



Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd

Reg. No. 2000/000392/07
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South Africa
Thandanani Park, Matuka Close
Halfway Gardens, Midrand
Tel 011-207 2060
Fax 086-676-9950
E-mail: patiswam@zitholele.co.za

8 July 2013

Dear Stakeholder

BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED 2 x 88kV POWER LINES FROM THE EXISTING MAKALU SUBSTATION TO THE PROPOSED NEW VAALBANK SWITCHING STATION, SASOLBURG

Zitholele Consulting would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we have been appointed as the independent environmental consultants by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited to conduct a Basic Assessment (BA) as well as a Water Use Licence Application (WULA) for the proposed construction of two 88kV power lines, proposed new Vaalbank Switching Station and associated infrastructure near Sasolburg and Zamdela, Free State Province.

Environmental studies are required in terms of Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act ([NEMA] Act No 107 of 1998) and Government Notice Regulations (GNR 543 - 546 – Government Gazette No. 33306) published on 18 June 2010. This proposed project is registered with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) under reference number **DEA 14/12/16/3/3/1/944**.

Please find attached for your perusal the Background Information Document (BID) which will provide you with information regarding this proposed project.

You are hereby invited to formally register as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) and to participate in the BA and WULA processes by using the registration and comment sheet in the enclosed BID. Please complete the comment sheet by **08 August 2013** and send it to Florence Rambuda at the Public Participation Office on fax number 086-676-9950 or e-mail florencer@zitholele.co.za. You are also welcome to contact Zitholele telephonically on (011) 207-2060.

Kind regards

Nicolene Venter
ZITHOLELE CONSULTING
Snr Public Participation Practitioner

Basic Assessment (BA) and Water Use License application (WULA) for the proposed new Vaalbank Switching Station, two 88kV power lines and associated infrastructures

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/944

July 2013



Purpose of this document

This document provides background information on the proposed project, the environment, affected properties and details of the environmental processes that are required.

The document would also aim to assist the public and stakeholders to:

- determine if they have an interest in the project and/or if they could potentially be affected;
- make initial comments on and contributions to the proposed project; and
- register as interested and affected party (I&AP) to be kept informed about future opportunities to participate.

Comments may be submitted at any time during the Basic Assessment process.

You are urged to submit written comments to ensure that your issues and/or concerns are considered and addressed appropriately. Complete and return the enclosed response sheet, write a letter, send a fax or email, or call the public participation office.

Public Participation Office

Patiswa Mnqokoyi
PO Box 6002, Halfway House,
1685
Tel: 011 207 2074
Fax: 086 676 9950
Email: patiswam@zitholele.co.za

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Gernie Agenbag
PO Box 6002, Halfway House,
1685
Tel: 011 207 2071
Fax: 086 676 9950
Email: gerniea@zitholele.co.za

PROPONENT OF THE PROJECT

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom) is the proponent for this proposed project and Eskom is South African utility that generates, transmits and distributes electricity. Eskom supplies about 95% of the country's electricity and about 60% of the total

electricity consumed in Africa. Eskom plays a major role in accelerating growth in the South African economy by providing a high-quality and secure supply of electricity.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED?

Anglo Coal (Pty) Ltd has requested that Eskom (SOC) Ltd expand the reach and extent of electricity supply in the Vaalbank area. Anglo Coal requires secure supply of electricity to supply their current operations in the area, as well as to aid in planning for any future operation expansions. Anglo Coal

is a major job creator in the area, and supplies their coal to the Sasol operations and Eskom. It is thus imperative that Anglo Coal has a secured supplied of electricity for their current and future operations.

DETAILS OF THIS PROJECT

The proposed Vaalbank Project has two components:

- 1.) **Vaalbank Switching Station:** New Switching Station and all associated infrastructure.
- 2.) **Makalu-Vaalbank Power Lines:** 2 x 88kV power lines. The power lines will run from the existing Makalu Substation to the new proposed Vaalbank Switching Station.

