies must take place and construction vehicles should be serviced regularly. Do not let oil spill in or close to water bodies and any oil spilling incident must be reported immediately to the environmental management section: Mahlatse Moeng 051 404 2287/ Andrea van Gensen 051 404 2040.



Image 1: River crossing at farms Loyd and George

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Image 2: Line crossing at farm Maresrust 515



Image 3: Cemented farm dam on farm Triangle 598

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Image 4: High water table with water well present on farm Bulthoek 950

4.2 Soil: sandy rocky clayey OTHER Loam soil.....

Present condition: Mainly loam soil was observed along the route of the proposed line. Mainly sandy soil was observed at eroded river and stream banks on farms Loyd and George (See image 5), Maresrus515 and Jacobasrust 692, Driekant 835, Vlakspruit 423, Franshoek 842, Herbstspruit 346 and Babsie 497.

Potential Impact: There is a potential of erosion of soil along the route of the line with all construction traffic involved. The riverbanks that are sandy and already eroded have a potential to experience loss of top soil through wind, water erosion processes and during construction. A potential risk of falling poles where it is planted in eroded sand soil might have an impact on the electrical supply in the area. Land pollution and the pollution of soil through littering and the spilling of chemicals might have an impact on the fertility of soil for agricultural activities i.e. land cultivation and the crops.

Comments/ mitigating measures: Do not plant poles in or close to highly eroded areas. Construction vehicles and other oil containing equipment should be serviced regularly. No vehicle movement should be conducted through eroded areas and one access route should be utilized to the construction sites. Do not litter in and around the area.



Image 5: Sand soil on eroded river bank

4.3 Topography: mountain ridges hills valleys ravines dongas OTHER

Present condition: The plain along the route of the line is mainly deeply undulating with hills present and valleys where the river crossings are found. There is a deep valley and a hill present on farm Tygerkloof 415 portion 1 (See image 6). A high hill present on farm Dorethea 819. There are deep dongas present close to the river-crossing on farm Loyd and George.

Potential impact (e.g. of erosion): The loosening of top soil through driving and constructing on slopes might result into soil erosion. Construction activities might lead to the transformation of landforms. Construction and vehicle movement on ploughed slopes might increase erosion and impact on the output of crops.

Comments/mitigating measures: Minimize vehicle movement and excavation on hill slopes. Existing access roads should be utilized throughout the lifespan of the line. No excessive movement on the cultivated sloping areas.



Image 6: Valley and hills

5 Natural environment

5.1 Flora: indigenous protected **exotic** OTHER.....

Brief description and conservation status (e.g. rare, etc., mention trees/bush/grass): There are some pine trees located along the route of the line in farms Holpan 475 and Charnwood (Erf 824) (See image 7). There are also more pine trees located next to the road where the line passes through the farm Tygerkloof (Erf415) between the gravel road and VKF141-246-28. There is some weeping willow trees located between the t-off and pole mounted transformer LMM3-9-4 (See image 8), these trees are also found between the main road and customer supply pole LMM3-5-23-1. There are bluegum and poplar trees that were observed next to the pole mounted transformer LMM3-12-2-1 that supplies to a house in the vicinity, between pole number BVS 68 and BVS 81 on farm Elizabeth 479 (See image 9), on farm Beersheba 13 portion 1 between pole BVS 66-41-14 and BVS 66-41-17, farm Middelbult (Erf476) and next to pole number BVS66-65-6

Potential impact (e.g. permit applications): The excessive removal of trees can result in an increase in soil erosion. The loss of habitat for nesting birds. The trees might encroach on safety clearance of conductors. The removal of poplar trees can cause soil around it to become toxic. The loss of shelter for small mammals can occur due to the removal of trees. The removal of trees can lead to birds nesting on the pole structures.



