

**AMMENDED BACKGROUND
INFORMATION DOCUMENT
(BID)**

DEA Ref No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/356



49 3rd Avenue, Highlands North, 2192
P.O. Box 2363, Highlands North, 2037
Tel.: 011 440 1817
Website: www.mokgope.co.za

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

**PROPOSED PERSEUS-GAMMA 2nd 765KV TRANSMISSION
POWERLINE AND SUBSTATIONS UPGRADE.**

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

This document provides an overview of the proposed project, and indicates how interested and affected parties can become involved in the project, and contribute to the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) work and an Environmental Management Programme (EMP) for a 2nd 765kV line of 405 kilometers from Perseus substation to Gamma substation. The current status of transmission networks is not sufficient to supply the electricity requirements of customers in the area. The existing transmission lines are heavily loaded and are envisaged to reach their full capacity in the near future. Additional capacity is therefore required in this area, which will serve to reinforce the local transmission's reliability to ensure a back-up supply to the area; maintain a quality of electricity supply and meet the increasing electricity demands in the regions. As a result, **Eskom Holdings SOC Limited have applied to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)** to construct an approximately **405 kilometers long, second new 765kV transmission power lines between the existing Perseus Substation near Dealesville and Boshof in Free State Province and Gamma Substation near Victoria West in Northern Cape Province.**

The proposed development falls within the jurisdiction of various municipalities namely: Tokologo Local Municipality; Letsemeng Local Municipality; Sol Plaatje Local Municipality; Ubuntu Local Municipality; Renosterberg Local Municipality ; Siyancuma Local Municipality; Thembelihle Local Municipality; Emthanjeni Local Municipality; Kareeberg Local Municipality; Beaufort West Local Municipality and may run through various farms which will be identified during the Public Participation Phase.

The assessment is being conducted on behalf of Eskom Holdings SOC Limited

PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An environmental Impact Assessment process is being conducted for the proposed project to:

- Determine the need for the proposed development;
- Investigate possible alternatives for the proposed development and propose recommended alternatives to DEA;
- Determine the feasibility of the proposed development;
- Determine environmental impacts that may be associated with the proposed development;
- Identify any mitigation measures to mitigate, treat or avoid the envisaged impacts to make the proposed development more environmentally viable;
- Determine if adequate services are available for the development;
- Identify any I&APs and provide them with adequate time and information to comment on the proposed development (concerns and / or suggestions); and
- Provide the competent Authority (DEA) with sufficient information to make an informed decision.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS:

The following objectives are applicable:

- Informing Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of the proposed development;
- Providing I&APs with an understanding of the project and its consequences;
- Providing the I&APs an opportunity to comment on the proposed development;
- Providing a structure for communication of project information and any comments associated with the project; and
- Providing a channel to gather information relevant to the project.

An open day and public meetings were held in the first week of December 2012. Additional meetings will be held later this year (2013) thus individuals with an interest in the application or who represent groups that have and could potentially affected should express their interest as soon as possible.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to provide **written comments** regarding this project. Please refer to the relevant DEA reference number and provide your name, contact details (preferred method of notification) and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the application to the contact person indicated below.

