

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED STEELPOORT PUMPED-STORAGE
SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE IN LIMPOPO AND
MPUMALANGA PROVINCES
Greater Tubatse Local Municipality

Wednesday, 18 OCTOBER 2006

AGENDA

- Welcome, Apologies & Introduction
- Conduct of the Meeting
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Background to the proposed project and Technical Presentation
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process
- Public Participation Process
- Discussion Session
- The Way Forward

CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

- Language of choice
- Work through facilitator
- Focus on issues
- Equal participation
- Identify yourselves prior to question
- Wait until discussion session to ask questions

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide key stakeholders with information regarding the proposed SPSS Project
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & public participation process for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to seek clarity on the project
- To record comments raised
- For interaction with the project team

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- Listed activity in terms of the EIA Regulations
 - Government Notice No.R 386 and No. R387 of 2006.
 - In terms of Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act no.107 of 1998)

WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT
- Inform project planning process

EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS)
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process - Ongoing

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

- Proposed Pumped Storage Scheme in Steelport is anticipated to generate approximately 1520 MW of electricity.
- The scheme will consist of the following:
 - an upper and a lower reservoirs;
 - an underground powerhouse complex;
 - associated waterways that link the reservoirs;
 - ancillary works such as roads, transmission lines and other associated infrastructure.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION (cont...)

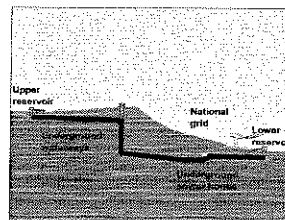
- The schemes upper and lower reservoirs will be interconnected by enclosed tunnel systems.
- Hydroelectric turbine underground in the tunnel system will pump water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir during low demand periods.
- Water from upper reservoir to the lower reservoir during peak periods will pass through turbine generating units, providing kinetic energy to drive units.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION (cont...)

- Electricity is therefore generated, which is used to supplement other generating units on the national grid such as coal fired power stations during periods of peak demand.

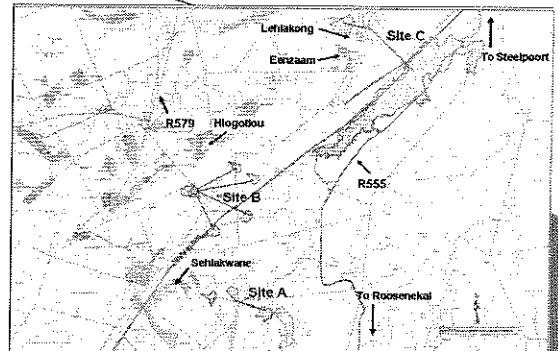
See the diagram of the scheme on the next slide !!!!!

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION (cont...)



SITES INVESTIGATED

- **Site A**
Keerom 151 JS ; Steynsdrift 145 JS Portion 1
Luiperhoek 149 JS Portions 1&9
- **Site B**
Dwars in de Weg 139 JS ; Groothoek 139 JS &
Tigershoek 240 JS
- **Site C :Eenzam 875 KS & De Hoop**



THE GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

- In 2004, the SA Cabinet took the decision that Eskom will build approx, 70 % of the new capacity required in SA.
- The SA Government through DME ,National Energy regulator of South Africa (NERSA) and Eskom are trying to address this demand.

THE GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE (cont...)

- The following has been done:
- The DME performs the Integrated Energy planning (IEP)
- The NERSA performs National Integrated Resource Planning (NIRP)
- Eskom performs the Integrated Strategic Electricity Plan (ISEP)

THE GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE (cont...)

- The demand for electricity has grown at more than 4% per annum over the past years.
- The DME,NERSA and Eskom findings indicated that additional 5 000 MW of electricity in the next 5 years will be needed.

AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY

- Identify & evaluate potential benefits & potentially significant environmental impacts
- Evaluation of site alternatives.
- Public Participation (informed on the project and opportunity to raise concerns about the project).
- Nomination of a preferred site for further investigation within an EIA (taking the economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

EIA PROCESS

- **Environmental Impact Assessment**
 - Assess impacts of significance
 - Detailed Specialist Studies
 - Detail mitigation & management measures
 - Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- **Draft Environmental Management Plan**

SPECIALIST STUDIES

- **Land Use:** Bohlweki Environmental
- **Soils & agriculture:** ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate
- **Surface & groundwater:** GCS
- **Wetland :** SiVEST Selati Moloi
- **Air Quality:** Stewart Scott Inter.

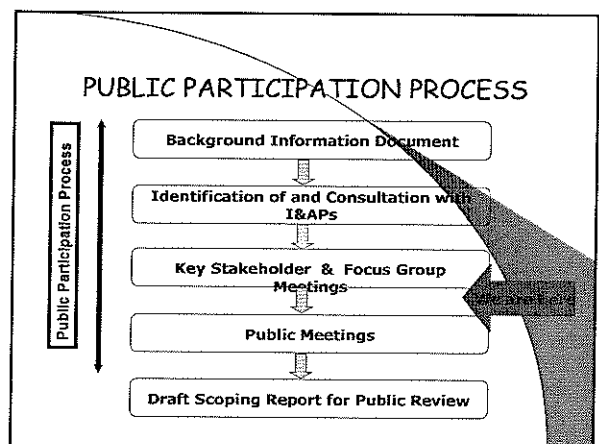
SPECIALIST STUDIES

- **Fauna & flora:** Bathusi Env. Cons
- **Heritage:** National Cultural Museum
- **Tourism:** SiVEST Selati Moloi
- **Noise Impacts:** Jongens Keet and Assoc.
- **Social impact:** MasterQ Research
- **Visual:** MetroGIS
- **Trans. & Traffic Impact :** Goba Consulting Eng

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- **What is PPP?**
 - A tool to inform I&APs of a proposed project.
 - A tool to help integrate the comments of the I&APs into the relevant phases of a proposed project.
- **What PPP is Not?**
 - Not a Public Relations exercise
 - Not a means to satisfy grievances rather to record comments.



THE WAY FORWARD

- **Compilation and distribution of minutes**
- **Compilation of draft Scoping Report**
- **Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period)**
- **Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report**
- **Submission of Final Scoping report to N DEAT**
- **Authority review**
- **Comments and approval to undertake EIA**

DISCUSSION

Contact Details:

Bohlweki Environmental

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka / Mrs Louise Aganlag

Tel: 011 466 3841

Fax: 011 466 3849

E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

PO Box 11784, Vorna Valley, MIDRAND, 1686

Reports for review: www.bohlweki.co.za

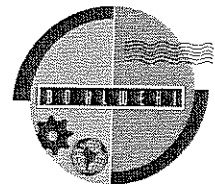
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

FINAL MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH THE GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18 October 2006
AT 10H00

AT
GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OFFICES, BURGERSFORT



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 466 3841
Fax: (011) 466 3849
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohleki.co.za

Mrs Louise Agenbag
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 466 3841
Fax: (011) 466 3849
E-mail: steelpoort@pss@bohleki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 466 3841
Fax: (011) 466 3849
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Louise Agenbag
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 466 3841
Fax: (011) 466 3849
E-mail: louisea@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **24 November 2006**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING.....	Greg Seymour.....	3
2.	RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT.....	Nico Gewers	3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION	Thigesh Velen	.3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....	Greg Seymour	.3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....	Greg Seymour	5
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....	Greg Seymour	5
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....	All..	6
8.	CLOSURE		8

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD Appendix A

PRESENTATIONS

RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT PRESENTATION BY Nico Gewers.....Appendix B

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION BY Thigesh VelenAppendix C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
WEDNESDAY 18 October 2006
GREATER TUBATSE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OFFICES, BURGERSFORT
10H00**

1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide key stakeholders with information regarding the proposed Steelpoort Pumped-Storage Scheme (SPSS)
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation Process (PPP) for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for the Municipality, as an interested and affected party to seek clarity on the project and provide input
- To record comments raised
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

3. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Nico Gewers (presentation attached as appendix B)

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (presentation attached as appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

In terms of the new NEMA EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. R 385 of 2006, a number of Listed activities associated with the proposed construction of a Pumped Storage Scheme are included in Government Notice No. R 386 and No. R387 of 2006. Therefore a full Environmental Impact Assessment process is required.

4.2 WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT
- Inform project-planning process

4.3 EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.4 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING INCLUDING SCREENING STUDIES

- Validate the screening report, by assessing the findings and recommendations of the study and supplementing it with additional studies where gaps exist. This validation process focuses on the detail of the studies completed and the rationale behind the nomination of a preferred site.
- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Public Participation
- Inform the public of the proposed project
- Opportunity to raise concerns about the project and provide input
- Nominations of a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account). The preferred site (EIA screening) has been selected for further detailed investigation in the EIA. This preferred site is shown in the form of a preferred pumped-storage scheme option.
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

4.5 EIA PROCESS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Assess impacts of significance
- Detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Draft Environmental Management Plan

4.6 SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate & Water
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SiVEST Selati Moloji

Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- What is PPP?

A tool to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of a proposed project. It allows transparency and encourages I&AP to raise issues and concerns regarding a project. These issues and concerns are then incorporated into the EIA reporting process.

It is a tool to help integrate the comments of the I&APs into the relevant phases of a proposed project.
- What PPP is Not?
 - Not a Public Relations exercise
 - Not a means to satisfy grievances – rather to record comments for consideration in the undertaking of the EIA process.
- Some of the roles of an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)
 - Commenting on the proposed development
 - Contributing on the information on public needs, values and expectations
 - Assisting in identification of issues to be investigated
 - To participate effectively as an I&AP
 - Become involved in the process as early as possible
 - Register as an I&AP
 - Follow the process agreed on
 - Read the materials provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes (from this meeting)
- Compilation of draft Environmental Scoping Report
- Draft Scoping Report will be made available in public places for review (for a 30-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to N DEAT and Key Stakeholders
- Authority review
- Comments and approval to undertake EIA
- Undertake the detailed EIA phase of the project including comprehensive public participation, as detailed above.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Mr Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor, enquired whether it was not possible to look for a site, which covered the Steelpoort area only?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen, Eskom, Generation*, explained that there were three sites which were initially identified; Sites A, B and C. The environmental screening studies that were conducted showed that Sites B and C had geological faults and therefore were not recommended. Site A3 was recommended as the project site, as it had less environmental impacts.

Mr Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor enquired which areas the generated electricity would supply, where Eskom considering supplying it to the mines?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen, Eskom, Generation*, explained that the electricity, which will be generated, will use baseflow electricity to pump water to the upper reservoir, which will be used in the process to supply electricity to the national grid, therefore it is not for a specific area but for general use.

Mr Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor enquired which other villages are likely to be affected by the proposed development?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen, Eskom, Generation*, explained that it is Sehlakwane and Hlogotlou villages. Eenzam would be excluded, as it would not be part of the project any more.

Mr Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor enquired how Eskom will gain access to the project area because it is a mountainous area.

- *Mr Thigesh Velen, Eskom, Enterprise Engineering*, explained that Eskom would build roads and upgrade existing roads, as it is critical that they build good quality roads for the project area and the roads will also be of benefit to the communities around that area. New roads that will be built and the ones to be upgraded will be funded by the project.

Akila Leshaba, ward councilor asked if this SPSS plan is designed to go along with the De Hoop dam?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, explained that the De Hoop dam will be built before the SPSS and the project will depend on De Hoop for water. He explained that the scheme would not be built sooner as there is detailed design work and planning that needs to take place. Construction work cannot commence earlier than 5 years. The PSS project would only be completed in 2014.