Image 7: Pine trees on farm Holpan 475



Image 8: Weeping willow at vlei

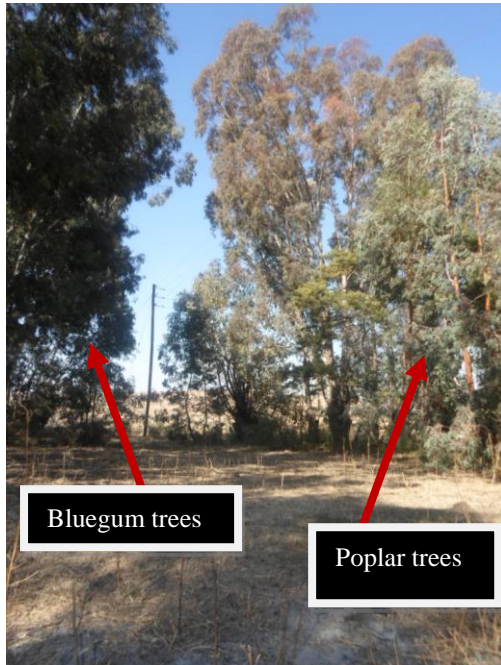


Image 9: Poplar - and Blue gumtrees

5.2 Fauna: **mammals** **birds** OTHER

Brief description and conservation status:

(e.g. rare, protected, etc., mention giraffe, elephants, eagles, vultures, etc., mention migratory paths)

There are ground squirrels that were observed between LMM3-5-7 and LMM3-5-10 (See image 10). Most of the area that the proposed route passes through farms where there is grazing land and there are cattle that were observed in these areas. Sheep grazing on farms Monika 797, Herbstspruit 346. Bird nests were observed next to pole number LMM3-5-10. Kiewit birds were observed numerous times along the route of the line and more of these birds were observed between poles BVS66-85-2 and BVS66-8 (See image 11), farm Beersheba 13, where they are attracted by the stream crossing and vleis. Guinea fowls were observed along the route of the proposed line on farm Dorothea 819 (See image 12). The Eupodotis caffra (Natalse Korhaan) was observed in the grassland on farm Tygerkloof 415 portion 1 (See image 13). Lewerik birds and geelborskoesters were observed on farm Elizabeth 479 in the grasslands with red grass.

Potential impact (e.g. threat of electrocution, collision, etc)

Birds might be electrocuted or collide with the powerline. Birds nest on pole structures and stream on the conductors. The disturbance or pouching of livestock. Removal of grazing land for livestock and the loss of habitat as grassland gets removed through site preparation. The disturbance of burrowing animals and small mammals during excavations.

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Comments/mitigating measures: Landowners should be informed regarding the commencement of construction so that they can relocate their livestock from the construction sites. Bird flappers should be installed at wet areas i.e. streams, river crossings, vleis and marshlands. Vegetation clearance should be kept to a minimum at dense grasslands. The Guinea fowls and other birds should not be disturbed. Vehicular movement through the grasslands should be prevented as far as possible.

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Image 10: Ground squirrel



Image 11: Kiewit bird

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Image 12: Guinea fowls



Image 13: Naltese Korhaan

6 Social environment

6.1 Restricted areas:	nature/game reserves	hiking trails	tourism routes	parks	recreational areas
residential-areas	green belts	sacred/holy grounds	OTHER ...Nature conservancies.....		

Brief description

.N/A.....

Potential impact e.g. threat of encroachment, etc

N/A.....

Comments/ Mitigating measures:

N/A.....

6.2 Visual aesthetics:	easily seen	hidden	Partially
			..

Brief description: Most of the line goes along the route parallel to the gravel road, existing communication infrastructure and existing electricity infrastructure where it is partially seen from the road side.

Potential impact: The new proposed line will contribute towards the disturbance of the view in the area under study.

Comments/ mitigating measures: Make use of wooden pole structures of the same height where possible in order to camouflage in with existing structures

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6.3 Sensitive areas:	historical sites	archaeological	monuments	natural heritage sites
	graves	landmarks	ruins	OTHER... Old stone cattle kraal.....