This project involves the delineation and approval of a corridor in which to locate the proposed 2 x 88kV power lines to connect the existing Makalu Substation with the proposed Vaalbank Switching station. The corridor for which authorisation is sought will be 500m wide. However, the actual servitude of the power lines when constructed will only be approximately 72m

wide. Approval of a wider corridor (500m) is applied for with the DEA to ensure that during detailed design technical constraints can be taken into account for the final aligning of the power lines.

The study area which will be investigated for the location of the 100m wide corridor is approximately 1km wide by 7km long as shown in the attached map.

The environmental landscape of the Vaalbank area is characterized by agricultural land and pieces of previously altered land that returned to a natural state, including a river crossing.

In terms of National Legislation this project will require an Environmental Authorisation (EA) to proceed.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Technical details of the switching station i.e. layout, the tower types considered for the 88kV power lines, construction

methodology, etc will be provided to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) by Eskom at a later stage during the process.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS – NEMA & WATER ACT

The proposed project requires a Basic Assessment (BA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), No 107 of 1998 and the EIA regulations

(Government Notice R.543 to 546, published in June 2010). The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is the Competent Authority.

In terms of Regulation 543 - 546 gazetted in terms of Section 24 of the NEMA, 1998, Eskom requires a BA process to be conducted for this proposed project. Eskom has, through their tender procedures, appointed Zitholele Consulting, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner, to undertake the BA process.

In terms of Regulation Government Notice R. 544, Listing Notice 1 of 2010, the following listed activities are applicable for this proposed project:

- **Activity 10:** *The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity:*
 - (i) *Outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.*
- **Activity 11:** *The construction of:*
 - (xi) *Infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more which may occur in a watercourse or 32 metres of a watercourse/wetland, where unavoidable.*
- **Activity 22:** *The construction of a road, outside urban areas:*
 - (i) *With a reserve wider than 13.5 metres; or*
 - (ii) *Where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.*

This activity will only apply if the area where the substation will be located is within a sensitive area identified by the Act.

In terms of Regulation Government Notice R. 546, Listing Notice 3 of 2010, the following listed activities are applicable:

This activity applies to towers for Eskom telecommunication which may have to be constructed at the substation areas. Towers will likely be in excess of 15 metres depending on the location of the substation and surrounding areas.

Due to the development within close proximity of the stream, Zitholele would also submit an Application of a Water Use License Application, According to the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), to the Department of Water Affairs.

- **Activity 4:** *The construction of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres.*

This activity applies to the construction of access roads 6 metres or more wide for the construction and maintenance of the proposed power line and substation within sensitive areas.



Several specialist assessments will be conducted as part of the Basic Assessment. Amongst other an Avifauna study will be conducted to identify breeding areas, foraging areas, and sensitive habitats for bird species sensitive to power line construction and operation.



The surface water features over the entire study area (including wetlands, perennial and non-perennial rivers, pans and dams) will be identified and mapped.



Vegetation and Animal life over the extent of the study area will be assessed.

In addition to the avifauna, ecology and surface water studies, the team proposes to undertake a heritage investigation and visual impact assessment.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS – BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WULA

A Basic Assessment (BA) is used to obtain an objective view of the potential environmental and social impacts that could arise during the investigation, construction and operation of a proposed project. A critical element of the BA is the public participation process that gives interested and affected parties (I&APs) an opportunity to provide comments on a proposed development.

The information contained in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) must provide the competent authority with adequate information for informed decision-making. The BAR, which is the final stage of investigation and recommendation, must:

- Identify the potential impacts of the proposed development;
- Record the issues, concerns and suggestions raised by I&APs; and;
- Outline the measures to be taken to avoid or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.

The BA process has a technical and a public participation component which run parallel to each other.

The WULA application and supporting documents will be submitted to the Department of Water Affairs and all required Public Participation done parallel to the BA process.

Environmental Technical component

The technical component is divided into two phases: the Inception Phase; and the Basic Assessment and Investigation Phase.