Akila Leshaba, ward councilor asked if Eskom is going to develop an underground tunnel?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, indicated that an underground waterway (tunnel) will be built and will be 2.3 km from intake to outfall

Mr. Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor raised a concern that there are often proposed development projects in the area by business people. In the past municipalities were not informed of the proposed business and the communities were becoming skeptical about such developments.

As a municipality they needed to know what plans these businesses have for the upliftment of the community. The municipality would like to ensure that after each and every project people are empowered with marketable skills for their future reference. He further explained that companies who wish to propose developments or businesses need to have concrete plans for skills transfer and have a willingness to develop skills that will remain after the project.

- *Mr. Thigesh Velen*, explained that it is estimated that the project will create 1500 to 2500 jobs both skilled and unskilled. Although the project would require a large number of specialized skills like engineers on the building construction side, bricklayers and plasters would be required. Local contractors would also benefit from the project.
- *Tobile Bokwe, Eskom Generation*, added that Eskom: Generation Division has a Stakeholder Management Department, which works closely with key stakeholders like the Municipality and the Chamber of Business to ensure that available business opportunities for constituencies of these such key stakeholders are optimised during the project life and that local people benefit.
- *Nico Gewers, Eskom Generation*, further explained that someone from the Stakeholder Management Department would contact the existing business structures within the area, which would be a parallel process with the project. Furthermore, Eskom is a parastatal/state-owned enterprise and in terms of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative in South Africa (ASGISA) requirements, it is required to reach a certain target for Black Economic Empowerment (BEE).

Akile Leshaba, ward councillor asked about the after effects of the proposed project on the long-term basis as it is critical to know all the impacts as early in the process as possible.

- *Mr. Thigesh Velen*, indicated that the tunnels and powerhouse are located underground and would not have any biophysical and social impacts, on the environment. All the detailed findings will be available in the environmental impact reports.

Maria Maloma, ward councillor, asked that, as the pipeline would be underground what about the graves from Mawele community?

- *Greg Seymour, Bohlweki Environmental* answered that as part of the EIA study, a Heritage study would be undertaken to determine if there are any graves or other heritage sites of significance. All the findings and recommendations of the study will be available in the draft scoping report. Nico further added that the project would comply with the requirements of South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Martha Magapa, ward councillor, indicated that on the 14 June 2006 there was a meeting held with the Consultant, the only plea they had was that Eskom should consider creating opportunities for youth in their projects.

- The concern was noted.

Comment

Mr. Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor commented that it is critical that we make a presentation to Groblersdal Local Municipality and conduct a public participation process in the Sehlakwane area, as that community could be difficult. The mayor indicated that Tubatse and Groblersdal are rural areas where people are forever looking for opportunities, which are never fulfilled. Caution should be taken with communities, as the municipality has to intervene with marches by communities due to their dissatisfaction with regard to their demands regarding certain projects.

8. CLOSURE

Mr Greg Seymour thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and then Mr Steve Mphego thanked the Mayor for attending the meeting and for his contributions.

The meeting was concluded at 11h45.

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

Attendance Record: Greater Tubatse LM FGM: 18.10.06

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Company</u>
Bokwe, Tobile	Eskom Generation
Gewers, Nico	Eskom Generation
Hlomuka, Sibongile	Bohlweki Environmental
Kgotse, Shokeng	Ntwampe Community (Ward 13)
Leshaba, Akula	Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Magapa, Martha	Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Maloma, Maria	Greater Tubatse Municipality
Mamekoa, Ralepane	Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Mashilo, Betty	Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Mphego, Stephen	Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Nekhavhambe, Makonde	Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Seymour, Greg	Bohlweki Environmental
Velen, Thigesh	Eskom Generation

Totals

Attendance Record: Greater Tubatse LM FGM: 18.10.06

Name:

Bokwe, Tobile
Gewers, Nico
Hlomuka, Sibongile
Kgotse, Shokeng
Leshaba, Akula
Magapa, Martha
Maloma, Maria
Mamekoa, Ralepane
Mashilo, Betty
Mphego, Stephen
Nekhavhambe, Makonde
Seymour, Greg
Velen, Thigesh

Company

Eskom Generation
Eskom Generation
Bohlweki Environmental
Ntwampe Community (Ward 13)
Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Greater Tubatse Municipality
Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
Bohlweki Environmental
Eskom Generation

Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED STEELPOORT PUMPED-STORAGE
SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE IN LIMPOPO AND
MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

Focus Group Meeting

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Apologies & Introduction
2. Conduct of the Meeting
3. Purpose of the Meeting
4. Background/Rationale to the proposed project
5. Technical Presentation (Eskom)
6. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process
7. Public Participation Process
8. Discussion Session
9. The Way Forward

CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

- Language of choice
- Work through facilitator
- Focus on issues
- Equal participation
- Identify yourselves prior to question
- Wait until discussion session to ask questions

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide key stakeholders with information regarding the proposed Steelpoort Pumped-Storage Scheme (SPSS)
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation Process (PPP) for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) to seek clarity and provide input into the project
- To record comments raised
- Interaction with the project team

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE
TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT
(ESKOM)

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION
ON THE STEELPOORT
PUMPED STORAGE SCHEME
(ESKOM)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- In terms of the new EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. R 385 of 2006 a number of listed activities are included in:

Government Notice No. R 386 and No. R387 of 2006.

- Therefore a full Environmental Impact Assessment process is required.

WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT
- Inform project planning process

EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS)
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process - Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

SITES INVESTIGATED

- A number of sites were investigated during a screening study and will be discussed in the ESS
- The preferred alternative will then be assessed in greater detail in the EIA phase.
- Three sites with various options will be assessed and include:

SITES INVESTIGATED (cont...)

• Site A

Keerom 151 JS ; Steynsdrift 145 JS Portion 1

Luiperhoek 149 JS Portions 1&9

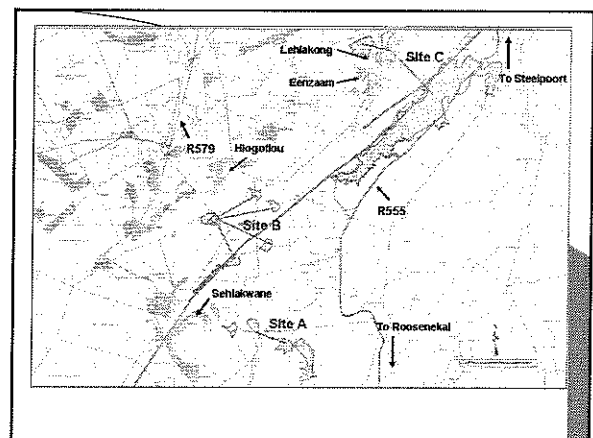
• Site B

Dwars in de Weg 139 JS ; Groothoek 139

JS & Tigershoek 240 JS

• Site C

Eenzam 875 KS & De Hoop



AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY

- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Validate Environmental Screening Report
- Evaluation of site alternatives.
- Public Participation
 - Inform the public of the proposed project
 - Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project
- Nomination of a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

EIA PROCESS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Assess impacts of significance
 - Detailed Specialist Studies
 - Detail mitigation & management measures
 - Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Draft Environmental Management Plan

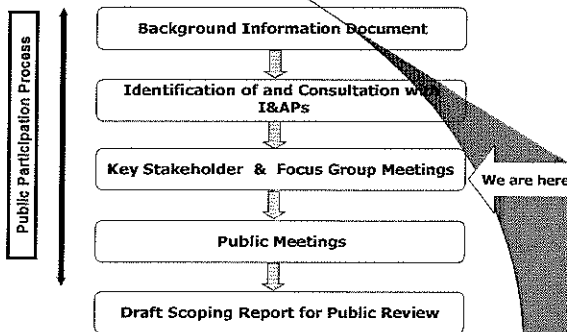
SPECIALIST STUDIES

- Land Use: Bohlweki Environmental
- Soils & agriculture: ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate & Water
- Surface & groundwater: GCS
- Wetlands : SiVEST Selati Moloji
- Air Quality: SSI a DHV Company.
- Fauna & flora: Bathusi Environmental Consulting

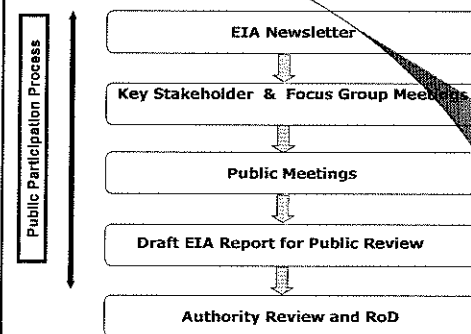
SPECIALIST STUDIES (Cont...)

- Heritage: National Cultural Museum
- Tourism: SiVEST Selati Moloji
- Noise Impacts: Jongens Keet and Associates.
- Social impact: MasterQ Research
- Visual Impacts: MetroGIS
- Transport & Traffic Impact :Goba Consulting Engineers

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (Cont..)



THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes
- Compilation of draft Environmental Scoping Report
- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to N DEAT and Key Stakeholders
- Authority review
- Comments and approval to undertake EIA
- Continue with Phase 2 (EIA Phase) of the project

DISCUSSION

Contact Details:

Bohlweki Environmental

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka / Mrs Louise Agenbag

Tel: 011 466 3841

Fax: 011 466 3849

E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

PO Box 11784, Vorna Valley, MIDRAND, 1686

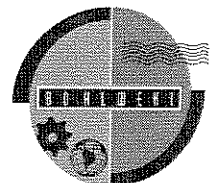
Reports for review: www.bohlweki.co.za

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM (LEDET)

HELD ON
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2006
AT 10H00
AT
LEDET OFFICES, POLOKWANE



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Ms Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: prashikar@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **02 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING (Greg Seymour).....	3
2.	RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT .....Nico Gewers..	3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION .....Thigesh Velen .	3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....Greg Seymour .	3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....Greg Seymour	5
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....Greg Seymour	5
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....All..	5
8.	CLOSURE	7

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD	Appendix A
PRESENTATIONS.....	Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2006
LEDET OFFICES, POLOKWANE
10H00**

1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide authorities with information regarding the proposed Pumped-Storage Scheme (PSS) in the Steelpoort area
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process & Public Participation Process (PPP) for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for LEDET to seek clarity on the project and provide input
- To record comments raised
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Nico Gewers (presentation attached as Appendix B)

3. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

In terms of the new NEMA EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. R 385 of 2006, a number of Listed activities associated with the proposed construction of a Pumped Storage Scheme are included in Government Notice No. R386 and No. R387 of 2006. Therefore a full Environmental Impact Assessment process is required.

