

Basic Assessment and Water Use License Application for the proposed road upgrade to the R545 between the N4 and the D686 towards Kusile Power Station

DEA Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1081

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

NOVEMBER 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 purpose of the document is 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 parties (I&APs) 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 comments to ensure that your issues and concerns are considered and addressed appropriately. Please 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 Mngokoyi
PO Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685
Tel: 011 207 2074
Fax: 086 676 9950
E-mail: patiswam@zitholele.co.za

Environmental Assessment Practitioners

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BACKGROUND

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Limited would like to expand (add lanes) on the R545 from the N4 to the intersection with the D686 (Lone Rock Road) for easy flow of traffic.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The following work activities will be undertaken for upgrade of the existing road:

- a) Site clearing;
- b) Saw cutting of 200mm (width) of the existing asphalt road;
- c) Adding an additional asphalt lane 3.5m wide with a 1000mm shoulder on each side and adding the required road layer works as per the drawings;
- d) Removal of material on the existing shoulder and replacing it with the proper road layerworks;
- e) Cut and/ or fill necessary to build these additional lanes and shoulders;
- f) Relocate or replace when necessary any traffic signs;
- g) Remove any unnecessary traffic lines and paint the replacements markings in the locations described on the drawings;
- h) Remove and install prefabricated kerb as per drawings;
- i) Extension of the existing culverts (RCP and Precast Portal Culvert) including pipe and portal culvert bedding and backfill;
- j) Demolition of the existing concrete headwalls on the Precast Portal Culvert;
- k) Cast-in-place of the transition section for extension of Precast Portal Culvert as per drawings;
- l) Construction of the culvert headwalls for RCP and Precast Portal Culvert as per drawing;
- m) Stone pitching;
- n) Installation of the storm drain manhole;
- o) Guardrail installation;
- p) Traffic management.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS – NEMA & WATER ACT

The proposed project requires a Basic Assessment (BA) in terms of the National Environmental Management (NEMA), No 107 of 1998 and the EIA regulations (Government Notice R.543 to 546, published in June 2010). The National Department of Environmental (DEA) is the Competent Authority. The following listed activities (R544) could be applicable to the proposed project.

- **Activity 18:** *The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from a watercourse....*
- **Activity 39:** *The expansion of canals, channels; bridges, weirs, bulk storm water outlet structures, marinas within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, where such expansion will result in an increased development footprint but excluding where such expansion will occur behind the development setback line.*
- **Activity 40:** *The expansion of buildings by more than 50m² within a watercourse of within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such expansion will occur behind the development setback line.*
- **Activity 47:** *The widening of a road by more than 6m, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 km where the existing reserve is wider than 13.5m; or where no reserve exist, where the existing road is wide than 8m.*

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.

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.

A water use licence or registration process will also be undertaken under the National Water Act for Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses.

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 are in accordance with the regulated requirements.

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 a Wetland Assessment will be undertaken.

The findings of this study, 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.

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 40 calendar 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 DEA

Once the relevant competent authority, the DEA, has issued the Environmental Authorisation, 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.

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET Basic Assessment and Water Use License Application for the proposed road upgrade to the R545 towards Kusile Power Station November 2013	EIA Public Participation Office Patiswa Mnqokoyi Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd P O Box 6002, Halfway House, 1685 Tel: (011) 207 2074/2071 Fax: 086-676-9950 Email: patiswam@zitholele.co.za
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Please complete and return to the Basic Assessment Public Participation Office (as above) before 31 October 2013. Should you require the information in Afrikaans, please notify us and we shall gladly assist.

TITLE		FIRST NAME					
INITIALS		SURNAME					
ORGANISATION / FARM NAME		EMAIL					
FARM DESCRIPTION AS PER TITLE DEED	e.g. – Paardekraal 226, registration division IQ portion 5						
POSTAL ADDRESS							
TEL NO		POSTAL CODE					
DATE		FAX NO					
Please formally register me as an interested and affected party (I&AP) so that I may receive further information and notifications during the Basic Assessment process			<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">YES</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO		
YES	NO						
I would like my notifications by			<table border="1"> <tr><td>Letter (mail)</td></tr> <tr><td>Email</td></tr> <tr><td>Fax</td></tr> <tr><td>Telephone</td></tr> </table>	Letter (mail)	Email	Fax	Telephone
Letter (mail)							
Email							
Fax							
Telephone							
I would like to receive documents for comment as follows			<table border="1"> <tr><td>By email</td></tr> <tr><td>On CD</td></tr> </table>	By email	On CD		
By email							
On CD							
In terms of Government Notice R.543 of 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)

Any comments you may have at this stage:

.....

