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**PROPOSED DEVIATIONS FROM THE AUTHORISED ALIGNMENT FOR THE 30 KM 132 KV
DISTRIBUTION LINE BETWEEN TSHEBELA NEW SUBSTATION AND NHLUVUKO SUBSTATION,
CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION PROCESS (BASIC ASSESSMENT)**

Background

An Environmental Authorisation (EA) was issued by the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to Eskom Distribution (Northern Region) on 07 May 2012 (12/12/20/2237). This EA was for construction of the new Tshebela/Rampheri substation and associated 132 kV distribution powerlines just south of Polokwane in the Capricorn District Municipality of Limpopo Province. This development will provide electrical capacity and address low voltage issues on the lines providing new electrifications for rural customers (6000 connections) in the Mankweng area, Capricorn District Municipality. Construction of the infrastructure commenced during 2017 with the substation now completed and clearance of the servitude and materials delivery for the powerline underway as of May 2022.

Subsequent to concluding servitude/landowner negotiations and commencement of construction, the need has arisen for three deviations from the authorised route corridor of the 30 km Kingbird 132 kV line between the Nhlavuko and Tshebela/Rampheri substations. Eskom Distribution Limpopo has appointed ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants (ACER) as the independent Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to apply for environmental authorisation and (if needed) water use license(s) for the proposed deviations.

Locality

Refer to Figure 1 for the localities of the proposed deviations.