4.2 WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose feasible mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT and approval from other commenting authorities
- Inform project-planning process

4.3 EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.4 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING (INCLUDING SCREENING STUDIES)

- Validate the screening report, by assessing the findings and recommendations of the study and supplementing it with additional studies where gaps exist. This validation process focuses on the detail of the studies completed and the rationale behind the nomination of a preferred site.
- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Initiate the Public Participation Process
- Inform the public of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to raise concerns about the project and provide input
- Nominate a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account). The preferred site (EIA screening) has been selected for further detailed investigation in the EIA. This preferred site is shown in the form of a preferred pumped-storage scheme option.
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

4.5 EIA PROCESS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Assess impacts of significance
- Undertake detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail feasible mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Draft Environmental Management Plan

4.6 SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate & Water
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- What is PPP?
A tool to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of a proposed project. It allows transparency and encourages I&AP to raise issues and concerns regarding a project. These issues and concerns are then incorporated into the EIA reporting process.
It is a tool to help integrate the comments of the I&APs into the relevant phases of a proposed project.
- What PPP is Not?
 - Not a Public Relations exercise
 - Not a means to satisfy grievances – rather to record comments for consideration in the undertaking of the EIA process.
- Some of the roles of an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)
 - Commenting on the proposed development
 - Contributing on the information on public needs, values and expectations
 - Assisting in identification of issues to be investigated
 - To participate effectively as an I&AP
 - Become involved in the process as early as possible
 - Register as an I&AP
 - Follow the process agreed on
 - Read the materials provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes (from this meeting)
- Compilation of draft Environmental Scoping Report
- Draft Scoping Report will be made available in public places for review (for a 45-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to N DEAT and Key Stakeholders
- Authority review
- Comments and approval to undertake EIA
- Undertake the detailed EIA phase of the project including comprehensive public participation, as detailed above.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET asked what the volume of the reservoirs are?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen, Eskom Generation*, explained that the volume of the reservoirs would be approximately 16 million cubic metres.

Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET asked if there are any existing roads that would be upgraded or new roads would be constructed?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, explained that the existing roads could be utilized as far as possible and where required they would be upgraded. Eskom would still investigate the possibility of developing new roads in order to have better access to the Pumped Storage Scheme.

Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET enquired about the distance between the residential area and the project area?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, explained that the Sehlakwane village is the closest residential area to the site and this distance is approximately 800m to 1km.

Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET enquired about the depth of the tunnels?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, answered that the tunnels would be 300m below ground and the shallowness of the reservoir would be 15-20m.

Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture, asked what the current uses of the proposed project area are?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, replied that the lower dam is currently zoned as agricultural or farming land, and the upper dam is virgin land that is currently grasslands.

Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture, asked if the land belonged to the government or to an individual.

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, replied that it is tribal land.

Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET enquired if the area was sloppy or flat.

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, replied that with regards to topography the land in the upper dam is sloppy and the land in the lower dam are undulating.

Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture asked if the agricultural studies are conducted by ARC?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, answered that the agricultural studies are being conducted by ARC, they have done a site inspection and desktop studies. Further investigations would still continue.

Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET asked about the risks associated with the development and the proposed mitigation measures? For instance, safety concerns, such as people falling into the dam?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, replied that there are risks involved but like any other dams a high fence would be built denying access to high volume areas. He further added that the risks would be investigated in a risks analysis.

Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture asked if Eskom Generation has received a "go ahead" from the tribal authorities.

- *Mr. Tobile Bokwe, Eskom Generation*, explained that Eskom has already consulted the tribal authorities. The traditional leaders and landowners would still be consulted during the scoping phase of the project.

Ms Lovey Modiba, LEDET asked what the length of the pipeline would be?

- *Mr Thigesh Velen*, replied that the pipeline would be approximately 30m long.

Comments

Ms Maria Maredi, Department of Land Affairs; Regional Land Claims Commission:

- Eskom should ensure that they consider the status of the land and ensure that the land is not under claim and need to verify the title deeds of the current landowners.

The comment was noted.

Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture:

- The department would wait for the availability of the Environmental Draft Scoping Report and thereafter they would be able to make comments.

The comment was noted

8. CLOSURE

Ms Kelly Martin thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting was concluded at 11h40.

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

ATTENDANCE RECORD:FGM LEDET:13 .11.06

Name:

Baloyi, Violet
Bokwe, Tobile
Gewers, Nico
Hlomuka, Sibongile
Kelefetswe, Sekgomotso
Maredi, Maria
Martin , Kelly
Modiba, Lovey
Singo, Portia
Velen, Thigesh

Company

Dept of Agriculture
Eskom Generation
Eskom Generation
Bohlweki Environmental
Eskom Generation
Department of land Affairs
Bohlweki Environmental
Dept of Economic Development & Tourism
Department of Land Affairs
Eskom Generation

Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH CHIEF MAPHEPHA MAHLANGU II

HELD ON
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2006
AT 16H00
AT
TRIBAL OFFICES , GROBLERSDAL



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Ms Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: prashikar@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **02 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING	Greg Seymour	3
2.	RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT	Nico Gewers	3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION	Thigesh Velen	3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....	Greg Seymour	3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....	Greg Seymour	5
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....	Greg Seymour	5
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....	All	5
8.	CLOSURE		6

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD	Appendix A
PRESENTATIONS.....	Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2006
TRIBAL OFFICES, GROBLERSDAL
16H00**

1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide interested and affected parties with information regarding the proposed Pumped-Storage Scheme (PSS) in the Steelpoort area
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process & Public Participation Process (PPP) for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for the tribal authority as an interested and affected party to seek clarity on the project and provide input
- To record comments raised
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Nico Gewers (presentation attached as Appendix B)

3. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

In terms of the new NEMA EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. R 385 of 2006, a number of Listed activities associated with the proposed construction of a Pumped Storage Scheme are included in Government Notice No. R386 and No. R387 of 2006. Therefore a full Environmental Impact Assessment process is required.

4.2 WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose feasible mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT and approval from other commenting authorities
- Inform project-planning process

4.3 EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.4 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING (INCLUDING SCREENING STUDIES)

- Validate the screening report, by assessing the findings and recommendations of the study and supplementing it with additional studies where gaps exist. This validation process focuses on the detail of the studies completed and the rationale behind the nomination of a preferred site.
- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Initiate the Public Participation Process
- Inform the public of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to raise concerns about the project and provide input
- Nominate a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account). The preferred site (EIA screening) has been selected for further detailed investigation in the EIA. This preferred site is shown in the form of a preferred pumped-storage scheme option.
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

4.5 EIA PROCESS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Assess impacts of significance
- Undertake detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail feasible mitigation & management measures
- Continue with the Public Involvement process (issues recorded)
- Develop an Environmental Management Plan

4.6 SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate & Water
Surface & groundwater	Groundwater Consulting Services
Wetland	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- What is PPP?
A tool to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of a proposed project. It allows transparency and encourages I&APs to raise issues and concerns regarding a project. These issues and concerns are then incorporated into the EIA process and associated reporting.
It is a tool to help integrate the comments of the I&APs into the relevant phases of a proposed project.
- What PPP is Not?
 - Not a Public Relations exercise
 - Not a means to satisfy grievances – rather to record comments for consideration in the undertaking of the EIA process.
- Some of the roles of an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)
 - Commenting on the proposed development
 - Contributing on the information on public needs, values and expectations
 - Assisting in identification of issues to be investigated
 - To participate effectively as an I&AP
 - Become involved in the process as early as possible
 - Register as an I&AP
 - Follow the process agreed on
 - Read the materials provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes (from this meeting)
- Compilation of draft Environmental Scoping Report
- Draft Scoping Report will be made available in public places for review (for a 45-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to National DEAT and Key Stakeholders
- Authority review
- Comments and approval to undertake EIA
- Undertake the detailed EIA phase of the project including comprehensive public participation, as detailed above.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Mr Paul Mahlangu, the deputy chairperson of the Ndebele Traditional Leadership Council, indicated that he would consult with his seniors, including the chief, regarding the proposed development, as the council does not represent itself. The Ndebele Traditional Leadership Council and Chief Maphepha Mahlangu 11 will let Bohlweki Environmental and Eskom know of any decision taken.

8. CLOSURE

Mr Greg Seymour thanked the traditional council for their attendance.

The meeting was concluded at 17h25.

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

ATTANDANCE RECORD:FGM CHIEF MAPHEPHA MAHLANGU 11: 13.11.06

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Company</u>
Bokwe, Tobile	Eskom Generation
Gewers, Nico	Eskom Generation
Hlomuka, Sibongile	Bohlweki Environmental
Kelelatswe, Sekgomotso	Eskom Generation
Magangane , Gift	Bohlweki Environmental
Mahlangu, Mbusi	Ellias Mostwaledi Local Municipality
Mahlangu, Noah	Ndebele Tribal Authority
Mahlangu, Peter	Ndebele Traditional Council
Mahlangu, Thembisani Paulos	Ndebele Traditional Leadership Council
Seymour, Greg	Bohlweki Environmental
Velen, Thigesh	Eskom Generation

Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH**

**ELLIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND
GREATER SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2006
AT 9H00
AT
GREATER SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT , GROBLERSDAL



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Ms Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: prashikar@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **02 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING (Greg Seymour).....	3
2.	RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT .....Nico Gewers	3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION .....Thigesh Velen	.3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....Greg Seymour	.3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....Greg Seymour	5
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....Greg Seymour	5
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....All	.5
8.	CLOSURE	6

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD	Appendix A
PRESENTATIONS.....	Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2006
GREATER SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT, GROBLERSDAL
9H00**

1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide authorities with information regarding the proposed Pumped-Storage Scheme (PSS) in the Steelpoort area
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process & Public Participation Process (PPP) for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for the district and the municipality to seek clarity on the project and provide input
- To record comments raised
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Nico Gewers (presentation attached as Appendix B)

3. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

In terms of the new NEMA EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. R 385 of 2006, a number of Listed activities associated with the proposed construction of a Pumped Storage Scheme are included in Government Notice No. R386 and No. R387 of 2006. Therefore a full Environmental Impact Assessment process is required.

4.2 WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose feasible mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT and approval from other commenting authorities
- Inform project-planning process

4.3 EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
 - Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
 - Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process
-

4.4 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING (INCLUDING SCREENING STUDIES)

- Validate the screening report, by assessing the findings and recommendations of the study and supplementing it with additional studies where gaps exist. This validation process focuses on the detail of the studies completed and the rationale behind the nomination of a preferred site.
- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Initiate the Public Participation Process
- Inform the public of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to raise concerns about the project and provide input
- Nominate a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account). The preferred site (EIA screening) has been selected for further detailed investigation in the EIA. This preferred site is shown in the form of a preferred pumped-storage scheme option.
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

4.5 EIA PROCESS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Assess impacts of significance
- Undertake detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail feasible mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Draft Environmental Management Plan

4.6 SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate & Water
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SIVEST Selati Moloji
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SIVEST Selati Moloji
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- What is PPP?
A tool to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of a proposed project. It allows transparency and encourages I&AP to raise issues and concerns regarding a project. These issues and concerns are then incorporated into the EIA reporting process.
It is a tool to help integrate the comments of the I&APs into the relevant phases of a proposed project.
- What PPP is Not?
 - Not a Public Relations exercise
 - Not a means to satisfy grievances – rather to record comments for consideration in the undertaking of the EIA process.
- Some of the roles of an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)
 - Commenting on the proposed development
 - Contributing on the information on public needs, values and expectations
 - Assisting in identification of issues to be investigated
 - To participate effectively as an I&AP
 - Become involved in the process as early as possible
 - Register as an I&AP
 - Follow the process agreed on
 - Read the materials provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes (from this meeting)
- Compilation of draft Environmental Scoping Report
- Draft Scoping Report will be made available in public places for review (for a 45-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to N DEAT and Key Stakeholders
- Authority review
- Comments and approval to undertake EIA
- Undertake the detailed EIA phase of the project including comprehensive public participation, as detailed above.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Mr Nicho Rabie, Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality (GSDM), asked the number of hours the SPSS would operate per day?

- *Thigesh Velen, Eskom Generation*, answered that the anticipated number of operational hours per day is 10 hours of storage and 14 hours of active volume.

Mr Chris Theron of Bigen Africa Technical Assistant to GSDM, asked if there are any chances that the project would be successful?

