

1 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The environmental impacts of a project are those consequential changes in environmental parameters, in space and time, compared with what would have happened had the project not been undertaken. The table below gives a simplistic summary of the anticipated negative environmental impacts of the proposed development and mitigation measures. It must be acknowledged that the intended overview of issues does not highlight a wide range of details such as: the differences in impacts between the different phases (for example, construction, operation and closure); spatial extent and predicted lifetime of the impact. Detailed significant impacts and mitigation analyses would be presented alongside impact assessment findings and from issues raised by IAPs during the EIA phase. There will also be a tower specific EMPR once the draft profile is being developed by the Eskom surveyor, this will be after completion of Environmental Impact Assessment Study.

1.1 Biodiversity

Biodiversity is an important environmental component. It is essential for the regulation of natural processes that support human life such as soil formation. Vegetation will be cleared for the construction camp as well as for the servitude; this will result in loss of species that depend on the grassland. There will be habitat loss and degradation as a result of the vegetation clearance and natural environmental processes such as soil erosion will be affected. As shown in the plates above (description of affected environment chapter) the proposed site and alternatives do not have much vegetation cover, hence vegetation clearance will be minimal.

As a result of the noise during construction activities, animal species may migrate in search of other habitat; this may disturb the ecosystem in the area.

In addition, birds may be electrocuted by powerline in two possible ways. The possible ways are: simultaneously touching two live wires and simultaneously an energised wire and any other piece of equipment on a pole or tower that is bonded to the earth through a ground wire.

1.2 Land use

Current or future land uses will be affected due to the proposed construction of the powerline. Powerlines usually run across various property boundaries and livestock camps. Boundary fences may be damaged during construction or gates may be left open resulting in the unplanned integration of livestock. The land earmarked for the proposed development is currently west coast and other areas are farmlands and are used for subsistence farming thus the construction of the powerline will result in changes of the land use.



Plate 13: Farming next to Omega substation

1.3 Visual impact

All construction activities would involve the use of variety construction equipment, stockpiling of soils, materials and other visual signs. While

evidence of such will be visual to the farm owners and others in the nearby vicinity, such visual disruptions will be short term and limited to the construction phase only.

There will also be long-term visual impact of the actual powerline once constructed.



Plate 14: Visual of Omega substation and its surroundings.

1.4 Archaeological/heritage resources

Cultural heritage resources can be broadly defined as physical features, both natural and man-made, which are associated with human activity. Heritage resources would include both tangible and intangible resources such as archaeological resources, palaeontological remains, meteorites, historical sites and beliefs systems, religious practices, ideas and oral traditions respectively. The National heritage Resources Act (Act No.25 of 1999) regards the following as heritage resources:

- Places, homesteads, building structures and equipment,
- Places to which oral traditions are attached
- Places which are associated with living heritage

- Historical settlements and townscapes
- Landscapes and natural features
- Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- Graves and burial grounds.

Any development that alters the status quo has the potential to impact upon any of the listed heritage resources particularly during construction phase.



Plate 15: Cape Dutch Houses next to Omega substation

1.5 Water resources

Construction grading and utility excavations for the pylon installations would increase the sediment load in storm water during rainfall events. Sediment sources created during construction include soil stockpiles and soil tracked across construction areas, debris resulting from the installation of electric pylon foundation. These sediment loads could be deposited into the water bodies close to the site. Due to the vast spatial extent of powerline developments, it is often impossible for the powerline corridor not to cross over water bodies such as rivers and wetlands. Construction activities within the vicinity of these water bodies create problems if not taken care of to

prevent them. These range from erosion into rivers, which creates water pollution to draining of wetlands in order to give way for the construction equipment. Some of the construction equipment could be located within floodplains and/or within 1:50 000 year flood lines. The combination of all these presents threat to water resources.

1.6 Soil

Soil has an important role in the environment as it supports biodiversity and provides for a physical base for plants, buildings and other infrastructure. Soil structure will be disrupted during the digging of foundation for the new, pylons for the powerline and during excavation works.

Continuous movement of heavy machinery to and from the construction site will result in soil compaction thereby reducing its capacity to hold water which will in turn result in increased runoff during the rainy season. Fuel leakages and accidental oil spills from construction vehicles and machinery have the capability of contaminating soil once they infiltrate into the soil, this indirectly also affects plant growth in the near future.