Inception Phase

In the Inception Phase a Basic Assessment Application form is submitted to the relevant competent authority, and for this proposed project it is the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), to confirm whether the technical and public participation processes and mitigation measures recommended, are in accordance with the regulated requirements.

During this phase, proposed alternative sites for the new Vaalbank Switching Substation and the alternative corridor routes for the 2 x 88kV power lines are identified and screened for potential environmental and social impacts. As part of the process to refine the recommendation a field

inspection of the sites is undertaken together with independent specialists.

Basic Assessment and Investigation Phase

Once the Inception Phase has been concluded the terms of reference for specialist studies will be confirmed and investigations will continue. It is envisaged at present that the following studies will be undertaken: visual, avifauna, biodiversity (fauna, ecological, wetland, botanical) and a Heritage Impact Assessment.

The findings of these studies, together with input from the public participation process will be incorporated into the BAR, which is the outcome of this phase. A Draft BAR will be available for public comment before the document is finalised and submitted to the DEA.

Public participation component

As an important element in undertaking the BA for the proposed project, Zitholele Consulting will also conduct the public participation. This component will enable stakeholders to influence the course of the investigations and to review the findings of the independent studies that are to be undertaken. The steps of the public participation component are outlined below.

The following activities will be implemented to achieve the aforementioned objectives:

- Advertising - public notice of the BA process in regional and local newspapers;
- Placement of site notice boards around the sites being investigated;

- Notifying adjacent landowners of the proposed application;
- Contacting stakeholders and notifying them of the process;
- Documenting stakeholder correspondence within the Draft BAR that will be made available for public review;
- Notifying stakeholders when the Final BAR is available for public review and the submission thereof to the DEA; and
- Notifying stakeholders when the Environmental Authorisation is issued.