- *Thigesh Velen*, answered that various studies and investigations have been undertaken on a yearly basis to ensure that the project is feasible from a technical, economical, social and environmental perspective. The results of the studies continually justify the need for the project. The scheme forms a crucial part of water supply in the area. Eskom constantly liaise with DWAF in terms of water supply for the scheme. He further added that the scheme would not be built sooner than 2014.

8. CLOSURE

Mr Greg Seymour thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting was concluded at 09h55

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

ATTANDANCE RECORD:FGM GREATER SEKHUKHUNE AND ELLIAS MOTSWALEDI 14.11.06

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Company</u>
Bokwe, Tobile	Eskom Generation
Dreyer, Piet	Ellias Mostwaledi Local Municipality
Hlomuka, Sibongile	Bohlweki Environmental
Kelelefswe, Sekgomotso	Eskom Generation
Magangane , Gift	Bohlweki Environmental
Masanya, Eezy	Ellias Mostwaledi Local Municipality
Phasha, Phedishe	Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality
Rabie, Nicho	Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality
Seymour, Greg	Bohlweki Environmental
Theron , Chris	Bigen Africa
Velen, Thigesh	Eskom Generation

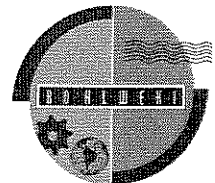
Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PUMPED STORAGE SCHEME
AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE STEELPOORT AREA,
IN LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH FARMERS UNION AND LAND OWNERS

**HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2006
AT 12H00
AT
TUBATSE CHROME CLUB, STEELPOORT**



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Ms Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: prashikar@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **02 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING	(Greg Seymour).....	3
2.	RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT	Nico Gewers..	3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION	Thigesh Velen	3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....	Greg Seymour	3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....	Greg Seymour	5
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....	Greg Seymour	5
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....	All..	6
8.	CLOSURE		7

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD	Appendix A
PRESENTATIONS.....	Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2006
TUBATSE CHROME CLUB, STEELPOORT
12H00**

1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide interested and affected parties with information regarding the proposed Pumped-Storage Scheme (PSS) in the Steelpoort area
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process & Public Participation Process (PPP) for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for the farmers union and landowners to seek clarity on the project and provide input
- To record comments raised
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Nico Gewers (presentation attached as Appendix B)

3. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

In terms of the new NEMA EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. R 385 of 2006, a number of Listed activities associated with the proposed construction of a Pumped Storage Scheme are included in Government Notice No. R386 and No. R387 of 2006. Therefore a full Environmental Impact Assessment process is required.

4.2 WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose feasible mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT and approval from other commenting authorities
- Inform project-planning process

4.3 EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.4 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING (INCLUDING SCREENING STUDIES)

- Validate the screening report, by assessing the findings and recommendations of the study and supplementing it with additional studies where gaps exist. This validation process focuses on the detail of the studies completed and the rationale behind the nomination of a preferred site.
- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Initiate the Public Participation Process
- Inform the public of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to raise concerns about the project and provide input
- Nominate a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account). The preferred site (EIA screening) has been selected for further detailed investigation in the EIA. This preferred site is shown in the form of a preferred pumped-storage scheme option.
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

4.5 EIA PROCESS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Assess impacts of significance
- Undertake detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail feasible mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Draft Environmental Management Plan

4.6 SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate & Water
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.

Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- What is PPP?

A tool to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of a proposed project.

It allows transparency and encourages I&AP to raise issues and concerns regarding a project. These issues and concerns are then incorporated into the EIA reporting process.

It is a tool to help integrate the comments of the I&APs into the relevant phases of a proposed project.

- What PPP is Not?

Not a Public Relations exercise

Not a means to satisfy grievances – rather to record comments for consideration in the undertaking of the EIA process.

- Some of the roles of an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)
 - Commenting on the proposed development
 - Contributing on the information on public needs, values and expectations
 - Assisting in identification of issues to be investigated
 - To participate effectively as an I&AP
 - Become involved in the process as early as possible
 - Register as an I&AP
 - Follow the process agreed on
 - Read the materials provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes (from this meeting)
- Compilation of draft Environmental Scoping Report
- Draft Scoping Report will be made available in public places for review (for a 45-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to N DEAT and Key Stakeholders
- Authority review
- Comments and approval to undertake EIA
- Undertake the detailed EIA phase of the project including comprehensive public participation, as detailed above.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Mr Niek Gouws, Steyndrift informed the meeting that the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) confirmed that water would be supplied to the Nebo Plateau.

- *Thigesh Velen, Eskom Generation*, explained that Eskom is in Joint Ventures with DWAF but Eskom does not supply the water, but can only pump water to the Nebo Plateau for DWAF.

Mr Niek Gouws, requested if Eskom would undertake the EIA for the water pipeline.

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that the EIA for the water pipeline belongs to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), and they will appoint a consultant who will conduct studies, which will determine where the pipeline should be placed. Thigesh went on to explain that this pipeline does not form part of this Eskom's proposed project.

Mr Niek Gouws, enquired about how Eskom would handle the dam when it's full.

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that the water will be directed to the Steelpoort dam.

Mr Botha, De Hoop, enquired about the specialist studies done, as the ecology and certain species would be disturbed by the development. He further explained that they have had a negative experience with Eskom as they always cut trees down.

- *Greg Seymour of Bohlweki Environmental*, informed the meeting that various environmental studies have been done by specialist and that would be covered later in his presentation.

Mr Niek Gouws, enquired how deep below the ground is the power station and whether there will be benefits to the public.

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that the power station would be 300m below ground. He further explained that the storage schemes that have been built in Braamhoek and in Rustenburg are also a tourist attraction

Mr Niek Gouws, enquired should the project receive authorisation, from whom will Eskom buy the land.

- *Thigesh Velen*, informed the meeting that if the scheme is a success, Eskom may buy the land from a private landowner.

Mr Niek Gouws, enquired if the traffic flow is going to be disturbed during construction phase.

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that the traffic flow would be disturbed during construction, as trucks will be coming in and out.

Comment

Mr Niek Gouws commented that it is not necessary to be consulted by Eskom regarding the proposed development because somehow the authorities will take decision.

Comment noted.

8. CLOSURE

With no further questions or queries, Mr Greg Seymour thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions, and closed the meeting.

The meeting was concluded at 13h10

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Company</u>
Bokwe, Tobile	Eskom Generation
Botha, HPM	De Hoop
Botha, JH	De Hoop
Du Toit, FH	Kwalata
Gewers, Nico	Eskom Generation
Gouws, NP	Steynsdrift
Hlomuka, Sibongile	Bohlweki Environmental
Magangane , Gift	Bohlweki Environmental
Pretorius, F.	Faram Owner
Velen, Thigesh	Eskom Generation

Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH STEELPOORT TRADITIONAL LEADERS

**HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2006
AT 14H00
AT
STEELPOORT TRADITIONAL LEADERS, STEELPOORT**



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Ms Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: prashikar@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **02 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING (Greg Seymour).....	3
2.	RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT .....Nico Gewers	3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION .....Thigesh Velen	3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....Greg Seymour	3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....Greg Seymour	6
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....Greg Seymour	6
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....All	6
8.	CLOSURE	7

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD	Appendix A
PRESENTATIONS.....	Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2006
STEELPOORT TRADITIONAL LEADERS, STEELPOORT
14H00**

1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide interested and affected parties with information regarding the proposed Pumped-Storage Scheme (PSS) in the Steelpoort area
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process & Public Participation Process (PPP) for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for the traditional leaders to seek clarity on the project and provide input
- To record comments raised
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Nico Gewers (presentation attached as Appendix B)

3. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

In terms of the new NEMA EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. R 385 of 2006, a number of Listed activities associated with the proposed construction of a Pumped Storage Scheme are included in Government Notice No. R386 and No. R387 of 2006. Therefore a full Environmental Impact Assessment process is required.

4.2 WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose feasible mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT and approval from other commenting authorities
- Inform project-planning process

4.3 EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.4 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING (INCLUDING SCREENING STUDIES)

- Validate the screening report, by assessing the findings and recommendations of the study and supplementing it with additional studies where gaps exist. This validation process focuses on the detail of the studies completed and the rationale behind the nomination of a preferred site.
- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Initiate the Public Participation Process
- Inform the public of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to raise concerns about the project and provide input
- Nominate a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account). The preferred site (EIA screening) has been selected for further detailed investigation in the EIA. This preferred site is shown in the form of a preferred pumped-storage scheme option.
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

4.5 EIA PROCESS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Assess impacts of significance
- Undertake detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail feasible mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Draft Environmental Management Plan

4.6 SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate & Water
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SiVEST Selati Moloji
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- What is PPP?
A tool to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of a proposed project. It allows transparency and encourages I&AP to raise issues and concerns regarding a project. These issues and concerns are then incorporated into the EIA reporting process.
It is a tool to help integrate the comments of the I&APs into the relevant phases of a proposed project.
- What PPP is Not?
 - Not a Public Relations exercise
 - Not a means to satisfy grievances – rather to record comments for consideration in the undertaking of the EIA process.
- Some of the roles of an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)
 - Commenting on the proposed development
 - Contributing on the information on public needs, values and expectations
 - Assisting in identification of issues to be investigated
 - To participate effectively as an I&AP
 - Become involved in the process as early as possible
 - Register as an I&AP
 - Follow the process agreed on
 - Read the materials provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes (from this meeting)
- Compilation of draft Environmental Scoping Report
- Draft Scoping Report will be made available in public places for review (for a 45-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to National DEAT and Key Stakeholders
- Authority review
- Comments and approval to undertake EIA
- Undertake the detailed EIA phase of the project including comprehensive public participation, as detailed above.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Mr Makabane, Ga- Rantho had a concern about the electricity supply in their area; he explained that birds, heavy wind and rains always trap off the electricity. He wanted to know if this proposed scheme will not have the same problems they are already experiencing.

- *Thigesh Velen, Eskom Generation*, replied by indicating that Eskom is divided into Divisions, the project team represents Eskom Generation. However the scheme will help to empower electricity in the area. With the involvement of Eskom Distribution and Eskom Transmission. The problem they are experiencing is the problem that should be addressed by Eskom Distribution. He urged them to consult with Eskom Distribution in Burgersfort and they should address their grievances in writing.

Kgoshi Phasha, Ga-Phasha asked that if this concern is not taken up with Eskom Distribution it means it will not be addressed

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that this project team is only concentrating on the generation of electricity and not the distribution of electricity.

Mr Makabane, asked if the transmission line is only in Sekhukhune use and asked why don't they have transformers from one point to another.

- *Thigesh Velen, Eskom Generation* replied that they should take the matter up with the Eskom head office as he cannot answer for the different Eskom divisions.

Mr Makabane, Ga- Rantho stated that the electricity they have is designed for sunny days and not rainy days and yet Eskom continue to talk about empowerment.

- *Thigesh Velen*, indicated that at the meeting they cannot promise anything at the moment but that Eskom Distribution section will be consulted on the issue. The comment was noted

Mr Makabane asked if the development was going to be on the Chief's land and if so, have Eskom thought about the compensation of the landowner?

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that there is a department (Land Acquisition) at Eskom that specifically addresses such land related issues and will handle the matter appropriately. The value of the land will be negotiated and compensated.

Mr Makabane, asked if Eskom is going to build roads on someone's land?

- *Thigesh Velen*, explained that the associated infrastructure will be determined at a later stage. Depending on the final detail design.

Kgoshi Rantho, Ga-Rantho asked of whether the electricity is going to be generated in De Hoop or else where in South Africa?