Present condition:

Graves observed on farm Tygerkloof 415 portion 1 and on farm Groenvallei 54 in a small graveyard close to the yellow container at the main road (See image 14). Another graveyard was observed on Tygerkloof 415 portion 3 at the side of the main road (See image 15). Stones that were packed in a circular formation (old cattle kraal) were observed in the veld of farm Groenvallei 54 where the line crosses (See image 16)

Potential impact: possible impact on heritage resources.

Graves might be altered on during excavation. The disturbance or damage of unmarked graves. Damage or removal of a heritage resource from the Senekal war or the Anglo-Boere wars

Comments/mitigating measures

Notify SAHRA before any commencement on the project takes place. Do not proceed with any activities if a grave or any heritage feature is disturbed. Excavation or any construction activity must be at least 50meters away from the graves and as far as possible from the identified stone kraals.



Image 14: Small graveyard



Image 15: Marked graves on border of farms Tygerkloof 415 and Herbstspruit 348



Image 16: Old stone cattle kraal on farm Groenvallei 54

Annex A

(Continued)

7 Economic environment

7.1 Land use:	crops	orchards	grazing	crop spraying
	game farming	forestry areas	mining	OTHER
			

Brief description: There are maize fields present along the proposed route. There are land ploughed for future cultivation on farm Vlakspruit 423, Holpan 475, Bastiaan 478 (See image 17). Most areas along the proposed route are being used for grazing land for livestock

Potential impact: Land pollution might result in the soil fertility for crops to grow. The destruction of crops through human activity in maize fields. The loss of fertile top soil due to excavation, construction and vehicular movement in the crop fields. Veld fires can break out if conductors or poles fall since the area is windy.



Image 17: Land ploughed for future cultivation

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7.1.1 Commercial: factories shops OTHER

Brief description: N/A.....

Potential impact: N/A.....

7.1.2 Infrastructure: roads railways communications power lines air fields
 pipelines sewage OTHER

Brief description: The line goes mainly along gravel roads and a part of it goes along the main road (R707). The proposed line is crossing the R707 at the four way intersection of farms Groenvallei 54 and Knapdaar 354 portion 3. The proposed line is crossing the R707 again at farm Stonehenge 264. The line crosses a railway on farms Stonehenge 264 portion 1 and Brandhoek 20. Telkom communications lines and existing powerlines was observed next to most of the same roads where proposed line is going to stand. The gravel road to which the proposed line is going to stand next to on farm Elizabeth 479 is highly eroded inside and on the road reserve.

Potential impact: Skew standing poles might encroach on safety clearances of existing infrastructure. The clearance of trains might be encroached on by the new powerline. The acceleration of erosion of the gravel roads due to vehicular movement during construction and maintenance of the line.

Comments/mitigating measures: Ensure clearance from other powerlines and communication lines. Research regarding servitudes and deeds is recommended before commencing on the project. Be alert for loose structures and hanging conductors. Remove old conductors and structures from the proposed route. Move the proposed line away from the road reserve on farm Elizabeth 479.

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7.1.3 Impact: What impact will this project have on elements 4 to 7?

1. Physical

No impact (0) Medium impact (2) High impact (0)

2. Natural

No impact (0) Medium impact (2) High impact (0)

3. Social

No impact (0) Medium impact (2) High impact (0)

Overall impact:

This section addresses the overall environmental impact of the project. The impacts as assessed in the above three spheres (physical, natural and social) need to be considered to determine the overall impact

0	2	
No impact	Medium impact	High impact

If the overall impact is between 2 and 4, contact the Environmental Practitioner or specialist.

Alternatives

Have alternative routes been discussed with the relevant land owner/s or users?

Yes

No

Detailed study

Is an *environmental scoping* required in terms of regulation 544?

Yes

No

Do we have to notify SAHRA?