Mixing of cement on unpaved surfaces during construction will result in change of soil chemistry, such as changes in the alkalinity/ acidity of the soil, which will reduce soil fertility hence indirectly affecting flora. Such an effect will be limited to the construction phase and it will be of short duration and it will be limited to the construction site. The significance of the impact can be avoided if mitigation measures are implemented.

1.7 Noise

Noise levels are expected to increase as a result of various construction activities. The noise will be limited to the construction phase. Depending at

the area of construction and surrounding activities, noise level might be negligible.

1.8 Air quality

The quality of the air will be impacted on and the sources are likely to emanate from: excessive emission of exhaust gases from construction vehicles, dust during excavation works, digging of foundations, stock piled soils and gravel surface access roads. However, this form of pollution is limited to construction period.

1.9 Health and safety

If construction workers are exposed to excessive and continuous levels of construction-related dust and noise their health could be affected. Such exposure to dust may aggravate conditions such as asthma. Exposure to excessive levels of noise may result in temporary deafness, shock and discomfort.

1.10 Infrastructure and Services

Powerlines often intersect or are aligned in close proximity to existing infrastructure and services such as roads, telecommunication lines, boundary lines and existing powerlines. There could be temporary disruption of services during the construction of the powerline.

1.11 Socio economic

Employment opportunities may arise during the construction phase especially for activities that do not require the use of machinery. This will have a positive impact on the local community especially if provision of appropriate training and skills development is implemented. Other potential social impacts associated with the proposed development will emanate from safety and

security concerns of the affected communities from the uncontrolled influx of migrant workers during the construction phase of the project. This is especially so given the fact that the project area is sparsely populated and contractors may have to bring in labour from outside the immediate project area.

Due to the specialised and technical complexity of the proposed development, it is unlikely that local service providers qualified to undertake the job will be found within the project area. As such, contractors may have to be retained from other areas either nationally or even internationally. The following impacts need to be addressed on the EIA phase

- Impact on rural sense of place (this will be closely linked to the visual impacts). The impact on sense of place is also linked to the existing power lines in the corridor (cumulative impacts).
- Impact on tourism, both locally and regionally.
- Impact on farming activities.
- Impact on property prices.
- Influx of job seekers into the area during the construction phase. The influx of job seekers may result in an increase in sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; increase in prostitution; increase in alcohol and drug related incidents; increase in crime; and creation of tension and conflict in the community.
- Creation of employment and business opportunities during the construction phase.
- Creation of potential training and skills development opportunities during the construction phase.
- Potential up and down-stream economic opportunities for the local, regional and national economy.

In areas where they are farming the following concerns will be raised

- Potential stock losses (during the construction and operational phase).
- Potential damage to farm infrastructure (during the construction and operational phase).

- Potential impacts associated with construction vehicles during the construction and operational phase including traffic impacts.
- Potential impact on farming operations and loss of productive land (during the construction and operational phase). This impact will be weighted relative to the overall footprint of the development.

1.12 Topography

The topography of the area will determine the level of visual exposure of the power line. The power line will be visible from a distance if it is located on an elevated landscape. There are other linear developments already in the vicinity of the project area and as such, the proposed development will conform to some of these developments, such as 400kv powerlines and railway line.

1.13 Avifauna

The construction of the Aurora Omega 765kV powerline in Western Cape could potentially have a very negative effect on Birds in the area. The birds are likely to utilise the powerline for perching and roosting, which will place them at risk of collision with the earth wires. Eskom has got different bird nesting guidelines, which will be used on the construction of the powerline as well with the Management plan, which will be used. The purpose of the bird nesting guideline has ways of dealing with phenomenon in a manner that will reflect Eskom's stance on the environment as well as to prevent distribution of power to customers and the guidelines explain that a bird incident happens when a bird physically strikes either the overhead conductor or overhead ground wire of a powerline. In case of transmission lines, the overhead ground wire of a powerline. In case of transmission, the overhead ground wire is usually involved. It is generally accepted that birds usually avoid the highly

visible bundled conductors but often fail to see the thin ground wire. (refer to Appendix E).

2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

Please refer to Appendix H for detailed Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) phase.