- *Thigesh Velen*, answered that the power will be generated in this scheme (proposed pumped storage scheme in the Steelpoort area); Eskom will get water which will be pumped by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) from the De Hoop Dam.

Kgoshi Rantho asked if its possible for local people to invest on the project by buying shares.

- *Thigesh Velen*, answered that Eskom has never done it before and therefore there are no opportunities for local people in that regard.

Kgoshi Phasha, stated that consultations are frequently done and comments are kept for records purposes. When the consultants have left everything is left in the darkness. These are promises that fall apart and where do the tribal authorities remain?

Therefore we need a written document from Eskom to prove the consultation and any assistance that they offer

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that the consultants are responsible for all the comments recorded and for keeping records and to include these in the environmental scoping documents. All the discussions are recorded and will be made available to the public

Mr Ralph Lekgeu, Spitskop wanted to know how the project will benefit local people in terms of job creation. Eskom is going to benefit from this development because companies keep on promising people and don't keep their promises. He further asked if they will be in a situation whereby they are no longer consulted and new people will be on Eskom's list of consultation.

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that everything is kept on records. He explained that as the development would be in Sehlakwane some of both skilled and unskilled laborers would be employed from the local labour.

Bob Sekwati, Mamone enquired of when the construction will begin?

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that the construction will begin in July 2009 that is only if Eskom receives a go ahead from the necessary Departments.

Comment

Mr Ralph Lekgeu, suggest that there should be a forum established where everything would be documented.

The comment was noted

8. CLOSURE

Mr Greg Seymour thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting was concluded at 15h15

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

ATTANDANCE RECORD:STEELPOORT TRADITIONAL LEADERS 14.11.06

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Company</u>
Bokwe, Tobile	Eskom Generation
Hlomuka, Sibongile	Bohlweki Environmental
Kelelefswe, Sekgomotso	Eskom Generation
Lekgeu, Ralph	Spitskop Farm 333KT
Maepa, Julia	
Maepa, Khokwene	
Maepa, Virginia	
Magalego, Lucas	Spitskop Farm 333KT
Magangane, Gift	Bohlweki Environmental
Makunyane, David	
Mampuri, Kgoshi	Mampuru Village
Mampuru, N.	Councillor
Maphopha, KF	
Maphopha, MJ	
Maphopha, T.	
Mokabane, KP	
Phula, R.	
Rantho, Chedung	Councillor
Rantho, R.	Kgoshi
Sekwaki, Bob	Mamone Village
Sepepong, SJ	
Seymour, Greg	Bohlweki Environmental
Tjabadi, Frans	Tswako Maepa
Velen, Thigesh	Eskom Generation

Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND ADMINISTRATION (MDALA)

**HELD ON
FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2006
AT 11H00
AT
MDALA OFFICE, WITBANK**



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Ms Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6435
E-mail: prashikar@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **02 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING (Greg Seymour).....	3
2.	RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT	Nico Gewers..3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION	Thigesh Velen .3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....	Greg Seymour .3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....	Greg Seymour 5
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....	Greg Seymour 5
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....	All.5
8.	CLOSURE	7

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD	Appendix A
PRESENTATIONS.....	Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2006
MDALA OFFICES, WITBANK**

1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide authorities with information regarding the proposed Pumped-Storage Scheme (PSS) in the Steelpoort area
- Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process & Public Participation Process (PPP) for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for MDALA to seek clarity on the project and provide input
- To record comments raised
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Nico Gewers (presentation attached as Appendix B)

3. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

In terms of the new NEMA EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. R 385 of 2006, a number of Listed activities associated with the proposed construction of a Pumped Storage Scheme are included in Government Notice No. R386 and No. R387 of 2006. Therefore a full Environmental Impact Assessment process is required.

4.2 WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts (biophysical & social)
- Propose feasible mitigation & management measures
- Authorisation from National DEAT and approval from other commenting authorities
- Inform project-planning process

4.3 EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.4 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING (INCLUDING SCREENING STUDIES)

- Validate the screening report, by assessing the findings and recommendations of the study and supplementing it with additional studies where gaps exist. This validation process focuses on the detail of the studies completed and the rationale behind the nomination of a preferred site.
- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Initiate the Public Participation Process
- Inform the public of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to raise concerns about the project and provide input
- Nominate a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account). The preferred site (EIA screening) has been selected for further detailed investigation in the EIA. This preferred site is shown in the form of a preferred pumped-storage scheme option.
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

4.5 EIA PROCESS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Assess impacts of significance
- Undertake detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail feasible mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Draft Environmental Management Plan

4.6 SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil, Climate & Water
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SIVEST Selati Moloji
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SIVEST Selati Moloji
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- What is PPP?

A tool to inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of a proposed project.

It allows transparency and encourages I&AP to raise issues and concerns regarding a project. These issues and concerns are then incorporated into the EIA reporting process.

It is a tool to help integrate the comments of the I&APs into the relevant phases of a proposed project.

- What PPP is Not?

Not a Public Relations exercise

Not a means to satisfy grievances – rather to record comments for consideration in the undertaking of the EIA process.

- Some of the roles of an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)

- Commenting on the proposed development
- Contributing on the information on public needs, values and expectations
- Assisting in identification of issues to be investigated
- To participate effectively as an I&AP
- Become involved in the process as early as possible
- Register as an I&AP
- Follow the process agreed on
- Read the materials provided and actively seek to understand the issues involved.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes (from this meeting)
- Compilation of draft Environmental Scoping Report
- Draft Scoping Report will be made available in public places for review (for a 45-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to National DEAT and Key Stakeholders
- Authority review
- Comments and approval to undertake EIA
- Undertake the detailed EIA phase of the project including comprehensive public participation, as detailed above.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Simphiwe Mahlangu, MDALA, asked about the water that would be lost to the system, whether it would be lost through evaporation or any other method?

Thigesh Velen, Eskom Generation answered that very small amounts of water would be lost through evaporation.

Simphiwe Mahlangu, asked if the pipeline is part of the EIA study?

Nico Gewers, Eskom Generation, stated that the pipeline is part of the water initiative study for water supply to the Nebo plateau. The Department of water Affairs and Tourism (DWAF) will be responsible for the operation of the pipeline and the water supply to the communities and to the pumped storage scheme.

Simphiwe Mahlangu, asked which province the project falls?

- *Kelly Martin, Bohlweki Environmental*, explained that the Limpopo and Mpumalanga are commenting authorities and the national DEAT is a decision maker. However the actual boundary is a grey area and the project team have been unable to obtain clarity on this issue, hence all the associated provinces have been consulted.

Andrew Hoffman, Mpumalanga Tourism Authority, explained that the project area falls into Limpopo and as they have done a lot of work in Limpopo area they have been requested to stay involved in Limpopo projects although they are in Mpumalanga.

The comment was noted.

Simphiwe Mahlangu, asked if the upgrading of farm roads is a registered activity and has an application being made covering that as well.

- *Nico Gewers*, answered that a compendium application has been made to N DEAT and the commenting authorities which includes all associated infrastructure.

Andre Hoffman Mpumalanga Tourism Authority, indicated that the area is mountainous and wanted to know how the biological and ecological part of the area will be handled, as there are herbal plants, which have a medicinal value and are used by the communities.

- *Kelly Martin, Bohlweki Environmental* explained that the specialist on ecological issues would look at the issue in the EIA phase of the project as the Scoping phase has been largely desktop.

Comments

Andre Hoffman, stated that the medicinal plants can be taken to the botanical gardens for research purposes. Plant Rescue Operations in Johannesburg can also be of help in this regard.

The comment was noted

Simphiwe Mahlangu, suggested that it is critical that the Land Claims be investigated to establish the status of the land claims in the area.

The comment was noted.

Andre Hoffman is in support of the proposed development and thinks that it is a good idea

The comment was noted.

8. CLOSURE

Ms Kelly Martin thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting was concluded at 12h15

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name:

Bokwe, Tobile
Gewers, Nico
Hlomuka, Sibongile
Hoffman, Andre
Mahlangu, Sphiwe
Martin , Kelly
Velen, Thigesh

Company

Eskom Generation
Eskom Generation
Bohlweki Environmental
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
M DALA
Bohlweki Environmental
Eskom Generation

Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED STEELPOORT PUMPED-STORAGE
SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE IN LIMPOPO AND
MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

Public Meeting

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Apologies & Introduction
2. Conduct of the Meeting
3. Purpose of the Meeting
4. Background/Rationale to the proposed project (ESKOM)
5. Technical Presentation (Eskom)
6. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process
7. Public Participation Process
8. Discussion Session
9. The Way Forward

CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

- Language of choice
- Work through facilitator
- Focus on issues
- Equal participation from all parties
- Identify yourselves prior to question -for minute taking purposes
- Please wait until the discussion session to ask questions

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Key Stakeholders with information regarding the proposed Steelpoort Pumped-Storage Scheme (SPSS)
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders and I&APs to seek clarity and provide input into the project
- To record comments raised and include them in the final Scoping Report
- Interaction with the project team

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT (ESKOM)

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION ON THE STEELPOORT PUMPED STORAGE SCHEME (ESKOM)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

Application has been made under the new EIA Regulations. The primary triggers are (according to R387):

- The construction of facilities or infrastructures including associated structures or infrastructure, for:
 - 1(a) the generation of electricity where -
 - the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more; or
 - the elements of the facility cover a combined area in excess of 1 hectare.
- 1(g) The use, recycling, handling, treatment, storage or final disposal of hazardous waste;
- 1(h) the manufacturing, storage or testing of explosives, including ammunition,
- but excluding licensed retail outlets and the legal end use of such explosives;
- 1(n) the transfer of 20 000 cubic metres or more water between water catchments or impoundments per day

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS (cont)

The proposed project may entail various other actions that would also be construed as scheduled activities in terms of Regulation 387 and thus require authorisation. These include:

- Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more;
- The construction of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the high water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more;

EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS)
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

Public Participation Process - Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY

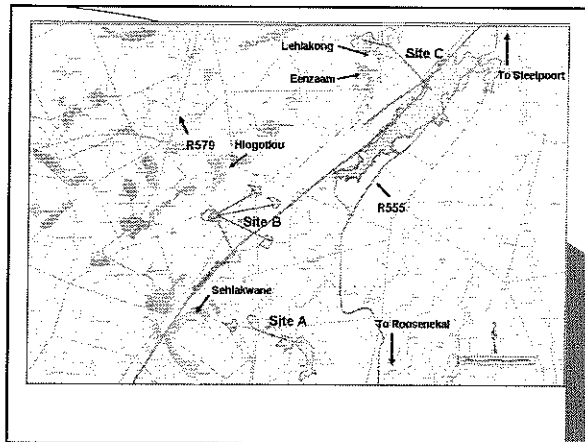
- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Validate Environmental Screening Report
- Evaluation of site alternatives.
- Public Participation
 - Inform the public of the proposed project
 - Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project
- Nomination of a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA.