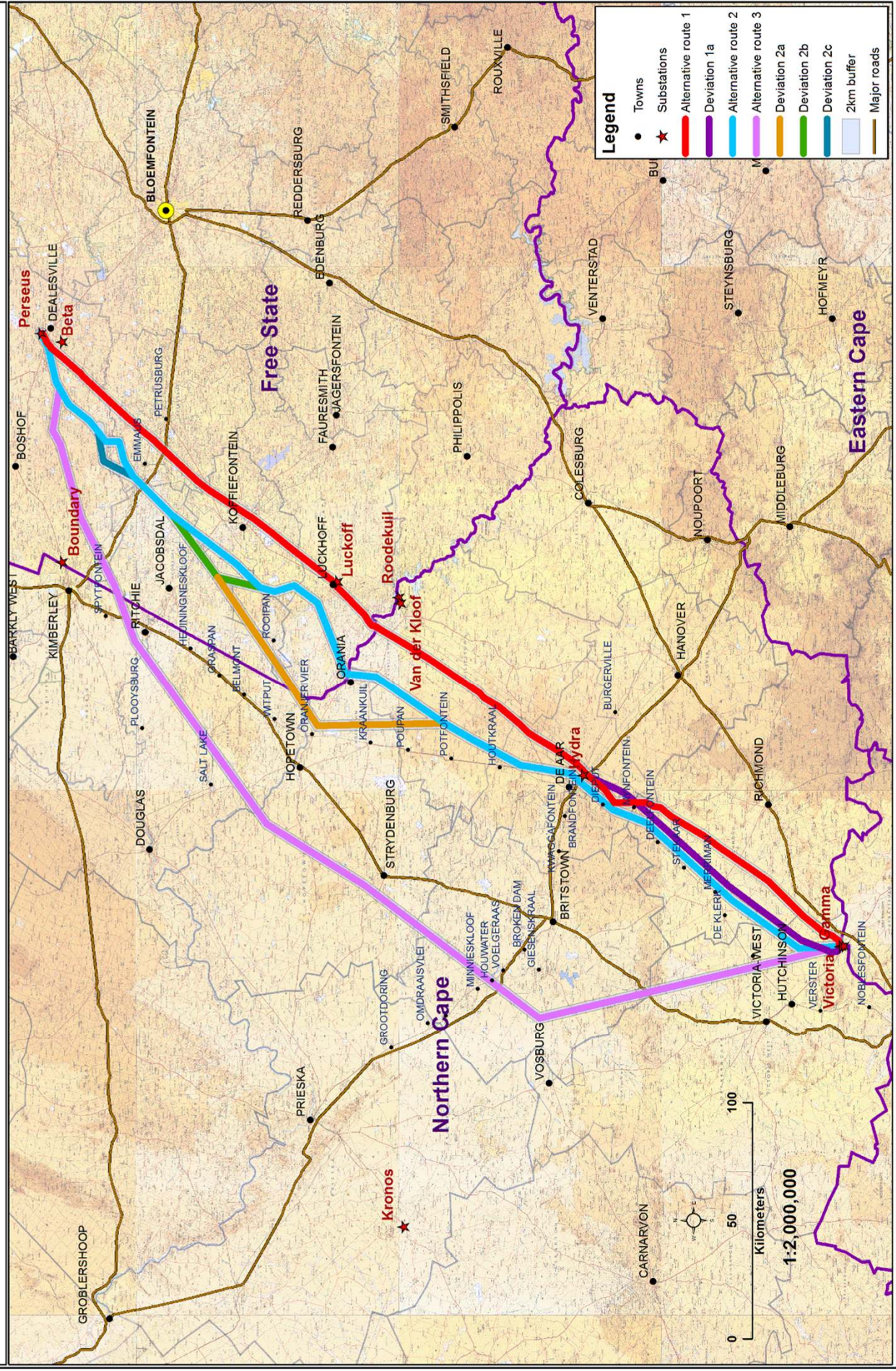
The following documents are now available on the Mokgope website (www.mokgope.co.za)

- Final Scoping Report .
- English and Afrikaans public meeting minutes.
- Public Meeting presentation.
- English and Afrikaans Amended Background Information Document.
- Updated Interested and Affected parties list.
- Maps of affected farm portions with a relevant reference(index) system.
- Scoping stage Issues and responses report

If you require the above listed information in any other format please make this request in writing or by telephone at the contact details below.

Contact: Judith Alford (Mokgope Consulting CC) on 076 876 2672 or judy@mokgope.co.za
Nyaladzi Nleya (Mokgope Consulting CC) on 076 147 9451 or nyaladzi@mokgope.co.za

Proposed Perseus-Gamma 2nd 765kV Transmission Powerlines.



The Map above is a representation of the entire study area. Land owners who are interested in detailed maps should visit the Mokgope website where larger scale maps are available. A referencing system based on a simple index has been made to assist individual searches. Those that require assistance should not hesitate to contact Mokgope.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No 107 of 1998, Amended 2 August 2010), the applicant, Eskom Holdings Limited, requires the approval from the Competent Environmental Authority, the Department of Environmental Affairs. The proposed development will undertake activities as listed in Government Notice No. R 544, R 545 and R 546 and summarised below:

Listing Notice 1

22 (ii) - The proposed development would involve construction of a road wider than 8m for the construction and maintenance of the proposed power line.

24 – A precursory assessment on the proposed areas for the proposed development indicated that some of the areas where the power line would be constructed are zoned agriculture. Therefore, it will be important to change the zoning to accommodate the proposed development.

38 - The proposed development would involve expansion of facilities for the transmission that amongst others include the upgrade of the substations.

47 – The proposed development would involve widening of existing access roads to ensure the ease of construction and maintenance of the power line.

Listing Notice 2

8 –The proposed development involves the construction of approximately 405km 765kV power line from Perseus substation near Dealesville and Boshoff in the Free State Province to Gamma substation near Victoria West in the Northern Cape.

Listing Notice 3

3 – The proposed development would also involve the installation of a telecommunication mast that would be used for communication purposes.

4(c)(i)(aa - gg) –The proposed development would require the construction of a road that would be used both in construction and operations of the proposed power line.

9(c)(i)– The proposed construction of a 765kV power line would inherently involve the use of above ground cableways for electricity transmission between the Perseus substation to Gamma substation.

14(3)(a)(i) Although most part of the area of the proposed development is dry and limited plants are expected, it is envisaged that the proposed development would involve clearance of an area of 5 hectares for the construction of the proposed power line, where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.