2.1 Criteria for Assessing Impacts

The environmental impact assessment will be according to selected standard criteria for impact assessment, which are detailed below. The same criteria will be used by each of the specialists contracted to do the studies.

The first stage of impact assessment is the identification of environmental activities, aspects and impacts. This is supported by the identification of receptors and resources, which allows for an understanding of the impact pathway and an assessment of the sensitivity to change.

The above terms, used in relation to significance, are defined in Table below. The cut-off points have been defined in relation to characteristics of exploration, but those for Probability, Severity/Intensity and Significance are subjective, based on rule-of-thumb and experience.

The significance of the impact will be assessed by rating each variable numerically according to defined criteria as outlined in the impact assessment table. The purpose of the rating will be to develop a clear understanding of influences and processes associated with each impact. The severity, spatial scope and duration of the impact together comprise the consequence of the impact and when summed can obtain a maximum value of quantified impacts. The frequency of the activity and the frequency of the impact together comprise the likelihood of the impact occurring and can obtain a maximum value of 10. The values for likelihood and

consequence of the impact will be then read off a significance-rating matrix to be presented in the EIAR.

The assessment of significance will be undertaken twice. Initial significance would be based on only natural and existing mitigation measures (including built-in engineering designs). The subsequent assessment would take into account the recommended management measures required to mitigate the impacts.

2.2 Measuring Environmental Impacts

There are guidelines and universal formulas developed for assessing or measuring identified or anticipated impacts on a given development's receiving environment. This study would apply such standards. There are at least seven generic rating scales that are used into this EIA study. These are:

- Duration
- Extent
- Intensity
- Significance
- Status of impact
- Probability and
- Degree of confidence

2.2.1 Duration

Table 1: Period of Impact Rating.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Short term	0-5 years
Medium term	5-15 years
Long term	Where the impact will cease after the operational life of the activity
Permanent	The impact will occur even after the operational and decommissioning of the project has occurred.

2.2.2 Extent

Extent defines the physical or spatial scale of particular impact on the receiving environment.

Table 2: Extent of Impact Rating.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Local	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings
Regional	Impact extends beyond site boundary.
National	Impact is widespread, it can be Countrywide

2.2.3 Intensity

Evaluation of intensity is used to measure or establish whether the impact would be destructive or the level of destruction particular impacts will have on a given environment.

Table 3: Impact Intensity Rating.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Low	Where the impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and social functions and processes are not affected.
Medium	Where the affected environment is altered but natural, cultural and social functions and processes continue, although in a modified way.
High	Where natural, cultural and social functions or processes are altered to the extent that they will temporarily or permanently cease.

2.2.4 Significance

Significance scale refers to threshold of the importance of a particular impact on the receiving environment.

Table 4: Significance Rating.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Very high	Impacts could either of high intensity at a regional or national level and last for a long time
High	These impacts could of high intensity at a regional level and last for a medium term or they could be of high intensity at a national level and go

	on for a short duration.
Medium	Impacts could be either of high intensity at a local level and endure in the medium term or of medium intensity at a regional level in the medium term.
Low	Impacts could both be of low intensity at a regional level and endure in the medium term or of low intensity at a national level in the short term.

Table 5: Comprehensive Criteria for assessing significance of impacts.

CONSEQUENCIES	
SEVERITY OF IMPACT	RATING
Insignificant/Non-harmful	1
Small/potentially Harmful	2
Significant/ Slightly harmful	3
Great/ harmful	4
Disastrous /extremely harmful	5
SPATIAL SCOPE OF IMPACT	RATING
Activity specific	1
Powerline specific (within servitude)	2
Local Area (within 5km of the activity boundary)	3
Regional	4
National	5
DURATION OF IMPACT	RATING
One day to one month	1
One month to one year	2
One year to ten years	3
Life of operation	4
Post decommission/permanent	5
LIKELIHOOD	
FREQUENCY OF ACTIVITY/DURATION	RATING
Annual or less/low	1

6 monthly/ temporary	2
Monthly / infrequent	3
Weekly/life of operation/regularly/likely	4
Daily/ permanent/ high	5
FREQUENCY OF IMPACT	RATING
Almost never/almost impossible	1
Very seldom/highly unlikely	2
Infrequent/unlikely/seldom	3
Often/ regularly/ likely/possible	4
Daily/ highly likely/definitely	5

Table 6: Significance Rating Matrix

		CONSEQUENCE (Severity + Spatial Scope + Duration)														
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
LIKELIHOOD (Frequency of activity + Frequency of impact)	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
	2	4	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45
	3	6	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60
	4	8	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
	5	10	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90
	6	12	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84	91	98	105
	7	14	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	104	112	120
	8	16	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108	117	126	135
	9	18	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150
	10	20	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150

Table 7: Positive/Negative Mitigation Ratings.