SPECIALIST STUDIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PHASE

Land Use:	Bohiveki Environmental
Soils & agriculture:	ARC: Institute for Soil,
Climate:	Raylene Watson (Bohiveki Environmental)
Surface & groundwater:	GCS
Wetlands :	SIVEST Molo
Air Quality:	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora:	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage:	National Cultural Museum
Tourism:	SIVEST Molo
Noise Impacts:	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impacts:	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts:	MetroGIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

SITES INVESTIGATED

- A number of sites were required by legislation to be investigated
- Three sites with various options will be assessed and include:
 - Site A - Keerom 151 JS ; Steynsdrift 145 JS Portion of Luiperhoek 149 JS Portions 1&9
 - Site B - Dwars in de Weg 139 JS ; Groothoek 139 JS & Tigroek 240 JS
 - Site C - Eenzaam 875 KS & De Hoop
- Three alternative sites were investigated during an environmental screening study and were be validated during in the ESS
- The ESS has nominated a preferred site for further detailed investigation in the EIA phase



FINDINGS OF THE ESS

Aspects not being taken through to the EIA:

- **Climate**
 - Impacts anticipated to be of low to negligible significance
- **Air Quality**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Dust generated during construction
 - Impacts on Aesthetics and Tourism
 - Methane emissions due to decomposing vegetation
 - Impacts will be mitigated within the EMP phase of the project
- **Topography**
 - Impacts anticipated to be of low to negligible significance
 - Impacts on drainage are investigated under Hydrology and geology

FINDINGS OF THE ESS

Aspects that will be taken through to the EIA:

- **Ecology (terrestrial and riverine)**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Loss of vegetation and biodiversity
 - Fragmentation of vegetation
 - Loss of rare/endangered species
 - Accelerated soil erosion
 - Establishment and spread of invader species
 - Disturbance to fauna, avifauna, flora and oquamarine resources
- **Water Quality**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Increased sediment levels
 - Possible water contamination due to storage of chemical substances
- **Hydrology (surface and Groundwater)**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Evaporation of water due to damming
 - Increased run-off and flow velocities due to increased impermeable surfaces

FINDINGS OF THE ESS

Aspects that will be taken through to the EIA:

- **Geology, Soils and Agriculture**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Construction and stabilising related impacts
 - Increased soil erosion
 - Low impact on Agricultural potential
- **Traffic**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Transport of construction employees
 - Access road to be constructed and related impacts
 - Construction Traffic
- **Social**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Displacements of individuals (negative)
 - Health, safety and security (negative)
 - Potential loss of income (negative)
 - Noise (negative)
 - Access road (positive and negative impact)
 - Job creation (positive)
 - Infrastructure Development (positive)
 - Electricity generation (positive to the economy)

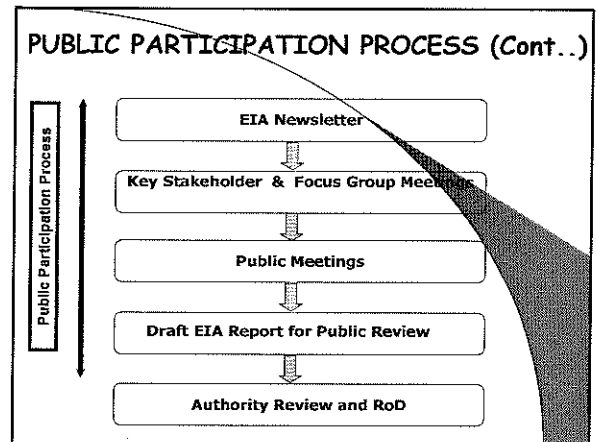
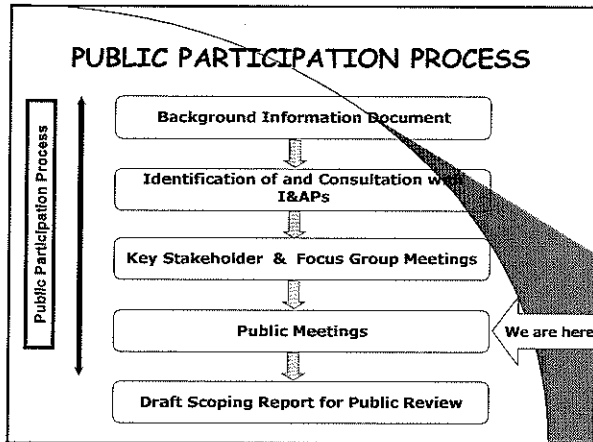
FINDINGS OF THE ESS

Aspects that will be taken through to the EIA:

- **Heritage**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Impacts on identified old graves and ruins
- **Visual**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Visual impacts of the upper dams will be significant
 - Visual impacts of the Dam walls
- **Tourism**
 - Possible impacts include:
 - Impacts on existing farms and tourism operations during construction
 - Visual impacts on lodges, hunting activities, and visitor numbers
 - Noise impacts may negatively impact on tourist's experience
 - Disturbances to fauna may impact on game farms and therefore on tourism

EIA PROCESS

- **Environmental Impact Assessment**
 - Assessment and rating impacts of significance
 - Detailed Specialist Studies
 - Detail mitigation & management measures
 - Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- **Draft Environmental Management Plan**



- ### THE WAY FORWARD
- Compilation and distribution of minutes of the Public Meeting
 - Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (30-day period)
 - Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
 - Submission of Final Scoping report to N DEAT for decision making
 - Comments and approval of ESS
 - Commence with the Phase 2 (EIA Phase) of the project - detailed investigations

DISCUSSION

Contact Details:
 Bohlweki Environmental

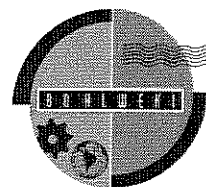
Ms Sibongile Hlomuka / Mrs Louise Agenbag
 Tel: 011 466 3841
 Fax: 011 466 3849
 E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za
 PO Box 11784, Vorna Valley, MIDRAND, 1686
 Reports for review: www.bohlweki.co.za and
www.eskom.co.za/eia

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

**HELD ON
THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2006
AT 16H00 – 20H00
AT
ROSSENEKAL, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Ms Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: prashikar@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **02 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING.....	Kelly Martin	.....3
2.	BACKGROUND / RATIONALE AND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT	Tony Stott.....	3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION	Thigesh Veien.....	3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....	Kelly Martin	.....3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....	Kelly Martin....	7
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....	Kelly Martin	.....7
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....	Kelly Martin	.....7
8.	CLOSURE	Kelly Martin	.....9

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD	Appendix A
PRESENTATIONS.....	Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2006
PUBLIC MEETING, ROSSENEKAL
16H00-20H00**

•1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Key Stakeholders with information regarding the proposed Pumped-Storage Scheme (SPSS) in the Steelpoort area
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process & Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders and I&APs to seek clarity and provide input into the project
- To record comments raised and include them in the final Scoping Report
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Tony Stott (Presentation attached as Appendix B)

3 TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (Presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

Application has been made under the new EIA Regulations.

The primary triggers are (according to R387): The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for -

(a) the generation of electricity where -

(i) the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more; or

(ii) the elements of the facility cover a combined area in excess of 1 hectare;

(g) the use, recycling, handling, treatment, storage or final disposal of hazardous waste;

(h) the manufacturing, storage or testing of explosives, including ammunition, but excluding licensed retail outlets and the legal end use of such explosives;

(n) the transfer of 20 000 cubic metres or more water between water catchments or impoundments per day

The proposed project may entail various other actions that would also be construed as scheduled activities in terms of Regulation 387 and thus require authorisation.

These include:

2. Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more;
6. The construction of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the high water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more;

4.2. EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.3 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY (ESS)

- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
 - Validate Environmental Screening Report
 - Evaluation of site alternatives.
 - Initiate the Public Participation Process
 - Inform the public of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project
 - Nominate a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).
- Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA

4.4. SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil
Climate	Raylene Watson (Bohlweki Environmental)
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SIVEST Moloji
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SIVEST Moloji
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

4.5. SITES INVESTIGATED

A number of alternative sites were investigated as required by EIA legislation

Three alternative sites were investigated during an environmental screening study and were validated in the Environmental Scoping Study (ESS)

The three alternative sites, each with their own respective alternatives, are:

- Site A - Keerom 151 JS ; Steynsdrift 145 JS Portion 1 Luiperhoek 149 JS Portions 1&9
- Site B - Dwars in de Weg 139 JS ; Groothoek 139 JS & Tigershoek 240 JS
- Site C - Eenzam 875 KS & De Hoop

The Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) has nominated site A as the preferred site for further detailed investigation in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase

4.6. FINDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY (ESS)

Aspects not being taken through to the Environmental Scoping Study (ESS):

- Climate

Impacts of low to negligible significance

- Air Quality

*Possible impacts include:

*Dust generated during construction

*Impacts on Aesthetics and Tourism

*Methane emissions due to decomposing vegetation

*Impacts can be mitigated and will be addressed in the EMP phase of the project

- Topography

*Impacts of low to negligible significance

*Impacts on drainage are investigated under Hydrology and geology

Aspects that will be taken through to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase:

- Ecology (terrestrial and riverine)

*Possible impacts include:

*Loss of vegetation and biodiversity

*Fragmentation of vegetation

*Loss of rare/endangered species

*Accelerated soil erosion

*Establishment and spread of invader species

*Disturbance to fauna, avifauna, flora and aquamarine resources

- Water Quality

*Possible impacts include:

- *Increased sediment levels

- *Possible water contamination due to storage of chemical substances

- Hydrology (surface and Groundwater)

*Possible impacts include:

- *Evaporation of water due to damming

- *Increased run-off and flow velocities due to increased impermeable surfaces

- Geology, Soils and Agriculture

*Possible impacts include:

- *Construction and stabilising related impacts

- *Increased soil erosion

- *Low impact on Agricultural potential

- Traffic

*Possible impacts include:

- *Transport of construction employees

- *Access road to be constructed and related impacts

- *Construction Traffic

- Social

Possible impacts include:

- *Displacements of individuals (negative)

- *Health, safety and security (negative)

- *Potential loss of income (negative)

- *Noise (negative)

- *Access road (positive and negative impact)

- *Job creation (positive)

- *Infrastructure Development (positive)

- Heritage

Possible impacts include:

- *Impacts on identified old graves and ruins

- Visual

Possible impacts include:

- *Visual impacts of the upper dams will be significant

- *Visual impacts of the Dam walls

- Tourism

Possible impacts include:

- *Impacts on existing farms and tourism operations during construction

- *Visual impacts on lodges, hunting activities, and visitor numbers

- *Noise impacts may negatively impact on tourist's experience
- *Disturbances to fauna may impact on game farms and therefore on tourism

4.7. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) PROCESS

- Assess impacts of significance
- Undertake detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Develop an Environmental Management Plan

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

• Background Information Document
• Identification of and Consultation with I&APs
• Key Stakeholder Workshop & Focus Group Meetings {We are Here}
• Public Meetings
• Draft Scoping Report for Public Review
• EIA Newsletter
• Key Stakeholder & Focus Group Meetings
• Public Meetings
• Draft EIA Report for Public Review
• Authority Review and RoD

6 THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes of the Public Meeting
- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (45-day period)
- Inclusion of Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to National DEAT for decision making
- Comments and approval of Environmental Scoping Study (ESS)
- Commence with the Phase 2 (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase) of the project – detailed investigations.

7 DISCUSSION SESSION

Mr Charl Botes, Highveld Mine, asked if there were any sites which were discarded in the study?

- *Tigesh Velen, Eskom, Generation*, explained that three sites were investigated which were sites A, B and C, with different scheme combinations and options within each

alternative. The environmental studies conducted, indicated that site A3 was more suitable and has less environmental impacts, it has therefore been nominated for further investigation in the EIA phase.

Mr Charl Botes, Highveld Mine, asked about the social plan of the project on the infrastructure development and housing, he wanted to know of where will the project members stay during construction and be housed during preparation?

- *Thigesh Velen*, explained that people will be located in established towns like Rossenekal and Steelpoort and about 30 to 40 people will be required on a permanent basis during construction.