Yes

No

Annex A
(continued)

Environmental Management Plan

1 General conditions

- 1.1** The Eskom project manager or co-ordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that the land owners have been informed before any work is carried out on site. Contractors shall find out if the land owners have been informed before moving onto site.
- 1.2** No fences, gates or locks shall be damaged to obtain access onto a line route. Arrangements shall be made in advance to obtain permission for access.
- 1.3** Use of private roads shall be arranged in advance. Any damage to private roads shall be repaired at the contractor's expense and to the satisfaction of the land owner. This shall be the responsibility of the project manager or co-ordinator.
- 1.4** Gates shall be left as they are found, i.e. closed gates shall be kept closed and open gates shall be left open. Gates to adjacent properties or onto public roads shall be closed at all times. Any Eskom gates installed on the line route shall be kept closed and locked except while stringing is taking place. Open gates shall be guarded to prevent animals straying and unauthorized persons and vehicles entering into adjacent camps or properties.
- 1.5** Permission shall be obtained from land owners before any water is used.
- 1.6** No fires shall be lit on private property. If fires are lit on Eskom's property or in the construction camp, provision shall be made that no accidental fires are started. No fire wood shall be collected in the veld.
- 1.7** If activities that can cause a fire are carried out, fire extinguishers shall be available on site and in the construction camp.
- 1.8** No property may be accessed after normal working hours except with the permission of the land owner. Privacy shall be respected at all times.
- 1.9** Eskom, Eskom's contractors and their employees shall at all times be courteous towards land owners, tenants and the local community.
- 1.10** Eskom, Eskom's contractors and their employees shall not cause damage to property, crops or animals. Activities that may cause conflict with land owners, tenants, the local work force or the local community shall be avoided. Should conflict arise it shall be immediately reported to the Eskom project manager or co-ordinator.
- 1.11** Vehicles shall be driven at a moderate speed on private roads and stay within the statutory speed limit on public roads.
- 1.12** All movement of vehicles shall take place on the established Eskom servitude road or on private roads as agreed in advance. Keep to existing tracks. No movement shall take place through the veld. Special care shall be taken to prevent excess damage during wet weather.

Annex A
(concluded)

- 1.13 If any vehicle should get stuck, the damage shall be repaired immediately so that no deep ruts remain.
- 1.14 Any damage to private property shall immediately be reported to Eskom and the owner. The damage shall be rectified immediately if possible and/or appropriate compensation shall be paid to the owner at the discretion of the project manager/co-ordinator in consultation with the property owner. A record of damages and rectifying action shall be kept. The land owner's satisfaction with the outcome of rectifying action shall be obtained in writing.
- 1.15 A proper system of waste management shall be instituted in the construction camp. This entails that sufficient waste bins are available on site and in the construction camp. The waste shall be dumped at an approved waste disposal site. No containers, scrap metal, conductor etc. shall be left on site.

All scrap shall be removed and taken to an appropriate disposal site. No oil, diesel or other chemicals shall be spilled or discarded anywhere. If an accidental spill occurs, it shall be reported immediately and cleaned to the satisfaction of Eskom and the land owner. No waste shall be left in the veld or on the line route.
- 1.16 Washing and toilet facilities shall be provided on site and in the construction camp. The facilities shall comply with Eskom standards and shall have the approval of the land owner.
- 1.17 No human excrement shall be left in the veld. If no toilet facilities are available such waste shall be buried *immediately*.
- 1.18 Herbicides shall only be applied with Eskom's permission and in accordance with the Eskom Policy on Herbicides ESKPBAAD4.
- 1.19 Camp and office sites shall be dismantled and removed after completion of the construction phase of the project. The site shall be rehabilitated to as close as possible to its original condition to the satisfaction of the land owner which shall be in writing.
- 1.20 All excavations shall be enclosed to prevent animals or people from accidentally falling into excavations.
- 1.21 No trees shall be cut or removed without prior permission from the landowner. Permits shall be obtained for the cutting and removal protected trees (protected trees shall be dealt with in 2, **Special conditions**).