Colour Code	Significance Rating	Value	Negative Impact Management Recommendation	Positive Impact Management Recommendation
	Very high	126-150	Improve current management	Maintain current management
	High	101-125	Improve current management	Maintain current management
	Medium-high	76-100	Improve current management	Maintain current management
	Low-medium	51-75	Maintain current management	Improve current management
	Low	26-50	Maintain current management	Improve current management
	Very low	1-25	Maintain current management	Improve current management

2.2.5 Status of Impact

The status of an impact is used to describe whether the impact would have a negative, positive or no effect on the receiving environment.

2.2.6 Probability

Probability describes the likelihood of the impact occurring during the proposed development, after the development or during the operational phase of the development.

Table 8: Impact Probability Rating.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Improbable	The possibility of the impact occurring is very low or unlikely
Probable	There is a possibility that the impact will occur.
Definite	The impact will definitely occur

Table 9: Risks identified.

RISK IDENTIFIED	PROBABILITY	IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION
A number of old buildings, and church buildings exist on site and also there are graves.	High	High	A heritage specialist will have to form part of the team and all the necessary applications to relevant government departments will have to be processed accordingly.
The Western Cape have an upper hand in terms of Agricultural Practices	High	High	A socio-economic assessment study should be conducted to mitigate the risk on economic loses as a result of the proposed development.
Negotiations with the landowners for construction of the proposed powerline.	High	High	Challenges may be faced in terms of negotiations with the landowners regarding the project. Acquisition of properties may be a challenge
Positioning of towers might pose a risk on farming activities around the study area.	High	High	Careful planning should be involved.
Visual Impact of powerline	High	High	A visual impact study will have to be conducted as part of the proposed powerline may affect "sense of place" of the nearby towns including the surrounding cultural and/or rural landscapes and scenic routes beyond the towns' urban edges.

2.2.7 Degree of confidence

Degree of confidence measures the level of reliability of the impact predictions subject the availability of relevant information.

Table 10: Degree of Confidence

RATING	DESCRIPTION
High	Greater than 70% sure of impact prediction.
Medium	Between 35% and 70% sure of impact prediction.
Low	Less than 35% sure of impact prediction.

2.3 Specialist Studies

To compile the Scoping Report, issues identified from preliminary consultations with key stakeholders and IAPs, Local municipalities, field visits and consultations with Eskom were considered. This information has made it possible to identify specialist studies required. The studies would be used in the assessment of potential impacts from the proposed development. Furthermore, the studies would identify sensitive areas. The following specialist studies would be conducted during the EIA phase:

The following specialists were sub-contracted by Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions to investigate key potential impacts further (Table 17)

Table 11: Specialists Studies.

Specialist studies	Requirements
Flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide status of habitat and identification of all ecologically sensitive areas. • Identification of threatened species and their locations. • Identify conservation worthy areas and how the proposed development can avoid them. • Identify potential impacts of the fauna and flora, if any, on the proposed infrastructure per alternative route to be assessed • Identify potential impacts and mitigation measures of the proposed infrastructure on the fauna and flora per alternative route to be assessed. • Provide recommendations for clearing of plants and acceptable

