The visual exposure of other components, such as the construction office, laydown area and the compressor house has not been analysed, as these will fall within the viewshed of the precipitator units and / or the workshop.

The primary criteria for visual impact are visibility, exposure and visual absorption capacity of the landscape. Visibility refers to “can you see it”, whereas exposure describes the degree of visibility, which is determined by partial screening of components and the effect of declining visual exposure with increase in distance. These parameters have been integrated into a single visual impact significance analysis for the precipitator units and the workshop, and visualised on maps (Figures 5 and 6). For the purpose of comparison, a similar analysis was undertaken for the existing cooling towers, as visualised on the map in Figure 7.

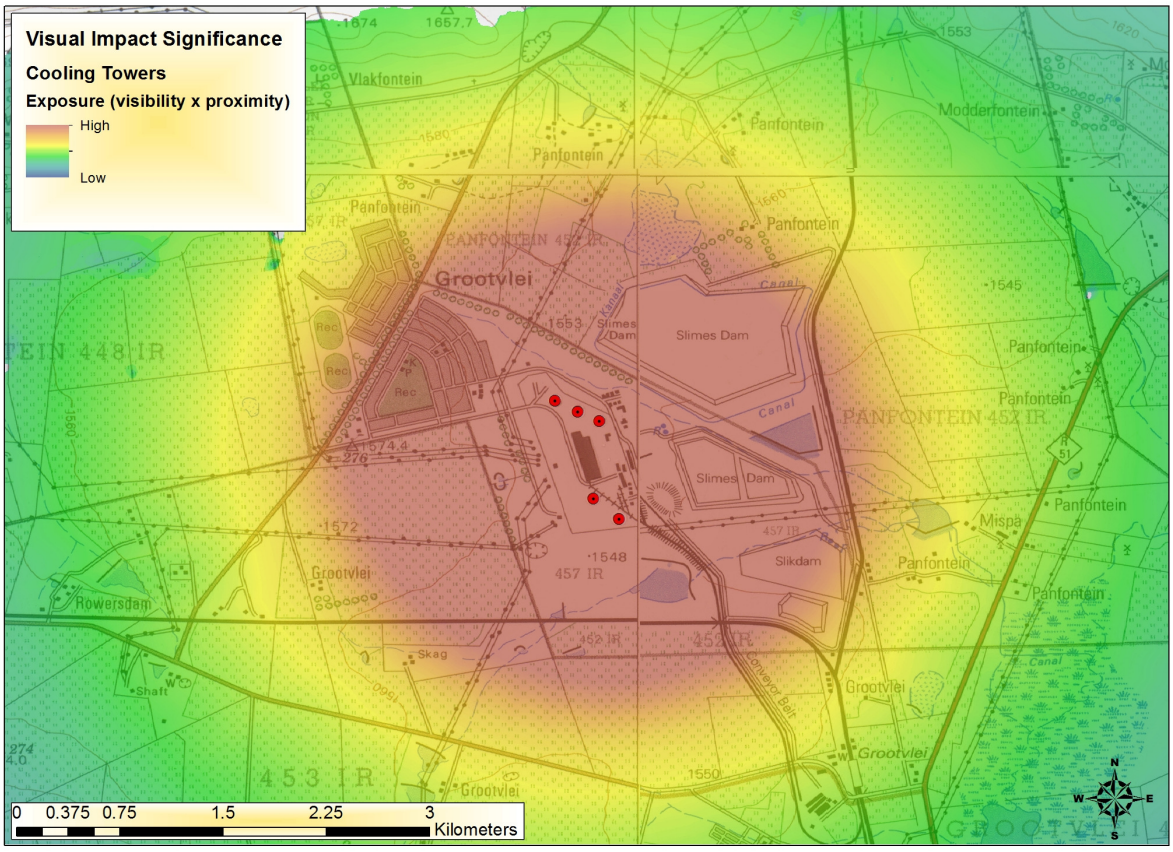

Figure 7: Viewshed and proximity analysis for the existing cooling towers.

It is evident from these maps that the significance of visual exposure of the proposed developments is limited to the confines of the site itself, where any modification or addition, as it has been proposed, will fall within the viewshed of existing infrastructure (particularly the cooling towers, as illustrated). The receiving environment, in terms of visibility of the proposed developments, is largely fragmented compared to that of large

structures such as the cooling towers (compare the maps in Figures 5 and 6 with the map in Figure 7). It can therefore be argued that, from a visual point of view, the proposed developments would not be discernable from the existing infrastructure on the site, and would in itself bear no significance in terms of visual impact.

Visual absorption capacity refers to the degree to which the proposed development can be assimilated by similar objects in the landscape. Since the development is taking place on site of the power station, all existing structures would provide 100% visual absorption capacity for any of the proposed modifications and construction works, especially since these are small in comparison with the extensiveness of the existing infrastructure. As a result, it is envisaged that no additional visual impact will be generated from the proposed activities associated with the FFP retrofit, other than what has already been established by the power station at large.

4. Visual impact statement.

The modification of units 2, 3 & 4, and the construction of a compressor house and a workshop as new permanent structures, will take place within the existing viewshed of the Grootvlei power station, and will be absorbed by the large dimensions of components such as the existing cooling towers and the power house. It can therefore be stated with confidence that the proposed retrofitting project will have no visual impact on the receiving environment.