2 Special conditions

(Specific issues identified during the scoping as needing attention i.e. erosion berms, bird flappers, protected trees. etc.).

Bird flappers will be need where line is crossing the farms Elizabeth 479, Maresrust 515, Beersheba 13 portion 1, Driekant 835 and between BVS 43-7-1 and BVS 43-7-4.

Structures not to be used anymore should be removed.....

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TYPICAL MITIGATION MEASURES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS	MITIGATION MEASURES
AGRICULTURE	
Loss of standing crop due to access road and tower work site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limit width of access and size of tower site. - avoidance of crop areas. - monetary compensation for crop loss. - time construction to avoid growing season.
Soil Compaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scheduling activities to times of the year when soils are least susceptible to compaction. - stop activities when ground conditions are poor. - use of equipment with low bearing capacity. - chisel ploughing.
Construction of new lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - locate access roads along existing traffic routs.
Topsoil – subsoil mixing/soil rutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scheduling activities. - stop activity when ground conditions are poor. - use of equipment with low bearing capacity. - use of gravel roads. - addition of manures to offset fertility loss. - compensation for reduced soil productivity. - removal of spoil and/or bentonite from foundation operations. - Segregation of topsoil and subsoil.
Disturbance to farm operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintain contact with landowner/tenant regarding preferences.
Loss of livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - employ noise control measures near sensitive livestock. - Construction of farm gates. - Securing farm gates. - Clean-up construction materials which could be ingested. - Compensation for lost, injured livestock.
SOCIAL IMPACTS	
Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limit this type of work to daylight hours. - observe protocol or applicable municipal by-laws. - use of appropriate methods where available.
Mud and Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wetting down dry soils.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - chemical control of dust. - cleaning roads to remove mud. - temporary planting of grasses.
Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - screen with natural or planted vegetation restoration. - avoid linear access down the right-of-way. - addition of topsoil to gravel access roads. - hoarding construction sites. - installation of landscaping in advance of site completion.
Inconvenience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - select route and method of installation to suit landowners' conditions. - select timing of activity.
Heritage resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoidance/isolation. - design measures to make facility less obtrusive. - screening. - alternate methods of equipment. - protection by use of enclosures, barrier fencing, covering. - salvage in conjunction with SAHRA. - relocation in conjunction with SAHRA.
Tourism and recreation resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - design measures to make facility less obtrusive or disruptive. - screening and restoration. - minimise noise and dust. - safety precautions to protect the public. - scheduling to avoid peak use periods.
WATER QUALITY	
Sedimentation of streams due to erosion from the right-of way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimise use of slopes adjacent to streams during soils testing, construction and maintenance. - maintain a cover crop. - retain buffers.
Stream bank erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mechanical erosion control. - retain shrubby stream bank vegetation and selectively cut or prune trees during line clearing/maintenance. - selective spraying of herbicides. - Mechanical erosion control.
Impedance of natural flow streams/others surface waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use and maintenance of appropriate stream crossing device.
Ponding or channelization of surface waters due to rutting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - timing activities to stable ground conditions. - use of gravel roads.
Contamination of surface or ground waters through spills or leaks of toxic substances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spill control material and procedures readily available. - site selection where possible.
Soil compaction/topsoil-subsoil mixing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoidance of rutting by vehicles where possible. - construction timing. - use of gravel roads. - use of vehicles with low bearing pressures.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stop activities when ground conditions are poor.
Wind/water erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoidance of areas with high erosion potential. - timing activities to the most stable ground conditions. - slope stabilisation. - mechanical erosion control. - vegetation erosion control. - recompaction of trenches. - avoid trenching parallel to the fall of a slope.
Contamination by petrochemicals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spill control material and procedures made readily available. - restoration methods investigated.