

# PROPOSED 2<sup>nd</sup> 765KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE FROM JUNO-AURORA SUBSTATIONS WITH SUBSTATION UPGRADES

AN ESKOM PROJECT IN THE WESTERN CAPE



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (EIA)**



**NZUMBULULO**

## Purpose of this background information document

To inform all interested and affected parties that Eskom Holdings Limited has applied to the National Department of Environmental Affairs for environmental authorisation for the construction of the second 765 kV transmission line between the Juno and Aurora substations.

This document provides interested and affected parties (I&APs) with:

- An overview of the transmission power line routes being investigated;
- An overview of the transmission power line Environmental Impact Assessment process and all its associated studies; and,
- The process for key stakeholders to input into the EIA and the public participation process.

## Project Overview

The proposed transmission power line development will include the following activities:

- The construction of the **Second 765 kV transmission power line from the Juno Substation to Aurora Substation in the Western Cape Province**. See attached detailed map of the **three alternative transmission power line alignment corridors** being investigated;
- The **upgrading of the Juno and Aurora Substations HV-yards**; and,
- All corridors being investigated are two kilometers wide (2km).

The EIA will investigate the technical feasible alternative power line alignment corridors for the Juno-Aurora Study Areas. See attached maps of the two study areas being investigated within the EIA. The EIA process will identify and rank a preferred transmission power line route for the Juno-Aurora study areas. The procurement of transmission power line servitudes will be negotiated through Eskom's Land and Rights Division. This will be a negotiated process with each landowner along the length of the transmission power line route and is subject to Eskom receiving environmental authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs. All servitude negotiations are conducted independently from the EIA process by Eskom land negotiators with landowners.

## The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, No 107 of 1998), Eskom requires authorisation from the **National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)** in consultation with the **Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (D: EA&DP)** for the development of this proposed project.

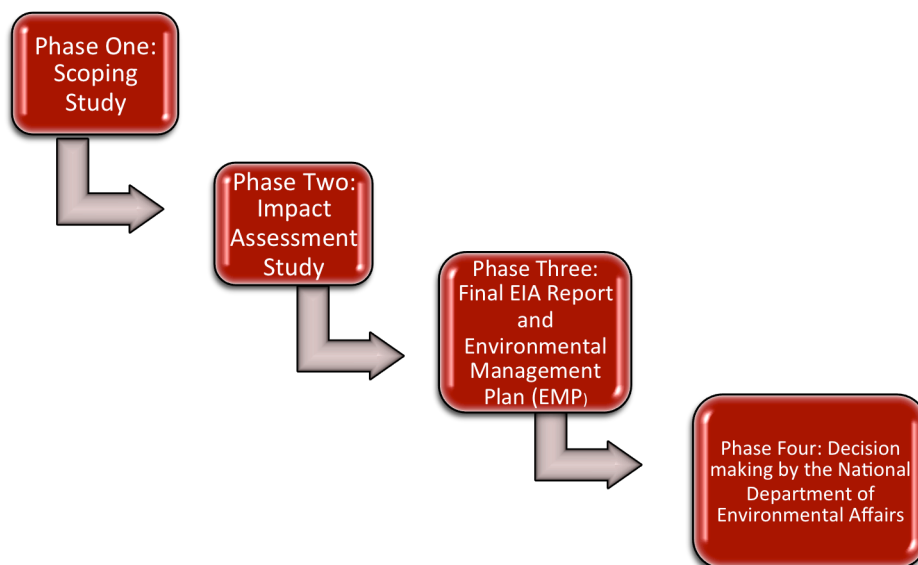
To obtain the necessary environmental authorisation for the 765kV transmission power line Eskom are required to conduct a detailed and comprehensive independent environmental impact assessment according to the environmental impact assessment regulations. This transmission power line projects has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs in Pretoria under the following application reference numbers:

**Second 765kV Juno-Aurora EIA DEA reference numbers are:**

- **NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0001572/2012; and,**
- **DEA reference number 14/2/16/3/3/2/442**

**Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions** has been appointed by Eskom Holdings Limited, as independent consultant to undertake the EIA process for the proposed 765kV transmission power line. Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions appointed **Sustainable Futures ZA** to conduct the public involvement process for the proposed transmission power line routes.

#### Four Phase Environmental Impact Assessment Phases:



## Potential Environmental Impacts Associated with the Juno-Aurora Transmission Power Line EIA

Certain environmental impacts associated with the proposed Juno-Aurora Transmission Power Line have been identified.

Impacts will be assessed by conducting a series of specialist studies which will include:

- ❖ Heritage, Archaeology, Paleontology, Historical Architecture, Cultural landscapes and Sense of place
- ❖ Agricultural potential
- ❖ Avifauna (birds and bats)
- ❖ Fauna, flora and ecology
- ❖ Tourism
- ❖ Social Impacts
- ❖ Visual Impacts
- ❖ Conservation Areas and Land Use
- ❖ Wetlands, hydrology and topography

## Invitation to comment, respond and inquire

**One of the aims of this document is to serve as background information to stakeholders and / or Interested and or Affected Parties (I&AP's) in respect of the project. It provides both background and technical information to enable participation in the process.**

The public participation process include the following actions:

- the compilation of a database of potential I&AP's;
- the preparation of an information document to inform participants/stakeholders about the transmission line project;
- project advertisements to be published in regional newspapers;
- the preparation of flyers/posters to be placed at publicly used places such as post offices and convenient stores;
- personal invitations to known I&AP's to inform them of the EIA process and invite them to attend the focus group meetings, public meetings and open days; and
- the distribution of the background information document to farmers, stakeholders, relevant district municipal officials and members of the community along the transmission line corridors.

**The aim of the public participation process is to provide I&AP's with more information regarding the proposed transmission line project and to create a platform where interested and affected parties learn more about the project. The public participation process will:**

- disseminate information regarding the proposed project to key stakeholders;
- supply key stakeholders them with more information regarding the EIA findings;
- answer any questions regarding the project and process;
- note any additional issues and concerns;
- receive input regarding the public participation process and the proposed development; and
- revisit and verify I&AP issues and concerns as identified during the previous phase.

The EIA documents will be advertised as required by law and will be made available in appropriate formats for inspection. All registered I&AP's and ward councillors will be notified via fax, e-mail, sms or post regarding the locality of the reports. Stakeholders and participants will have an adequate time to review, consider and comment on the draft documents.

You are welcome to make use of the opportunity to register. Inputs from stakeholders and interested and affected parties are important to ensure that the project addresses all the significant issues along the transmission corridor routes.

**Comments and inputs can be submitted over the entire course of the project. Written, fax, sms and e-mail comments and inputs can be submitted to Sustainable FuturesZA directly. All methods of submission are welcome.**

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