Mr Charl Botes, Highveld Mine, indicated that the existing infrastructure in Rossenekal is poor and water supply is a problem. Reservoirs and water treatment plant lacks capacity. Housing is a serious problem in Rossenekal. He further indicated that they do not want to see Rossenekal developing without reliable water supply and the necessary infrastructure. The Greater Sekhukhune District and the Groblersdal Local Municipality are obliged by law to supply water but have failed to provide.

- *Tony Stott, Eskom Generation* noted that the availability of appropriate infrastructure, housing, clinics and sewerage is an issue in most big projects, and requires engagements with the relevant Authorities. Eskom is aware of such problems and will investigate this matter and include it further in the detailed investigation and design phase of the proposed project

Comments

Mr Charl Botes Highveld Mine, indicated that the sewerage plant is a problem; whatever is done this should be of high priority

The comment was noted

Charl Botes, Highveld Mine, raised a concern that the area proposed for the project is going to affect the people living there.

- *Thigesh Velen*, indicated that the potential impact on people will be investigated. Negotiations will take place with the affected families if relocation is required.

Charl Botes, Highveld Mine, estimated that there could be three families that are currently occupying the land and that they might have livestock.

This comment was noted

Mr Charl Botes, indicated that it is a fact that the scheme will proceed and be a success. People need electricity. We need to tackle important issues like the social impacts of the scheme and not dwell much on the technical issues, as there is no need for that.

Comment noted

Mr Charl Botes, stated that for the De Hoop dam project 100 houses have to be built in Burgersfort, water supply is a problem as there should be accommodation for constructors etc. People cannot stay without water because of these developments.

Comment noted

Mr Charl Botes, suggested that Eskom should negotiate with Greater Sekhukhune District and Groblersdal Local Municipality on how they can improve the current infrastructure so to accommodate the proposed development.

Comment noted

Charl Botes, Highveld Mine, explained that he has heard about this project 15 years ago when Eskom still had seven proposed sites. Mr Botes thinks that this project is a good idea and will benefit the community.

Comment noted

- Thigesh Velen, added that the De Hoop and Steelpoort pumped storage scheme could help to get the infrastructure developed in these areas and increase the tourism potential.

8. CLOSURE

Ms Kelly Martin thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting was concluded at 19h25

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name:

Bokwe, Tobile
Botes , Charl
Hlomuka, Sibongile
Joubert, Pieter
Magangane , Gift
Martin , Kelly
Mositsa, Michael
Stott, Tony
Szoke, Jonathan

Company

Eskom Generation
Mapochs Mine Highveld Steel
Bohlweki Environmental

Bohlweki Environmental
Bohlweki Environmental

Eskom Generation
The Conservation Corporation

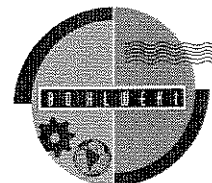
Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

**HELD ON
FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2006
AT 11H00
AT
ESKOM CONVENTION CENTRE, MIDRAND,**



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Ms Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Greg Seymour
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6000
Fax: (011) 798 6010
E-mail: prashikar@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **02 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING.....	Kelly Martin	.....3
2.	BACKGROUND / RATIONALE AND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT	Tony Stott.....	3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION	Thigesh Velen.....	3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....	Kelly Martin	.....3
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....	Kelly Martin.....	7
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....	Kelly Martin	.....7
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....	Kelly Martin	.....8
8.	CLOSURE	Kelly Martin	.....8

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD Appendix A

PRESENTATIONS.....Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
FRIDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2006
KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP, MIDRAND
11H00**

•1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Key Stakeholders with information regarding the proposed Pumped-Storage Scheme (SPSS) in the Steelpoort area
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process & Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders and I&APs to seek clarity and provide input into the project
- To record comments raised and include them in the final Scoping Report
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Tony Stott (Presentation attached as Appendix B)

3 TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (Presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

Application has been made under the new EIA Regulations.

The primary triggers are (according to R387): The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for -

(a) the generation of electricity where -

(i) the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more; or

(ii) the elements of the facility cover a combined area in excess of 1 hectare;

(g) the use, recycling, handling, treatment, storage or final disposal of hazardous waste;

(h) the manufacturing, storage or testing of explosives, including ammunition, but excluding licensed retail outlets and the legal end use of such explosives;

(n) the transfer of 20 000 cubic metres or more water between water catchments or impoundments per day

The proposed project may entail various other actions that would also be construed as scheduled activities in terms of Regulation 387 and thus require authorisation.

These include:

2. Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more;
6. The construction of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the high water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more;

4.2. EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.3 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY (ESS)

- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Validate Environmental Screening Report
- Evaluation of site alternatives.
- Initiate the Public Participation Process
- Inform the public of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project
- Nominate a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).

Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA

4.4. SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil
Climate	Raylene Watson (Bohlweki Environmental)
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SiVEST Moloi
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SiVEST Moloi
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

4.5. SITES INVESTIGATED

A number of alternative sites were investigated as required by EIA legislation

Three alternative sites were investigated during an environmental screening study and were validated in the Environmental Scoping Study (ESS)

The three alternative sites, each with their own respective alternatives, are:

- Site A - Keerom 151 JS ; Steynsdrift 145 JS Portion 1 Luiperhoek 149 JS Portions 1&9
- Site B - Dwars in de Weg 139 JS ; Groothoek 139 JS & Tigrshoek 240 JS
- Site C - Eenzam 875 KS & De Hoop

The Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) has nominated site A as the preferred site for further detailed investigation in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase

4.6. FINDINGS OF THE Environmental Scoping Study (ESS)

Aspects not being taken through to the Environmental Scoping Study (ESS):

- Climate

Impacts of low to negligible significance

- Air Quality

*Possible impacts include:

*Dust generated during construction

*Impacts on Aesthetics and Tourism

*Methane emissions due to decomposing vegetation

*Impacts can be mitigated and will be addressed in the EMP phase of the project

- Topography

*Impacts of low to negligible significance

*Impacts on drainage are investigated under Hydrology and geology

Aspects that will be taken through to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) phase:

- Ecology (terrestrial and riverine)

*Possible impacts include:

*Loss of vegetation and biodiversity

*Fragmentation of vegetation

*Loss of rare/endangered species

*Accelerated soil erosion

*Establishment and spread of invader species

*Disturbance to fauna, avifauna, flora and aquamarine resources

- Water Quality

*Possible impacts include:

- *Increased sediment levels

- *Possible water contamination due to storage of chemical substances

- Hydrology (surface and Groundwater)

*Possible impacts include:

- *Evaporation of water due to damming

- *Increased run-off and flow velocities due to increased impermeable surfaces

- Geology, Soils and Agriculture

*Possible impacts include:

- *Construction and stabilising related impacts

- *Increased soil erosion

- *Low impact on Agricultural potential

- Traffic

*Possible impacts include:

- *Transport of construction employees

- *Access road to be constructed and related impacts

- *Construction Traffic

- Social

Possible impacts include:

- *Displacements of individuals (negative)

- *Health, safety and security (negative)

- *Potential loss of income (negative)

- *Noise (negative)

- *Access road (positive and negative impact)

- *Job creation (positive)

- *Infrastructure Development (positive)

- Heritage

Possible impacts include:

- *Impacts on identified old graves and ruins

- Visual

Possible impacts include:

- *Visual impacts of the upper dams will be significant

- *Visual impacts of the Dam walls

- Tourism

Possible impacts include:

- *Impacts on existing farms and tourism operations during construction

- *Visual impacts on lodges, hunting activities, and visitor numbers

- *Noise impacts may negatively impact on tourist’s experience
- *Disturbances to fauna may impact on game farms and therefore on tourism

4.7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PHASE PROCESS

- Assess impacts of significance
- Undertake detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Develop an Environmental Management Plan

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

• Background Information Document
• Identification of and Consultation with I&APs
• Key Stakeholder Workshop & Focus Group Meetings {We are Here}
• Public Meetings
• Draft Scoping Report for Public Review
• EIA Newsletter
• Key Stakeholder & Focus Group Meetings
• Public Meetings
• Draft EIA Report for Public Review
• Authority Review and RoD

6 THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes of the Public Meeting
- Draft Environmental Scoping Study Report available in public places for review (45-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Environmental Scoping Study Report
- Submission of Final Environmental Scoping Study Report to National DEAT for decision making

Comments and approval of Environmental Scoping Study (**ESS**)

- Commence with the Environmental Impact Assessment (**EIA**) phase of the project – detailed investigations

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Mr John Amis, Anglo Gold Ashanti, asked about the capital costs of the project

- Deidre Herbst, Eskom explained that the costs usually differs as the coal fire stations and the pumped storage schemes are not the same technologies, for example for the establishment of a 5000 megawatt station an estimate of a R40 billion could be required. The capital costs for a 1500 MW pumped storage scheme would be in the order of 6.0 billion (2006 rands)

Mr. John Amis, raised a concern about the water scarcity in the area and wanted to know how this will be dealt with?

- *Thigesh Velen*, answered that the scheme would not "consume" water; however there would be losses associated with evaporation and with leakage. Water from the De Hoop dam would be used to initially fill the pumped storage scheme and then thereafter it would be topped up on a needs basis to compensate for any leakage and evaporation.
- *Kelly Martin of Bohlweki Environmental* further explained that the De Hoop dam has recently received a positive record of decision. The water will be pumped in a DWAF pipeline to the pumped storage scheme. The scheme has also been moved out of the Steelpoort river in order to prevent the limitation of water to downstream users.
- *Kelly Martin*, further explained that poor infrastructure in area has been pointed out to be a problem as the current major towns like Burgesfort and Rossenekal lack capacity in terms of water supply, sewerage system and electricity supply.

Whity Maphakela, Department of Transport, asked if there would be development of roads in the project area?

- *Thigesh Velen*, explained that there is a possibility of developing new roads and/or upgrading the existing roads.

Whity Maphakela, asked about the distance between the two dams

- *Thigesh Velen*, replied that the distance between the two dams would be 2km in length "as the crow flies", with a difference in elevation (height above sea level) of approximately 620m elevation from upper to lower dams.

8. CLOSURE

Ms Kelly Martin thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting was concluded at 11h50

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name:

Amis, John
Bokwe, Tobile
Gewers, Nico
Hlomuka, Sibongile
Maphakela, Whity
Martin , Kelly
Munro Grundlingh, Geraldine
Stott, Tony
Velen, Thigesh

Company

Anglo Gold Ashanti
Eskom Generation
Eskom Generation
Bohlweki Environmental
Department of Transport
Bohlweki Environmental
DWAF
Eskom Generation
Eskom Generation

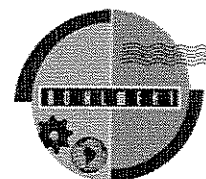
Totals

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEELPOORT PUMPED
STORAGE SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN
LIMPOPO AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

DRAFT MINUTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

HELD ON
THURSDAY 07 DECEMBER 2006
09H00 – 10H35
AT
DWAF HEAD OFFICE, PRETORIA



ENQUIRIES

Public Participation Process

Ms Sibongile Hlomuka
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6001
Fax: (011) 798 6432
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohleki.co.za

Environmental Impact Assessment

Kelly Martin
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6001
Fax: (011) 798 6432
E-mail: gregs@bohlweki.co.za

Prashika Reddy
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, MIDRAND, 1686
Tel.: (011) 798 6001
Fax: (011) 798 6432
E-mail: steelpoortpss@bohlweki.co.za

YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your written comments to Sibongile Hlomuka at the address given above by not later than **13 February 2007**. Please note however that the minutes are not verbatim.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE OF THE MEETING.....	Kelly Martin...3
2.	BACKGROUND / RATIONALE AND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT	Thigesh Velen...3
3.	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION	Thigesh Velen...3
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS.....	Kelly Martin...4
5.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....	Kelly Martin...7
6.	THE WAY FORWARD.....	Kelly Martin...7
7.	DISCUSSION SESSION.....	All...7
8.	CLOSURE.....	Kelly Martin...11

APPENDICES

ATTENDANCE RECORD.....	Appendix A
PRESENTATIONS.....	Appendix B; C

**MINUTES OF THE PRESENTATION
THURSDAY, 07 DECEMBER 2006
FOCUS GROUP MEETING, PRETORIA
09H00-10H35**

1. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Key Stakeholders with information regarding the proposed Steelpoort Pumped-Storage Scheme (SPSS)
- Provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Public Participation Process (PPP) being followed for the proposed project
- Provide an opportunity for key stakeholders and I&APs to seek clarity and provide input into the project
- To record comments raised and include them in the final Scoping Report
- Interaction with the project team

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Rationale and Background to the Proposed Project: Presentation by Thigesh Velen (Presentation attached as Appendix B)

3 TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Technical Presentation by Thigesh Velen (Presentation attached as Appendix C)

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

Application has been made under the new EIA Regulations.

