

# 2013

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT: BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING OF THE VERWOEDBURG 275kV AND 2 X 275 VERWOEDBURG APOLLO LINES**

## CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES	4
3	APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY	4
3.1	Identification of interested and affected parties	4
3.2	Public participation database	4
3.3	Site notices	5
3.4	Distribution of notices to surrounding land owners/ occupiers	5
3.5	municipality in which the site is situated and other governmental authorities	5
3.6	Placement of advertisement in the local newspaper	5
3.7	Public Meetings	6
4	SYNTHESIS OF ISSUES AND RESPONSE	6
5	CONCLUSION	6

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of June 2010, requires that during a Basic Assessment (BA) process, the organs of State together with interested persons and the general public be informed of the application and also be afforded an opportunity to comment on the application.

Public Participation Process (PPP) is any process that involves the public in problem solving and decision-making and it forms an integral part of the BA process. The PPP provides people who may be interested in or affected by the proposed development, with an opportunity to provide comments and to raise issues or concern, or to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project.

Chapter 6, Regulation 54 through 57, of the EIA Regulations stipulates the manner in which public participation process should be conducted as well as the minimum requirements for a compliant process. These requirements include (but not limited to):

- (a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence of—
  - (i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken;
- (b) giving written notice to—
  - (i) the owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land;
  - (ii) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
  - (iii) owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
  - (iv) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of rate payers that represent the community in the area;
  - (v) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;
  - (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
  - (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority;
- (c) placing an advertisement in—
  - (i) one local newspaper

The primary purpose of the report is as follows:

- To outline the PPP that was undertaken;
- To synthesise the comments and issues raised by the key stakeholders, interested and affect parties; and
- To ensure that the BA process fully address the issues and concerns raised, if any.

## **2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES**

The principle of the Public Participation holds that those who are affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the decision-making process i.e. the public's contribution will influence the decision. One of the primary objectives of conducting the PPP is to provide interested and affected parties with an opportunity to express their concerns and views on issues relating to the proposed project. The principles of public participation are to ensure that the PPP:

- Communicates the interests of and meet the process needs of all participants.
- Seek to facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.
- Involves participants in defining how they participate.
- Is as inclusive and transparent as possible, it must be conducted in line with the requirements of Regulations 54-57 of the EIA Regulations.

## **3 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

The Public Participation approach adopted in this process was in line with the processes contemplated in Regulation 54-57 of the National Environmental Management Act, (Act 107 of 1998) ("the Act"), which provides that:

### **3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES**

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) identified pre-identified stakeholders (government department), landowners, City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality as other well as interested and affected parties.

### **3.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DATABASE**

In accordance with the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations under Section (24)5 of NEMA, (Regulation 55 of GNR 543), a Register of I&APs must be kept by the public participation practitioner.

In fulfilment of this requirement such a register has been compiled and is constantly updated with the details of involved I&APs throughout the process including their comments. The database is attached as **Appendix E7**.

### **3.3 SITE NOTICES**

Four site notices were fixed on conspicuous areas, i.e. on the fence behind Verwoedburg substation, Security house at L and J informal settlement, Zama Zama Spaza shop as well as the entrance to Verwoedburg substation. Photographic evidence of the site notices are attached as **Appendix E1**.

### **3.4 DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICES TO SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS/ OCCUPIERS**

Notification letters and Background Information Document (BID) were posted to stakeholders on 10 September 2013 (Refer to **Appendix E8** for proof of postage), whereas other site notices were hand delivered to landowners/occupiers on 06 September 2013. These notifications were informing the public and government stakeholders of the project as well as affording the public of an opportunity to register as an I&AP and also to comment or raise any issue that they might have. This process was run for a 40 day calendar period as per the NEMA Regulations. Refer to **Appendix E9**.

### **3.5 MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE SITE IS SITUATED AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES**

The project falls under the City of Tswane Metropolitan Municipality. Governmental authorities were informed by means of formal letters explaining the proposed activity on which they were invited to comment. Notification and request for comments were submitted to the following governmental stakeholders:

- City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality.
- Gauteng Department of Road and Transport.
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (Gauteng).

The notifications were sent by registered post, refer to **Appendix E9**.

### **3.6 PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER**

An advertisement was placed on the Legal-Classifieds section of The Star newspaper on 10 September 2013. The newspaper is published in English. The advertisement was aimed at further informing the interested and affected parties of the proposed activity and to invite them to submit their comments. A period of 40 days was

allowed for the public to submit their comments, issues or concerns. Proof of newspaper advertisement is attached as **Appendix E1**.

### **3.7 PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Given the response received from the stakeholders and I&APs, the public meeting was deemed unnecessary, therefore no public meeting has been held thus far.

## **4 SYNTHESIS OF ISSUES AND RESPONSE**

**Appendix E3** attached, contains the issues and concerns raised together with the responses provided by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

The Public Participation Process was undertaken in fulfilment of the requirements of NEMA. The comments that were raised have been addressed. The common issue raised was to find out if, during the BA process, the existing power line would be completely removed from site. The PPP will continue throughout the project life cycle. New I&APs and comments are still welcome and will be adequately address as they are received.