19(c)(i)(aa- gg) – The proposed development would involve widening of the existing access routes to facilitate the construction and operations of the proposed power line.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION
DOCUMENT AND INVITATION TO
COMMENT**

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The public participation process aims to promote the project in a socially acceptable manner. All parties must feel free to discuss any and all matters with the Public Participation contact.

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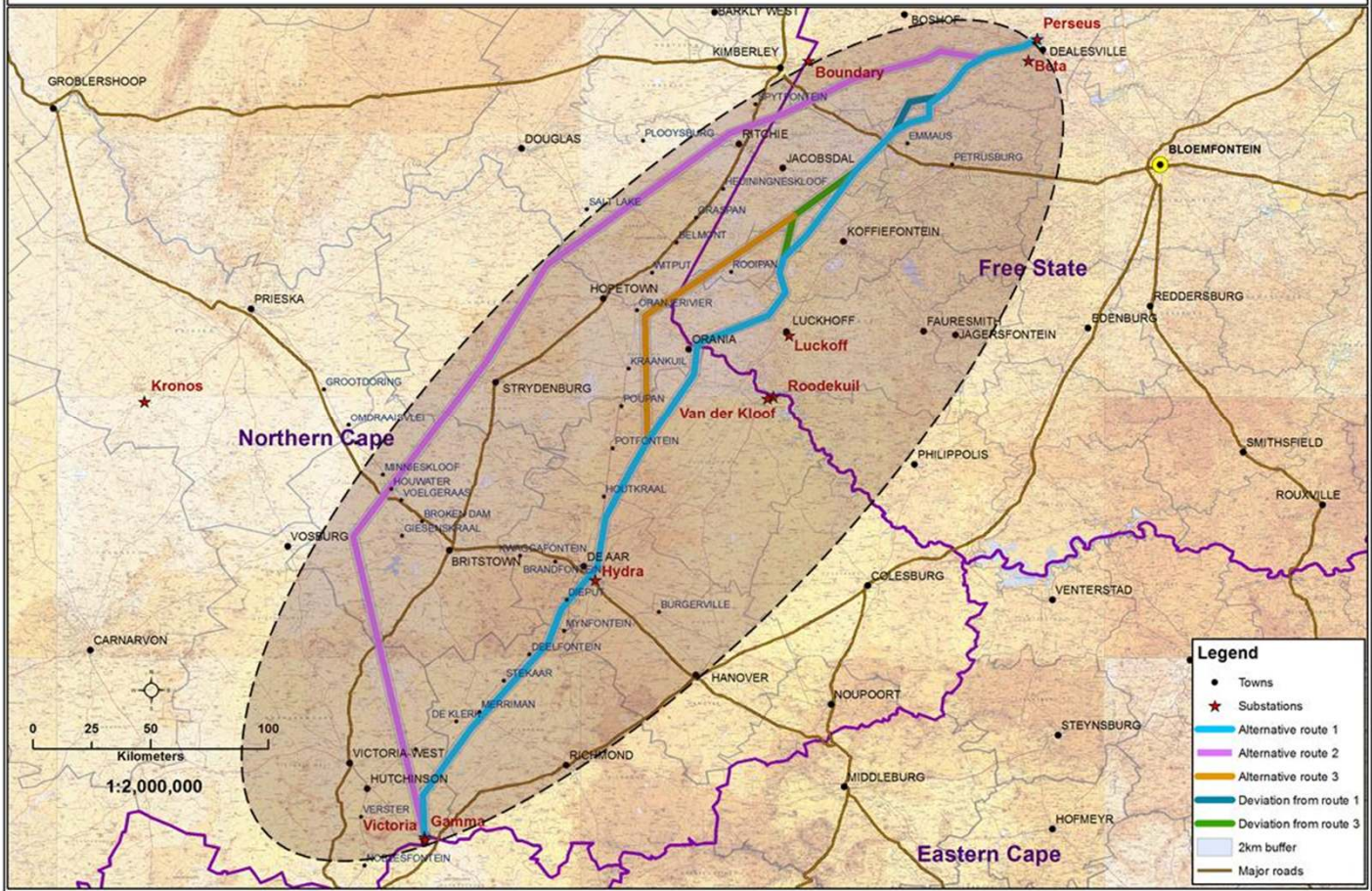
The Draft Scoping Report will be available for review late November at the libraries in the towns of Dealesville, Jacobsdal, Hopetown, Britstown and Victoria West, as well as on the following websites:

- Mokgope website (www.mokgope.co.za)

An open day and public meetings shall be held the week of 3-7 December. Should you wish to attend one of the meetings, please contact the person indicated below for further information.

Contact: Judith Alford or Nyaladzi Nleya (Mokgope Consulting CC) on 076 876 2672/076 147 9451 or judy@mokgope.co.za

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