	<p>heights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation of the best alternative route and technology to be used. • Provide status of bird habitats in the area and any endangered species including their migration patterns.
Avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide status of bird habitats in the area and any endangered species including their migration patterns. • Identification of areas where bird interactions may play a major role. • Classification of potential bird impact, if any, on the proposed infrastructure and infrastructures impact on the bird species in the area. • Recommendations regarding how to mitigate any potential impacts on both birds and the proposed infrastructure. • Recommendation of the best alternative route and technology to be used
Wetland assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of wetlands and river crossings. • Mapping of information digitally on all alternatives being assessed. • Analyses of both negative and positive impacts on the proposed infrastructure, if any, and on the natural environment by the proposed development. • Recommendations for mitigation measures for each potential impact identified. • Recommendation of the best alternative route and technology.
Agricultural assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of agricultural activities taking place in the area and the significance to the local economy and livelihoods. • Identification of stakeholders in this sector to be engaged on the proposed development, • Analyses of both negative and positive impacts on the agriculture by the proposed development. • Recommendations for mitigation measures for each potential impact identified. • Identification of potential impacts of the proposed powerline on

	<p>the agricultural sector in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation of the best alternative route and technology.
Heritage Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification & location of archaeologically, historically important areas, heritage declared sites, paleontology sites. • Mapping of all areas to be affected and the identification of mitigation measures. • Recommendation of the best alternate route.
Visual Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and location of visual impact that may affect no-go areas. • Development of mitigation measures. • Recommendation of the best alternative routes and technology.
Social Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and economic impact assessment of the proposed development. • Identify service crossings, railways, roads, airfields, and local settlements with people who will be affected by the proposed development. • Provide a brief background of the area (i.e. language, population composition) • Identify socio-economic factors of locally affected communities and how they will be impacted by the proposed development. • Identification of various land uses e.g. agricultural areas, nature reserves, zonings and future land use to be considered during corridor selection. • Identification of proposed townships lodged with local municipalities within the study area, • Identify potential impacts of the proposed development on those settlements and land-uses or economy. • Identify areas of tourism potential in the study area that may be affected by the proposed development. • Recommendation of the best alternative route and technology.

A set of independent qualified specialists for the proposed development have been identified and appointed.

Table 12: List of contact for specialists.

Study	Company	Specialists
Public Participation Process	Sustainable Futures ZA	Shawn Johnston 083 325 9965
Heritage Impact Assessment	A team of independent heritage specialists lead by Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions	Dr M. Murimbika (PI) 011 021 4937
Spatial History	Aco Associates	LisebetScietecatte 021706 4104
Built Environment	Aco Associates	LisebetScietecatte 0217064104
Paleontology	Skarab CC	Francois Durand 083 235 7855
Archaeology	Aco associates	LiesbetScietecatte 0217064104
Wetland	SSI	E. Hierdien 021 945 4114
Visual	Axis Landscape Architects	Gerhard Griesel 083 85 6266
Avifauna	Chris van Rooyen Consulting	Chris van Rooyen 082 454 9570
Socio- Economic	SSI	K. Moonsamy 083 604 1374
Ecology	Simon Todd consulting	Simon Todd 027 2181276

3 AUTHORITY CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Introduction

Public Participation Process (PPP) is a cornerstone of any EIA. It is an integral requirement of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). The nature and manner in which the public participation process (PPP) should take place is governed by Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN No. R.543 of 02 August 2010). This chapter outlines the PPP should be advertised on site and in the media, the requirement of maintaining a register of Interested and affected parties (IAPs) and the entitlement of Registered IAPs to comment on written submissions to the Decision- Making Authority. The process followed during the public participations has taken into account all aspects of public participation as stipulated in legislation.

Nzumbululo Consulting will continue to gather information on the potential impacts of the project from various stakeholders, registered IAPs, and local authorities. In addition, secondary and primary information was also gathered from existing literature on the study area. Information gathered and preliminary reconnaissance field surveys will be used to compile the FSR.

3.2 Public Participation Process

The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) govern many aspects of EIAs, including public participation, including the provision of sufficient and transparent information on an on-going basis to the interested and affected parties to allow to comment.

The PPPs primarily based on two factors, firstly the on-going interaction with the environmental specialist and the technical teams in order to achieve integration of environmental assessment, technical assessment and public

participation throughout. Secondly to obtain the bulk issues to be addressed early on in the process, with the latter half of the process designed to provide environmental and technical evaluation of these issues. These findings are presented to interested and affected parties for verification that their issues have been captured and for further comment.