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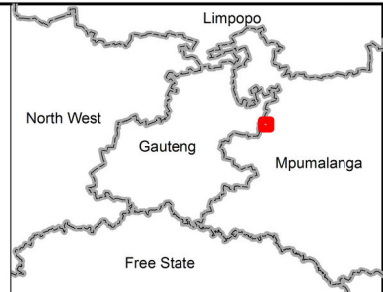
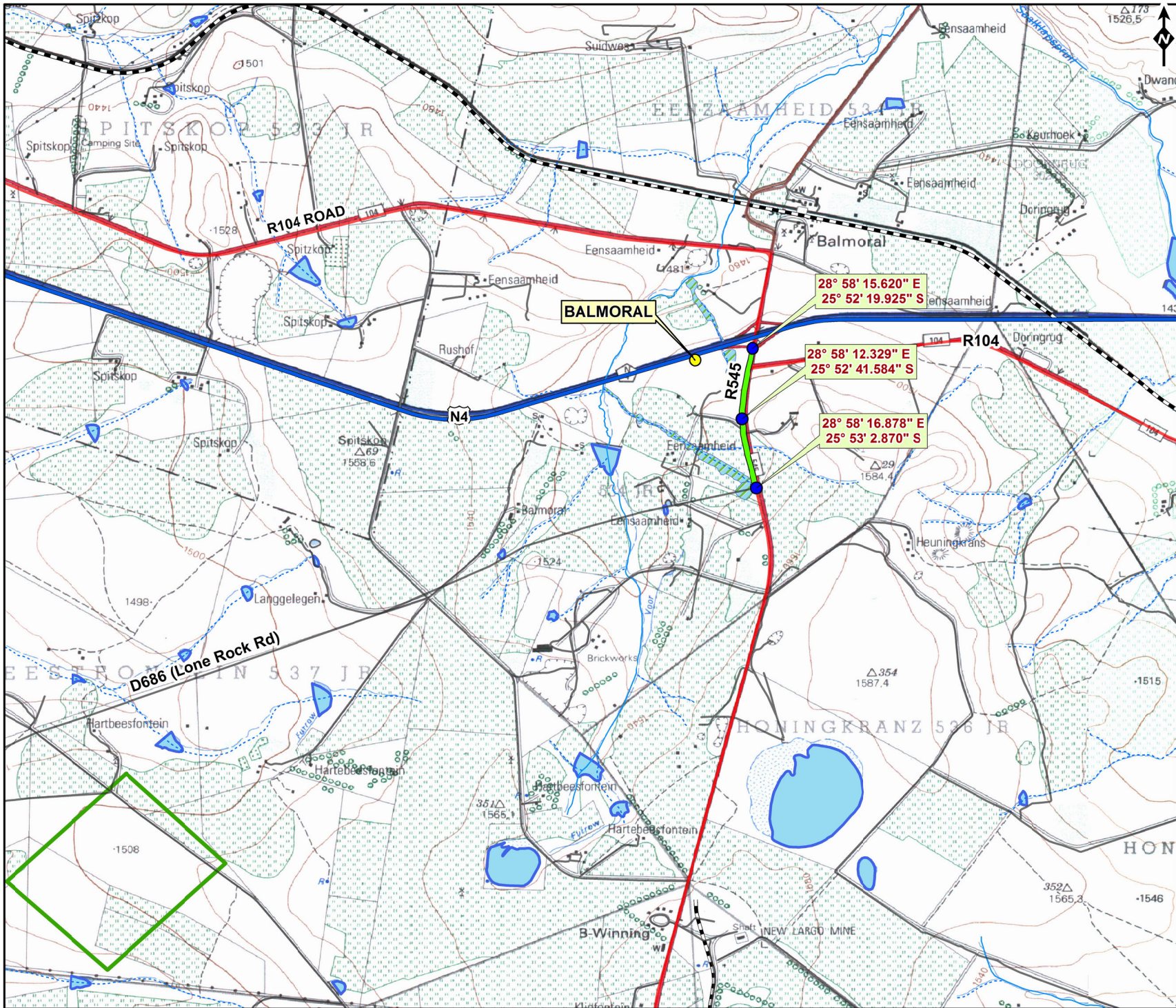
Please ask the following of my colleagues/friends/neighbours to register for this project:

.....

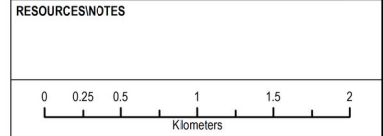
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

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- LEGEND**
- Towns
 - Points along R545 proposed upgrade
 - R545 Proposed Upgrade
 - National Freeway
 - Main road
 - Secondary road
 - Streets and other access
 - Rail
 - Non Perennial Rivers
 - Perennial Rivers
 - Kusile Power Station
 - Waterbodies
 - Wetlands



REFERENCE
Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984

PROJECT
R545 UPGRADE PROJECT

TITLE
LOCALITY

PROJECT No. 12955	REV 0
SCALE 1:35 000	A3
GIS	VR 04/10/2013
CHECK	TO 04/10/2013
REVIEW	- 04/10/2013