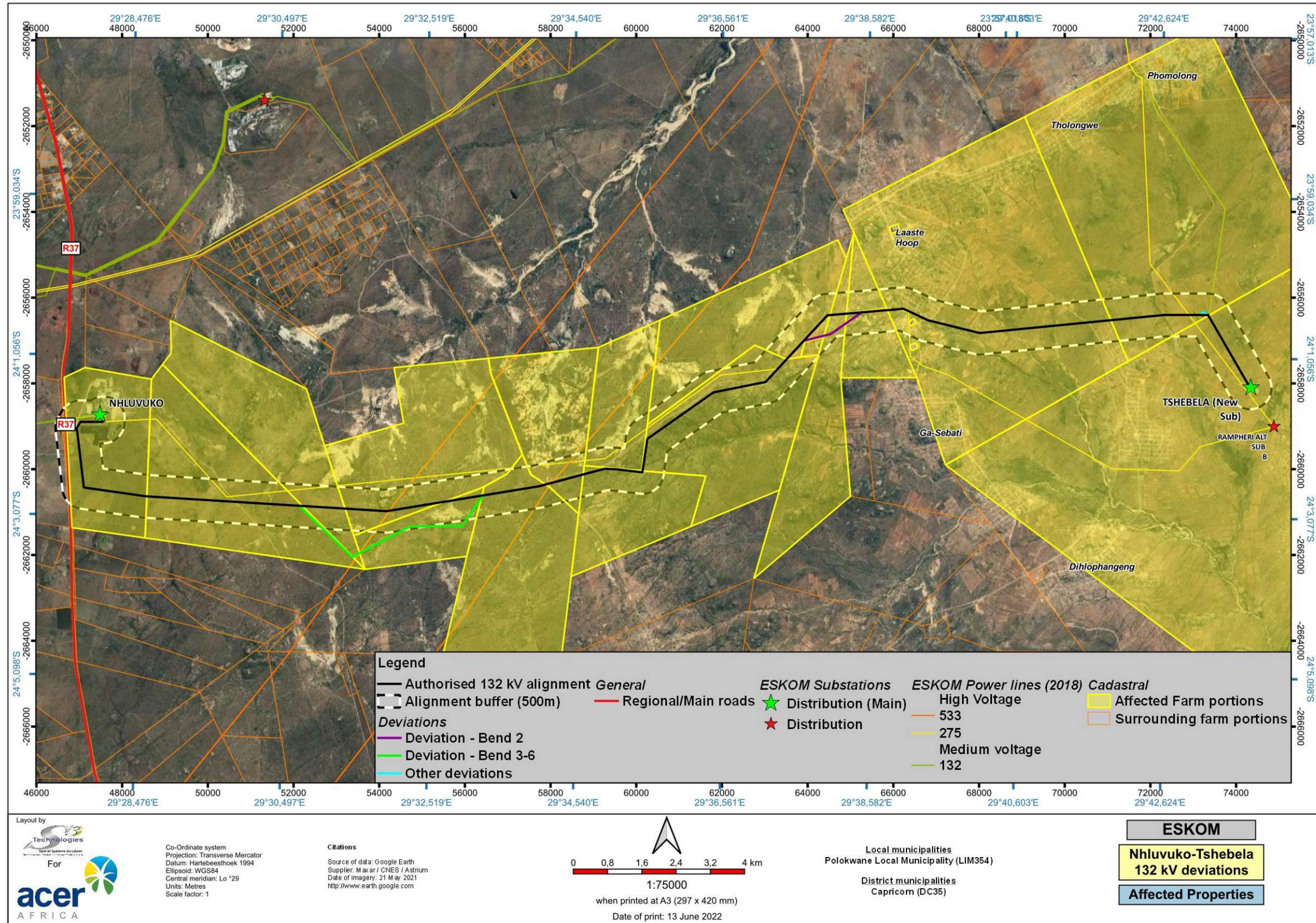


Figure 1: Location of proposed deviations to authorised alignment of 132 kV line between Nhluvuko and Tshebela substations

Eskom: Proposed Deviations to Eskom's authorised 132 kV powerline between Nhluvuko and Tshebela substations, Capricorn District Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Background Information and Invitation to Participate in an Environmental Authorisation Process (Basic Assessment)

Proposed deviations and receiving environment

Bend 1: This is a minor deviation to traverse around, instead of directly over, a Koppie (Figure 2).

Bend 2: This deviation (Figure 2) is approximately 1.5 km in length (approx. 100 m shorter than the original alignment) and bends to the south of the original route (Figure 2). This deviation is required to provide suitable access, as it was found that the original alignment on this section was not accessible for delivery of materials and line construction. This deviation traverses land in the Molepo traditional authority area, used for residential settlement and grazing of the natural veld. The deviation also intersects with a small area of privately owned land which used for cultivation of subsistence crops. The naturally occurring vegetation of the area is Polokwane Plateau Bushveld, with a conservation status of "Least Threatened".

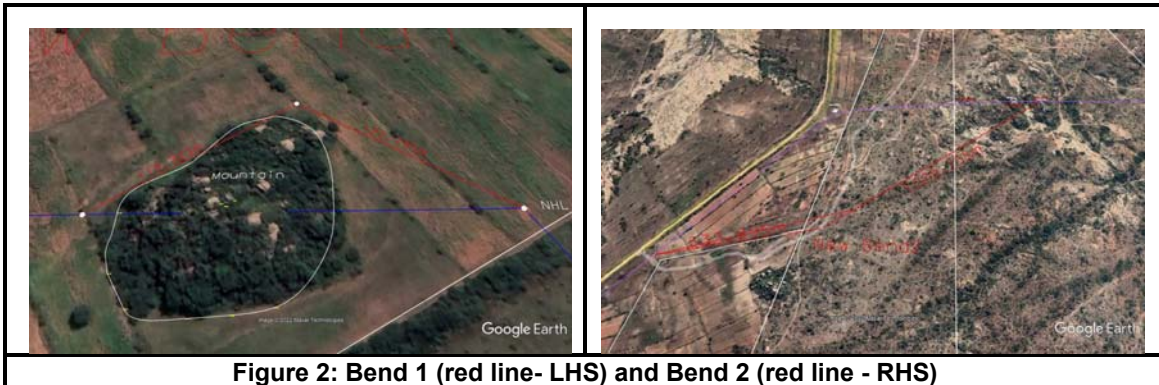


Figure 2: Bend 1 (red line- LHS) and Bend 2 (red line - RHS)

Bend 3-6: This deviation is approx. 5.3 km, which is about 1 km longer than the original alignment (Figure 3). The need for this deviation arose due to a change of ownership and land use on the property Kleinfontein 172 KS Ptn 1. Eskom has thus proposed a deviation of the line so that it runs outside of the boundary on the southwest side of the property. The line deviation has bends along it, to avoid an area of serious donga erosion as well as to avoid traversing directly over a koppie. The area crossed by this deviation is on undeveloped, privately owned land under Polokwane Plateau Bushveld.