The primary triggers are (according to R387): The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for:

- 1(a) the generation of electricity where –
- the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more; or
- the elements of the facility cover a combined area in excess of 1 hectare.
- 1(g) The use, recycling, handling, treatment, storage or final disposal of hazardous waste;
- 1(h) the manufacturing, storage or testing of explosives, including ammunition, but excluding licensed retail outlets and the legal end use of such explosives;
- 1(n) the transfer of 20 000 cubic metres or more water between water catchments or impoundments per day
- The proposed project may entail various other actions that would also be construed as scheduled activities in terms of Regulation 387 and thus require authorisation.

These include:

- Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more;
The construction of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the high water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more.

4.2. EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS) including Screening Studies
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Phase 3: Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Public Participation Process – Ongoing throughout the EIA Process

4.3 AIMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY

- Identify & evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative impacts)
- Validate Environmental Screening Report
- Evaluation of site alternatives.
- Public Participation
- Inform the public of the proposed project Opportunity to raise concerns about and provide input into the project
- Nomination of a preferred site for further investigation in the EIA phase (taking environmental, economic and technical issues into account).

Make recommendations regarding studies required within the detailed EIA

4.4. SPECIALIST STUDIES

Specialist Study	Responsible organisation
Land Use	Bohlweki Environmental
Soils & agriculture	ARC: Institute for Soil
Climate	Raylene Watson (Bohlweki Environmental)
Surface & groundwater	GCS
Wetland	SiVEST Moloi
Air Quality	SSI a DHV Company.
Fauna & flora	Bathusi Environmental Consulting
Heritage	National Cultural Museum
Tourism	SiVEST Moloi
Noise Impacts	Jongens Keet and Associates.
Social impact	MasterQ Research
Visual Impacts	Metro GIS
Transport & Traffic Impact	Goba Consulting Engineers

4.5. SITES INVESTIGATED

A number of sites were required by legislation to be investigated

Three sites with various options will be assessed and include:

- Site A - Keerom 151 JS ; Steynsdrift 145 JS Portion 1 Luiperhoek 149 JS Portions 1&9
- Site B - Dwars in de Weg 139 JS ; Groothoek 139 JS & Tigershoek 240 JS
- Site C - Eenzam 875 KS & De Hoop

Three alternative sites were investigated during an environmental screening study and were be validated during in the ESS

The ESS has nominated a preferred site for further detailed investigation in the EIA phase

4.6. FINDINGS OF THE ESS

Aspects not being taken through to the EIA:

- Climate

Impacts anticipated to be of low to negligible significance

- Air Quality

*Possible impacts include:

*Dust generated during construction

*Impacts on Aesthetics and Tourism

*Methane emissions due to decomposing vegetation

*Impacts will be mitigated within the EMP phase of the project

- Topography

*Impacts anticipated to be of low to negligible significance

*Impacts on drainage are investigated under Hydrology and geology

Aspects that will be taken through to the EIA:

- Ecology (terrestrial and riverine)

*Possible impacts include:

*Loss of vegetation and biodiversity

*Fragmentation of vegetation

*Loss of rare/endangered species

*Accelerated soil erosion

*Establishment and spread of invader species

*Disturbance to fauna, avifauna, flora and aquamarine resources

- Water Quality

*Possible impacts include:

*Increased sediment levels

*Possible water contamination due to storage of chemical substances

- Hydrology (surface and Groundwater)

*Possible impacts include:

*Evaporation of water due to damming

*Increased run-off and flow velocities due to increased impermeable surfaces

Aspects that will be taken through to the EIA:

- Geology, Soils and Agriculture

*Possible impacts include:

*Construction and stabilising related impacts

*Increased soil erosion

*Low impact on Agricultural potential

- Traffic

*Possible impacts include:

*Transport of construction employees

*Access road to be constructed and related impacts

*Construction Traffic

- Social

Possible impacts include:

*Displacements of individuals (negative)

*Health, safety and security (negative)

*Potential loss of income (negative)

*Noise (negative)

*Access road (positive and negative impact)

*Job creation (positive)

*Infrastructure Development (positive)

Aspects that will be taken through to the EIA:

- Heritage

Possible impacts include:

*Impacts on identified old graves and ruins

- Visual

Possible impacts include:

*Visual impacts of the upper dams will be significant

*Visual impacts of the Dam walls

- Tourism

Possible impacts include:

*Impacts on existing farms and tourism operations during construction

*Visual impacts on lodges, hunting activities, and visitor numbers

*Noise impacts may negatively impact on tourist's experience

*Disturbances to fauna may impact on game farms and therefore on tourism

4.7. EIA PROCESS

Environmental Impact Assessment – Objectives:

- Assess impacts of significance
- Detailed Specialist Studies
- Detail mitigation & management measures
- Public Involvement (issues recorded)
- Draft Environmental Management Plan

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

• Background Information Document - Distributed
• Identification of and Consultation with I&APs
• Key Stakeholder Workshop & Focus Group Meetings – current activities
• Public Meetings - complete
• Draft Scoping Report for Public Review
• EIA Newsletter
• Key Stakeholder & Focus Group Meetings
• Public Meetings
• Draft EIA Report for Public Review
• Authority Review and RoD

6. THE WAY FORWARD

- Compilation and distribution of minutes of the Focus Group Meeting
- Draft Scoping Report available in public places for review (45-day period)
- Inclusion of I&AP comments in Final Scoping Report
- Submission of Final Scoping report to N DEAT for decision making
- Comments and approval of ESS
- Commence with the Phase 2 (EIA Phase) of the project – detailed investigations.

7. DISCUSSION SESSION

Ron Creasy, Veremo Mine, questioned the amount of Mega watt hours on the base load diagram that *Thigesh* had shown. He wanted to know if it was from a zero base?

- *Thigesh Velen, Eskom Generation*, explained that it is a skewed scale base load – and that it represented 27000 MW.

Mr. B Havenga, DWAF, asked whether the Draft Environmental Scoping Report (DESR) is available in an electronic format on the website.

- *Kelly Martin, Bohlweki Environmental*, responded that the report was available on both the Eskom and Bohlweki websites and a hard copy had been submitted to DWAF.

Jaap Kroon, DWAF, commented that a similar process was being conducted for the Steelpoort catchment area. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Steelpoort catchment will need to be investigated and included in the findings of the project and EIA process. He stated that there had been an announcement of the decision taken by the Minister on DWAF website – the Steelpoort project/programme may impact on the SEA and the mines in the surrounding area.

- *Kelly Martin*, responded that the SEA will be investigated and included in the EIA process for the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme as far as possible. She thanked Mr. Kroon for this information.

Mr. B Havenga, DWAF, asked whether there had been any significant finding in the Heritage studies as he is aware of graves in the area that come from the late stone age?

- *Kelly Martin*, responded that Johnny Van Schalkwyk is the Heritage specialist on the project team, he had identified graves in the proposed study area and these will be investigated further in the EIA phase of the project.

Jaap Kroon, DWAF, asked if there were any land claims in the area of the proposed project?

- *Kelly Martin*, responded that at this stage no known land claims have been identified, however continued investigation into this matter is proceeding throughout the project and the EIA phase.

Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, stated that the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme will obtain water from the De Hoop Dam, this water will be piped from the De Hoop dam to the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme. At this stage the Pipeline will undergo the EIA process and DWAF/government are responsible for the EIA and implementation of this pipeline. However, a joint task team will ultimately be created with regards to the water usage and end use of the water. He stated that the option of Eskom possibly undertaking the EIA for the pipeline should be kept open and that it is possible that this should be implemented as a private sector project and not a government project.

- *The comment was noted*
- *Thigesh Velen, asked Mr. Van Den Berg to please provide more clarity on this matter.*

Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, stated that certain targets need to be met with regards to water delivery. These targets are currently Municipal responsibility, and DWAF is supporting the municipalities to meet their targets by 2008. However it must be clear that these targets are not Government (DWAF) targets to provide water (25l/person/day). De Hoop Dam will only be completed by the earliest in 2010, hence meeting the 2008 will remain a problem for two years, prior to the implementation of the De Hoop Dam. Then Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme will be completed at the earliest by 2014, which creates a further problem. He stated that in the mean time the Municipalities and DWAF need to consider interim strategies. He then went on to discuss the existing and possible future infrastructure; a shorter pipeline carrying raw water to Ver Geleger Dam to top up available yield, the existing purification work etc. For the long pipeline between De Hoop Dam and Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme, there are two options and the determination of what the best option is need to be determined,

this will need to consider the main water demand areas on the Plateau and their configuration for water services. DWAF is busy validating BKS Screening study which is expected early January 2007 for the water services configuration.

- *Thigesh Velen, re-emphasised that the Steelpoort Pumped Storage scheme is only viable with DWAF pipeline from the De Hoop Dam, inclusive of all infrastructures. He stated that clarity on these concerns need to be communicated as soon as possible, as the Record of Decision for the EIA for the Pumped Storage Scheme is expected in June 2007 for inclusion into the business case, which will be presented to Eskom in late 2007.*

Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, stated that DWAF was lacking certain information and had received that week, this should assist them in providing clarity. He stated that the engineers should not be the ones to decide on these concerns and that Government and Eskom should be the decision makers. The fastest process should be followed once the decision is made.

- *The comment was noted*
- *Jaap Kroon stated that DWAF hear all the views loud and clear.*

Ron Creasy, Veremo Mine, stated that the site for their mine is approximately 400m vertically above site, adjacent to a river. Veremo have investigated possibly putting up a weir on the river to create an off storage dam, as the mine needs water for their operations. However, they would prefer to implement a pipeline to lower dam of the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme for water extraction during the dry months. In the wet months, Veremo mine would have excess water and would like to pump water into the lower dam of the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme, this would be done by a gravitational movement of water and would not require any pumping. Thus the water will only need to be pumped up the plateau during the dry months, which should only be 9 months of the year. Veremo mine will need to undertake an EIA to conduct this feeding and filling of the lower dam of the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme.

- *The comment was noted*

Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, stated that the pipeline between De Hoop and the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme will only be used to initially fill the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme and then it will top-up the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme due to evaporation losses on an as and when needed basis. Veremo Mines must realise that the pipeline will not supply bulk water to the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme for end use by the mine.

- *The comment was noted*

Jaap Kroon, DWAF, stated that the Strategic Environmental Assessment and its recommendations are currently against the use and implementation of smaller water schemes.

- *The comment was noted*