Providing Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) with opportunity to express their concerns and/or views on issues relating to a proposed development is one of the aims of scoping, as mandated by best practice and the regulations, as it means of focusing on the relevant issues to ensure that the concerns of the IAPs are addressed, as well as ensuring that the environmental report deals with those identified issues and is thus useful to the decision maker whose obligation is to review the report and either authorise or reject the application.

3.3 Objectives of Public Participation

The public participation process is designed to provide and accessible information to interested and affected parties (IAPs) in an objective manner to assist them:

During the Scoping Phase

To raise issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits and alternatives

Verify that their issues have been captured

During the Impact Assessment Phase:

- Verify that their issues have been considered by the specialist and technical investigations
- Comment on the findings of the EIA

3.4 Public Participation– Scoping Phase

During the draft scoping process the following public participation activities will be carried out. The detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be captured in the document to be presented at EIA phase. Generally the activities include:

- Pre-consultation and Application submissions with DEA
- Development of and Updating of the existing stakeholder database;
- Distribution of the Background Information Document (BID) to Authorities, communities and other I&AP's;
- Placement of media notices;
- Placement of Posters/ On-Sit notices
- Information sharing meetings, one-on-one discussions and focus group meetings; and
- Placement of the Draft Scoping Report in the public domain on 24th of October 2013 for public comment.

3.5 On-Site and Press Advertising

In accordance with the requirements pertaining to advertising as detailed in the Regulations, on site notices, press advertisements, sending emails and registered letters will be utilised to bring the proposed activity to the attention of IAPs. The response or registration / comment period linked to the on-site notices and advertisements was 30 days. Copy of advert attached as appendix G.1

3.6 Background information document (BID)

A BID document will be circulated to all identified IAPs. The document will remain available and will be accessible to any member of the public who may express interest in the project. The BID document encourages all individuals to contact Nzumbululo Heritage Solutions should they wish to be

registered on the IAP database and make a comment regarding the proposed project. The BID and Response Sheet will be attached to this report. Copy of BID and Response Sheet is attached in Appendix G2.

3.7 Public review of Draft Scoping Report

The DSR will be sent to different departments and posted on different public areas for review and commenting by the key stakeholders and the IAPs from the 24 October 2013- 14 January 2014 IAPs will be notified with registered letters on the same day. The reports will be sent to following departments:

- West Coast District Municipality
- Swartland Local Municipality,
- Saldanha bay local Municipality,
- Western Cape Heritage Resource Agency (Commenting Authority)
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (Commenting Authority)
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Commenting Authority)
- Western Cape Department of Environment Agriculture and rural Development (Commenting Authority)
- Department of Water Affairs (Commenting Authority)

3.8 Public meetings

IAPs will be invited with registered letters, direct invitations through the local Councillors and community leaders and emails for Public meetings. The public meetings for the project will be held from the week of and they will continue until EIA as it is difficult to get hold of them all. All samples have been attached as appendices as follows:

3.9 Issues and Response Report

Government Regulation 543, Section 56, dictate that comments received from IAPs will be kept and response thereof recorded within the Issues and Response Report (IRR) for the life of the EIA study.

3.9.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.10 Introduction

The proposed transmission powerline, and associated upgrade for the substations will take place in an area, which was previously disturbed by other developments activities such as construction of the powerlines, substations, access roads, boundary fence line and farms. No major or radical natural or human environmental impacts are anticipated during the construction and operational phases of the project given the fact that similar and other developments already exist in the general project area.

However, a number of mitigation measures and recommendations will be set out in the EIA report, and these are considered relevant to the future implementation of the project. Detailed specialist studies are recommended for this development to allow for detailed investigation of some anticipated impacts that will emanate during the construction and operational phases. A detailed Environmental Management Plan should be compiled to outline the mitigation measures for the anticipated impacts.

3.11 General Recommendations

Further general recommendations are:

- It is recommended that Eskom clarify issues relating to servitude access, maintenance and fire management in the servitude and associated responsibilities. It is suggested these responsibilities are clearly set out in the servitude agreements. A greater level of integration with local fire fighting associations is also recommended.
- Construction camps for the project should also be located on sites recommended in the EMP to be compiled as part of the draft EIAR.

- The construction program should set out anticipated rehabilitation activities and timing. These should be included in the draft EIAR. Emergency rehabilitation measures should also be identified (e.g. for spillage containment, erosion, plant damage, etc.).