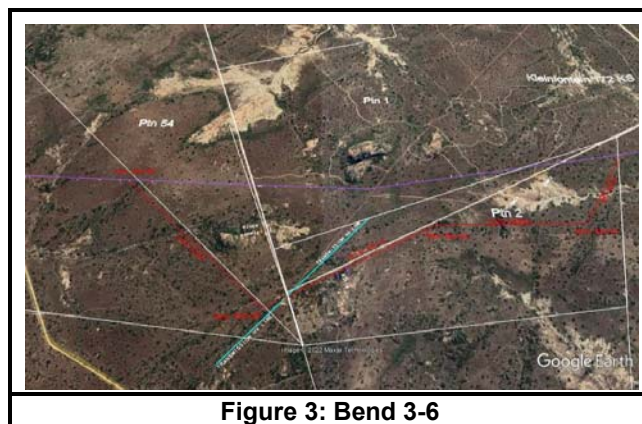


Figure 3: Bend 3-6

Route alternatives

This application is for an amendment to the existing alignment. The deviations can be considered as preferred alternatives to the original route. Other project alternatives do not apply.

Technical specifications

The 132 kV Kingbird power cable will be strung on steel monopole structures (Figure 4) approximately 18 m in height. There will be a permanent servitude of 15.5 m on either side of the electrical cable and vegetation clearance is required for a distance of 4-8 m either side of the cable. The minimum height clearance under the line is 6 m.



Figure 4: Typical steel monopole structure

Construction and operation activities

Eskom's construction of distribution lines typically involves:

- Negotiation of a final servitude alignment within authorised corridor with landowners¹.
- Walk down of servitude by selected specialists and production of a site-specific Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for construction and operation.
- Selection of best-suited structures and foundations.
- Final design of line and placement of towers.
- Establishment of construction camp and construction of access roads².
- Vegetation clearance and gate erection.
- Centre line track establishment.
- Construction of foundations.
- Assembly and erection of towers.
- Stringing of conductors.
- Rehabilitation of working areas and protection of areas susceptible to erosion.
- Testing and commissioning.

Operational activities include ongoing maintenance via vehicle patrols, periodic clearing and pruning of vegetation, and periodic clearing of the centre line track. This entails Eskom personnel and vehicles gaining access to and traversing private properties.

¹ In this case, application will be for a final alignment, not a corridor.

² No new access roads will be required as access is already available via the servitude of the existing 132 kV line.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Environmental authorisation is being sought from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) (Act No. 108 of 1998) and the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended in 2017) (EIA Regulations). The proposed project triggers listed activities in Listing Notices 1 and 3 of the EIA Regulations (GN.R 327 and GN.R 324 respectively) and therefore requires the undertaking of a Basic Assessment (Figure 5) which involves technical studies and a process of public participation. Table 1 shows the listed activities potentially triggered by the proposed project.

Table 1 Listed activities triggered by the proposed Nhluvuko-Tshebela 132 kV powerline deviations

Activity Number and Description (Listing Notice 1 - GN.R 327)	
11 (i)	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;
12 (ii) (c)	The development of— (i) (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) ... (b) (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; —
28	Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.
Activity Number and Description (Listing Notice 3 - GN.R 324)	
12 (e) (ii) and (iii)	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan e.Limpopo i. ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; or iii. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.

Eskom: Proposed Deviations to Eskom's authorised 132 kV powerline between Nhluvuko and Tshebela substations, Capricorn District Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Background Information and Invitation to Participate in an Environmental Authorisation Process (Basic Assessment)