Basic Assessment Reports

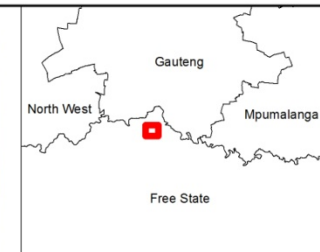
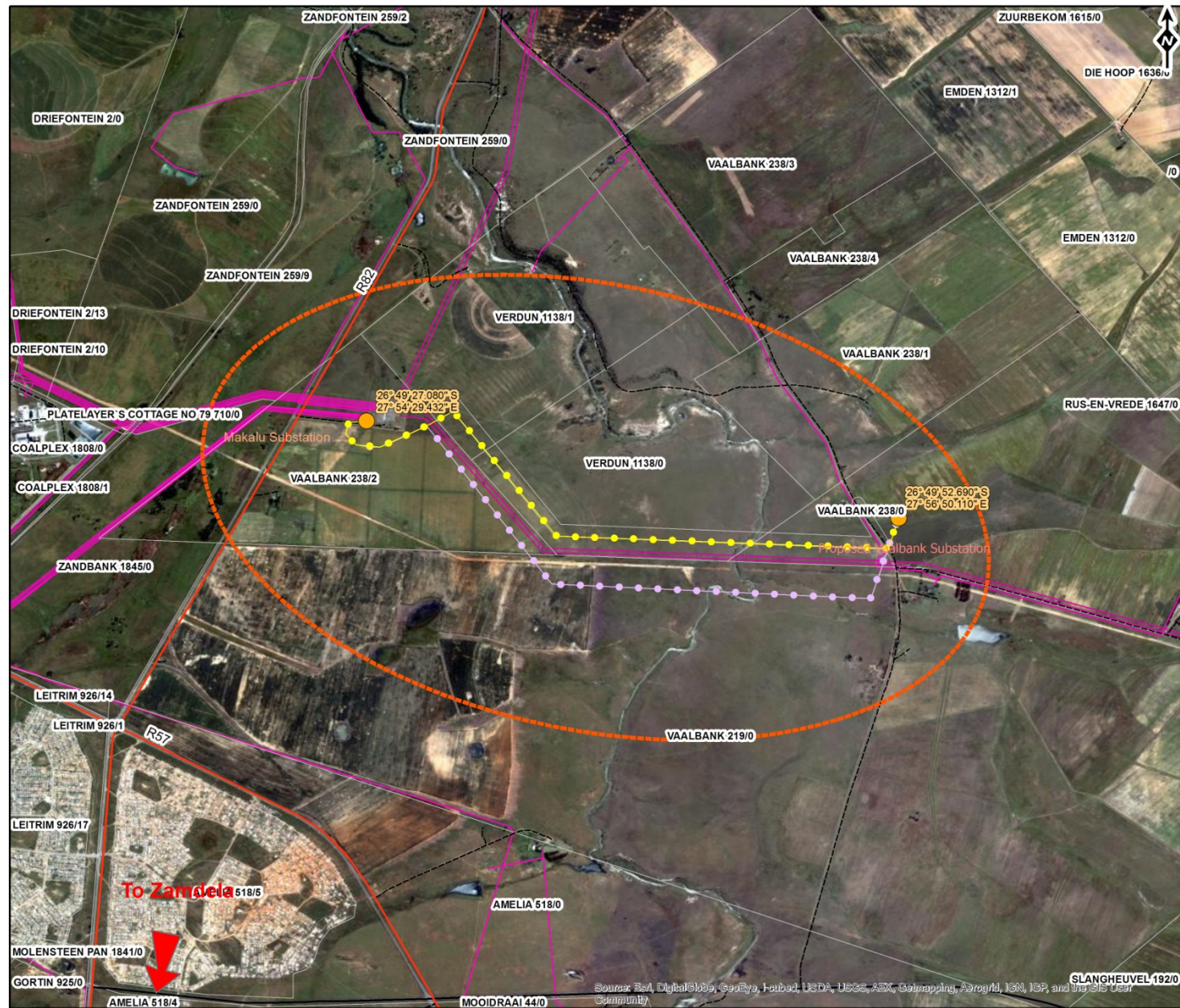
The **Draft Basic Assessment Report** (BAR), together with a **Draft Environmental Management Programme** (EMPr) will be made available for comment for a period of four weeks (30 days). Interested and affected parties (I&APS) will be notified of the public comment period in advance. The **Final**

Basic Assessment Report will be prepared, incorporating all additional inputs received during the public comment period. This final report will then be submitted to the DEA for authorisation and simultaneously to the public for a comment period as agreed with by the DEA.

Final notification from authorities

Once the relevant competent authority, the DEA, has issued the Environmental Authorisation and WUL, I&APs will be notified of the decision, a summary of the conditions and what procedure to follow should they wish to appeal the Environmental Authorisation.

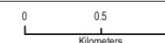
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- LEGEND
- Route Alternative 1
 - Route Alternative 2
 - National Road
 - Arterial Route
 - Main Road
 - Secondary Road
 - Other Access Road
 - Existing Eskom Powerlines
 - Study Area

DRAFT

RESOURCES/NOTES



REFERENCE
Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984

PROJECT
BA FOR VAALBANK 68KV POWER LINES

TITLE

LOCALITY MAP

PROJECT No: 12889		REV 0
SCALE 1:30 000		A3
GIS	SP	10/06/2013
CHECK	JB	10/06/2013
REVIEW	-	10/06/2013

ZITHOLE
CONSULTING

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar (USA), USGS, Aero, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community

<p align="center">REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET</p> <p align="center">Basic Assessment and Water Use License Application for the proposed new Vaalbank Switching Station and 2 x 88kV power lines (DEA Ref No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/944)</p> <p align="center">Inserted in the Background Information Document</p> <p align="center">July 2013</p>	<p align="center">EIA Public Participation Office</p> <p align="center">Florence Rambuda Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd</p> <p align="center">P O Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685 Tel: (011) 207 2074 - Fax: 086-676-9950 Email: florencer@zitholele.co.za</p>
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Please complete by 08 August 2013 and return to the EIA Public Participation Office (as above)

TITLE		NAME			
SURNAME					
ORGANISATION or PROPERTY INFORMATION					
POSTAL ADDRESS					
		POSTAL CODE			
TEL NO		FAX NO			
CELL NO					
E-MAIL ADDRESS					
Please formally register me as an interested and affected party (I&AP) so that I may receive further information and notifications during the Environmental Impact Assessment process			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO
YES	NO				
I would like my notifications by			Letter (mail)		
			Email		
			Fax		
			Telephone		
I would like to receive documents for comment as follows:			By email		
			On CD		
In terms of Regulations GNR 543 - 546 – Government Gazette No. 33306 of 18 June 2010 (EIA process regulations) I disclose below any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that I may have in the approval or refusal of the application:					

COMMENTS (please use separate sheets if you wish)

I suggest that the following issues of concern be investigated in the Environmental Impact Assessment:

.....

.....

.....

Please ask the following of my colleagues/friends to register as I&APs for this project:

.....

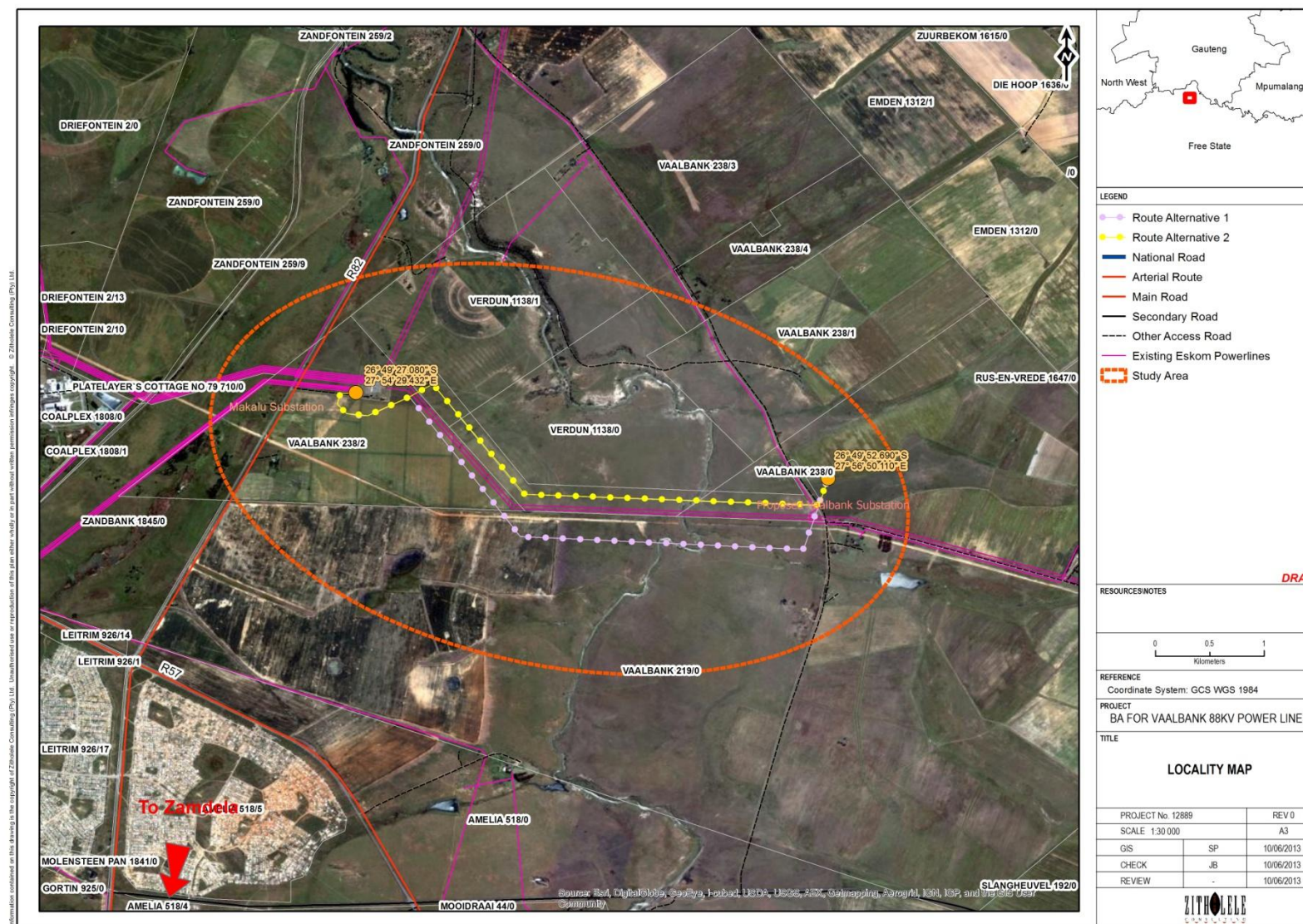
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Basic Assessment and Water Use License Application for the proposed new Vaalbank Switching Station, 2 x 88kV power lines and associated infrastructures

Notice is given in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998): EIA Regulations 2010 that Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd has submitted an Application to the Department of Environmental Affairs for authorisation of the following:

- Construction of a new Switching Station (Vaalbank)
- 2 x 88kV Power lines between the existing Makalu Substation and the new proposed Vaalbank Switching Station
- Associated infrastructures



PUBLIC COMMENT ENCOURAGED

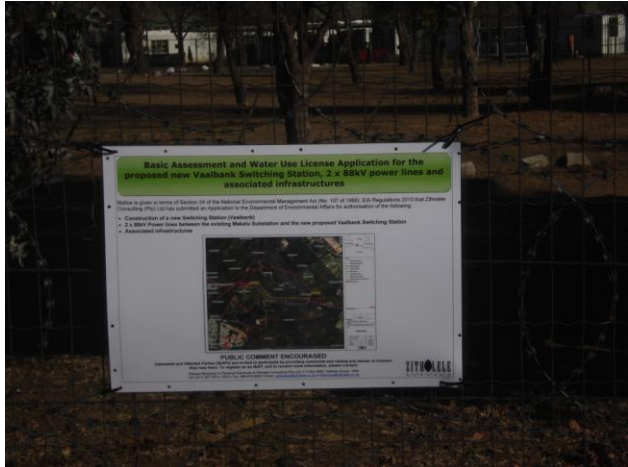
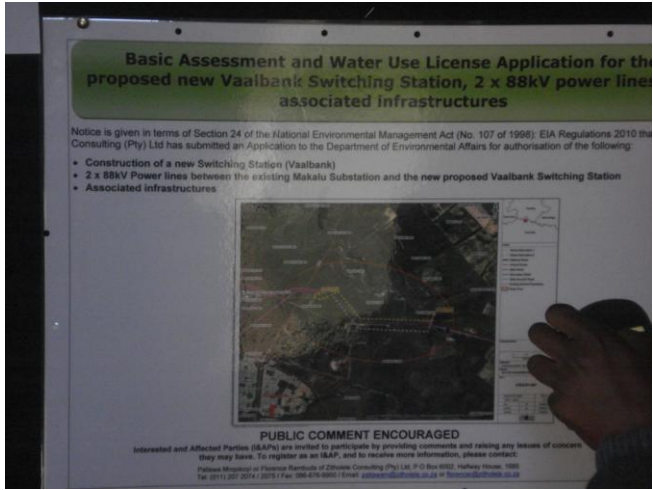
Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to participate by providing comments and raising any issues of concern they may have. To register as an I&AP, and to receive more information, please contact:



Patiswa Mngokoyi or Florence Rambuda of Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd, P O Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685
Tel: (011) 207 2074 / 2075 / Fax: 086-676-9950 / Email: patiswam@zitholele.co.za or florencer@zitholele.co.za







BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION (WULA) FOR THE PROPOSED NEW VAALBANK SWITCHING STATION, 2 X 88KV POIWER LINES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURES

Table 1: Indicates the location of site notices placed on 13 August 2013

Item	Description of the location of notice	Picture/photo
1	26°50'45.08"S 27°53'23.55"E	
2	26°50'45.50"S 27°53'24.80"E	

Item	Description of the location of notice	Picture/photo
3	<p>26°49'26.77"S</p> <p>26°49'26.77"E</p>	
4	<p>26°51'56.64"S</p> <p>27°56'23.27'E</p>	

Item	Description of the location of notice	Picture/photo
5	<p>26°49'6.56"S</p> <p>27°50'25.44"E</p>	
6	<p>26°42.11.73"S</p> <p>27°55'59.23"E</p>	

Item	Description of the location of notice	Picture/photo
<p>7</p>	<p>26°50'58.10"S</p> <p>27°53'19.47"E</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>26°51'59.71"S</p> <p>27°54'45.80"E</p>	



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PO Box 6002 Halfway House 1685
South Africa
Thandanani Park, Matuka Close
Halfway Gardens, Midrand
Tel 011-207-2060
Fax 086-676-9950
Email: nicolenev@zitholele.co.za

June 2013

Attention: Mr Smit

**PROPOSED 2 x 88kV POWER LINES FROM THE EXISTING MAKALU
SUBSTATION TO THE PROPOSED NEW VAALBANK SWITCHING
STATION**

**NOTIFICATION OF A
BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA)**

(In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998)

The generation of Electricity is an integral part of the South African Economy. South Africa has a growing economy; however the sustainable generation of electricity is important for the growth rate the economy requires to continue creating employment for all. Eskom has identified the need to extend the service area of the Makalu substation.

To increase the reach of the Makalu substation, Eskom needs to construct a new switching station with all associated infrastructure. The new switching station will be fed by two 88kV lines that will link it to the Makalu substation. The preferred route to be determined through the Environmental Process and may impact on your property.

The following farm portions may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development:

Table 1: Vaalbank affected Farm portions

Portion	Farm name	Farm Number	Registration Division
0	Vaalbank	219	FO

A Basic Assessment (BA) process must first be conducted before construction can start. This will identify and evaluate potential impacts, recommend measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts and also to enhance positive impacts. Zitholele Consulting has been tasked with these environmental processes.

This notice is in terms of Section 15 of Government Notice Regulation 543, which requires that landowners and people in control of land be notified of Eskom's intention to submit an application for environmental authorisation to the Department of Environmental Affairs. This notice and the submission of the application form is the first step in the BA process.

Gernie Agenbag of Zitholele Consulting will act as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner responsible for the BA.

As part of the BA process certain detailed specialist studies have to be undertaken and the scientists who will be doing these studies could be contacting you within the next few months to negotiate/request access to your property to carry out their investigations. If this should pose a problem, please notify the BA team.

The enclosed BID will provide you with a description of the proposed project, the BA, the public participation process and how you as potentially affected stakeholder can participate in the study.

A full public participation process will be conducted as an integral part of the BA application. This process will be coordinated and executed by Zitholele Consulting. As a potentially affected party (I&AP) you are requested to participate in the basic assessment process.

For your participation, you are encouraged to register as an I&AP and submit any comments, questions or issues that you may have about the proposed project, in writing, to Zitholele Consulting on fax: number 086 676 9950, email: nicolenev@zitholele.co.za or postal address: P.O. Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685. You are also welcome to contact Zitholele telephonically on (011) 207 2074 / 2071.

Yours sincerely



Gernie Agenbag
Project Manager

Included is:

- A map showing the proposed area of study; and
- BID and a comment/reply sheet.



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Tel 011-207-2060
Fax 086-676-9950
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June 2013

Attention: Mrs De Kock

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2	Vaalbank	238	FO

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June 2013

Attention: Mr Nienaber

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0	Verdun	1138	FO
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