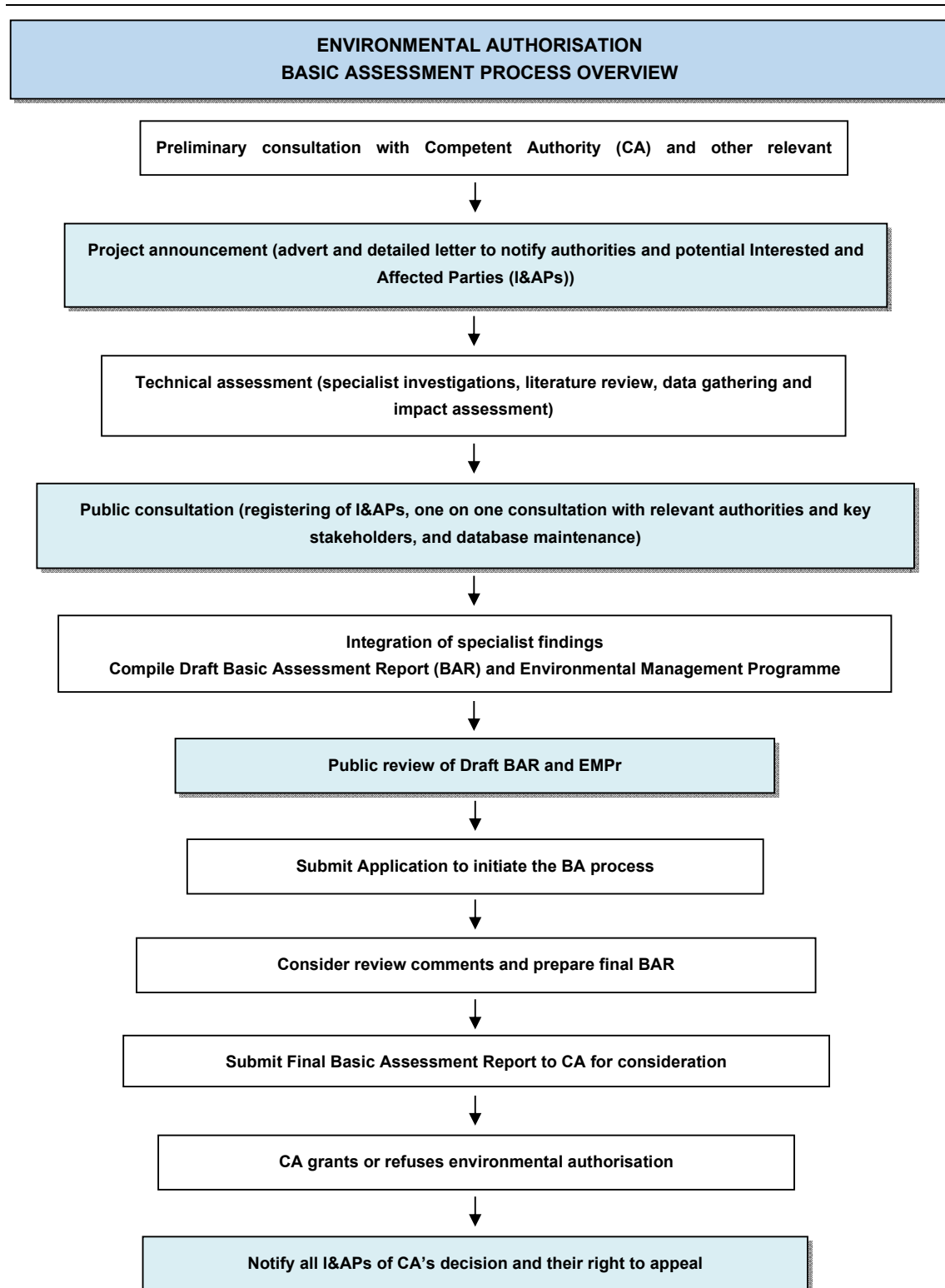


Figure 5: Basic Assessment Process

Eskom: Proposed Deviations to Eskom's authorised 132 kV powerline between Nhluvuko and Tshebela substations, Capricorn District Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa

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INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The purpose of this letter is to provide you, as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), with background information on the proposed development and to invite you to submit concerns, issues or suggestions. These will inform the assessment and application to DFFE. I&APs will be afforded the opportunity to review the Draft Basic Assessment Report prior to its submission to DFFE.

Should you wish to learn more about the proposed project and to register as an I&AP, please complete the enclosed comment sheet and return it to the ACER Public Participation Office by **12th August 2022**.

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► E-mail: eskomnt@acerafrica.co.za

Please note that consistent with GNR 326, 42(a), 44 (1) and 19(1)(a) (7 April 2017) all comments received will be captured in a Comments and Responses Report which will be made available to the competent authority and which will be placed in the public domain as part of the public review process of the Basic Assessment Report.

Note that project documentation will also be available on ACER's website www.acerafrica.co.za under "current projects".

We look forward to your participation and the successful completion of the Basic Assessment.

Yours sincerely,



ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants

Ms. Ashleigh McKenzie
Reg. EAP (EAPASA) (SACNASP)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner