

**PROPOSED PUMPED STORAGE SCHEME (PSS) IN THE STEELPOORT AREA, MPUMALANGA AND LIMPOPO PROVINCES**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS:**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED**

February 2007

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
<i>Technical Issues</i>		
Was it not possible to look for a site, which covered the Steelpoort area only?	<i>Mr Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i>	There are 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.
Which areas the generated electricity would supply, were Eskom considering supplying it to the mines?	<i>Mr Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i>	The electricity, which will be generated, will supply electricity to the national grid which supplies electricity all over South Africa.
How Eskom will gain access to the project area because it is a mountainous area.	<i>Mr Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i>	Eskom will upgrade the existing Tigershoek and Luipershoek gravel roads to tarred road, from the R555 to gain access to the lower site. Site roads will also be constructed within the lower sites for access to power house complex, lower dam, link yard and tunnel portals. At the upper site, Eskom will upgrade the existing gravel road to a tarred road, from the R579 through parts of

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		Sehlakwane village to gain access to the upper site.
Mr Makabane, asked if Eskom is going to build roads on someone's land?	<i>Mr Makabane, Focus Group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	The exact location of this associated infrastructure will be determined at a later stage, and will depend on the final detailed design. If necessary, Eskom will enter into negotiations with the relevant landowner(s).
Is the PSS plan designed to go along with the De Hoop dam?	<i>Akila Leshaba, ward councilor Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i>	The construction of De Hoop dam will commence before the PSS. The pumped-storage scheme will depend on De Hoop for priming, as well as for 'make-up' water lost through evaporation and seepage during operational phase of the project. The scheme cannot be built sooner as there is detailed design work and planning that needs to take place. Construction work is expected to commence mid-2009, and the construction period will extend over 5.5 years'.
Concerned 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.	<i>Mr Makabane, Ga- Rantho Focus group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	It was noted that the problems described were more of a local nature. Electricity distribution in rural areas face these kinds of problems often, but Eskom Distribution Division was able to handle these issues. Problems/concerns of this nature should be brought to the attention of any local Eskom office.  A power station do not experience the same kind of technical problems.
This means that if this concern is not taken up with Eskom Distribution it means it will not be addressed	Kgoshi Phasha, Ga-Phasha	This project team is only concentrating on the generation of electricity and not the distribution of electricity.

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	<i>Focus group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	Complaints can be lodged with the Regional Distribution office or through the Customer Services call centre number(s): <b>086 000 1414 or 086 003 7566</b>
It was asked if the transmission line is only for Sekhukhune use and asked why they don't have transformers/substation (Lesiding) from one point to another.	<i>Mr Makabane, Focus group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	This transmission line feeds the national grid, this however, does increase reliability of power supply in the region.
The electricity they have is designed for sunny days and not rainy days and yet Eskom continue to talk about electrification/empowerment.	<i>Mr Makabane, Ga- Rantho, Mr Makabane, Focus group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	<p>A committed electrification programme has resulted in the electrification of 3.3 million homes since the beginning of the electrification programme in 1991 up until the end of March 2006. The funding and planning for electrification has been the responsibility of National Government through the Department of Minerals and Energy since 2001. Eskom's role has since been that of being an implementing agent for Government.</p> <p>According to available statistics there are 12,13 million households in South Africa of which 8,7 million have been electrified at the end of 2005. This has brought the level of electrification in the country to about 72%. The number of rural households electrified countrywide has risen from 12% in 1994 to 52% in 2005.</p> <p>The South African government is committed to achieving universal access to electricity by 2012. Eskom is committed to supporting this initiative and has therefore included electrification as one of its top priorities.</p>

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Will the electricity be generated in De Hoop or elsewhere in South Africa?	<i>Kgoshi Rantho, Ga-Rancho, Focus group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	Electricity will not be generated at the De Hoop dam but instead at the PSS, having its off-channel reservoirs. The power generated will be fed into the national grid.
When will the construction begin?	Bob Sekwati, Mamone, <i>Focus group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	The construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2009, that is only if Eskom receives environmental and other authorisations/approvals from the relevant authorities.
What is the capital cost of the project?	Mr John Amis, Anglo Gold Ashanti, Key stakeholder workshop	The capital costs for a 1500 MW pumped storage scheme would be in the order of R7,2 billion (2006 rands).
It was asked if there are any existing roads that would be upgraded or new roads would be constructed?	<i>Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET, Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	Eskom will upgrade the existing Tigershoek and Luipershoek gravel roads to tarred road, from the R555 to gain access to the lower site. Site roads will also be constructed within the lower sites for access to power house complex, lower dam, link yard and tunnel portals. At the upper site, Eskom will upgrade the existing gravel road to a tarred road, from the R579 through parts of Sehlakwane village to gain access to the upper site
What is the length of the pipeline?	<i>Ms Lovey Modiba, LEDET Focus Group Meeting, 13 November 2006.</i>	The pipeline would be approximately 30 km long.
Is the upgrading of farm roads a registered activity, and has an application being made covering that as well	<i>Mr. Simphiwe Mahlangu, MDALA Focus Group Meeting , 17 November 2006</i>	This application includes all associated infrastructure

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What is the number of hours the PSS would operate per day?	<i>Mr Nicho Rabie, Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality (GSDM), 14 November 2006</i>	The anticipated number of operational hours is approximately 6 hours per day (3 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening).
Are there any chances that the project would be successful?	<i>Mr Chris Theron of Bigen Africa Technical Assistant to GSDM, 14 November 2006</i>	Various studies and investigations have been undertaken on a yearly basis to investigate the feasibility of the project from a technical, economical, social and environmental perspective. The results of the studies continually justify the need for the project, and have not shown a fatal flaw. The scheme may form a crucial part of water supply in the area, to which there is a constant liaison between Eskom and DWAF (De Hoop Dam) in terms of optimization of the two schemes.
Would there be development of roads in the project area?	<i>Whity Maphakela, Department of Transport, Key stakeholder workshop, 24 November 2006</i>	Eskom will upgrade the existing Tigershoek and Luipershoek gravel roads to tarred road, from the R555 to gain access to the lower site. Site roads will also be constructed within the lower sites for access to power house complex, lower dam, link yard and tunnel portals. At the upper site, Eskom will upgrade the existing gravel road to a tarred road, from the R579 through parts of Sehlakwane village to gain access to the upper site.
It was enquired about the distance between the residential area and the project area?	<i>Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET, Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	The Sehlakwane village is the closest residential area to the site and this distance is approximately 800m to 1km from the upper reservoir site.

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<p>Asked about the risks associated with the development and the proposed mitigation measures? For instance, safety concerns, such as people falling into the dam?</p>	<p>Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture, <i>Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i></p>	<p>There are risks, these risks will be investigated in a risks analysis which will inform appropriate mitigation measures.</p>
<p>The base load capacity shown on the diagram was questioned if it was from a zero base?</p>	<p><i>Ron Creasy, Veremo Mine, Focus Group Meeting, 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>It was explained that it is a skewed scale. The base load is approximately 29000 MW.</p>
<p>It was asked whether the Draft Environmental Scoping Report (DESR) is available in an electronic format on the website.</p>	<p><i>Mr. B Havenga, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting, 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>The report is available on both the Eskom (<a href="http://www.eskom.co.za/eia">www.eskom.co.za/eia</a>) and Bohlweki (<a href="http://www.bohlweki.co.za">www.bohlweki.co.za</a>) websites and a hard copy has been submitted to DWAF.</p>
<p>A comment was made 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.</p>	<p><i>Jaap Kroon, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting, 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>The SEA will be investigated and included in the EIA process for the Pumped Storage Scheme as far as possible. Mr. Kroon was thanked for this information.</p>
<p><b><i>Social and Socio-economic Impacts</i></b></p>		

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Which other villages are likely to be affected by the proposed development?	<i>Mr Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor</i> <i>Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i>	Sehlakwane and Hlogotlou villages. Eenzam would be excluded, as it would not be part of the project any more.
A concern was raised 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.	<i>Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor</i> <i>Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i>	<p>It was explained that it is estimated that the project will create 1500 to 2500 jobs both skilled and unskilled. 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.</p> <p>Eskom will work closely with key stakeholders like the Municipality and the Chamber of Business to ensure that available business opportunities for constituencies of these institutions are optimised during the project life and that local people benefit. However, the responsibility still lies with Eskom.</p> <p>Eskom is a state-owned enterprise and in terms of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative in South Africa (ASGISA) requirements, it is committed to reach a certain target for Black Economic Empowerment (BEE).</p>
Would the pipeline be underground? If so, what about the graves from the Mawele community?	<i>Maria Maloma, ward councillor</i> <i>Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i>	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 on the pipeline route. However, the pipeline does not form part of this EIA. As far as the project is concerned, heritage resources will be investigated through the heritage study, and all the

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		<p>findings and recommendations of such a study will be available in the draft scoping report.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project would comply with the requirements of South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).</p>
<p>It was 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.</p>	<p><i>Martha Magapa, ward councillor</i></p> <p><i>Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i></p>	<p>Eskom noted the comment.</p>
<p>Is it possible for local people to invest on the project by buying shares.</p>	<p>Kgoshi Rantho, Ga-Rantho</p> <p>Focus Group Meeting, 14 November 2006</p>	<p>Eskom is not a public company it is a state-owned enterprise, and as such, the government of South Africa is its only shareholder.</p>
<p>The current tenants on the property would be displaced and alternative accommodation would need to be obtained for them.</p>	<p><i>Dr. Louis J. Kritzingler, landowner of proposed project site</i></p> <p><i>Comment and Registration Form, 27 November 2006</i></p>	<p>Would be assessed in the Social Impact Study and a recommendation be made on where appropriate housing be found for your current farm dwellers. This issue may also be raised with Eskom in negotiations for land purchase. We confirm that Eskom policy on reallocation of such person/s clearly states that such person/s are not to be worse-off than before and that it complies with the minimum requirements set out by government and that they are in close partnership with all the relevant sectors. (For a example the Department of Agriculture and Land Reform.</p>

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<p>Expressed concern that should any of his property – Portions 1 and 7 of the Farm Luipershoek 149-JS – be expropriated, the remaining area of the farm would be of an uneconomical size as the best part of the farm would be occupied by the proposed project. The value of the property would furthermore be reduced.</p>	<p><i>Dr. Louis J. Kritzinger, landowner of proposed project site</i></p> <p><i>Comment and Registration Form, 27 November 2006</i></p>	<p>This matter will be investigated further in the Environmental Impact Assessment studies from which recommendations will be made. Furthermore, this matter may be addressed with Eskom during negotiations for purchase of land for the proposed pumped storage scheme.</p>
<p>Expressed concern regarding the presence of strangers on the property.</p>	<p><i>Mr K. Pieter Joubert, tenant on proposed project site</i></p> <p><i>Comment and Registration Form, 27 November 2006</i></p>	<p>The issue of safety during the construction phase will be considered and necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that there will be no unauthorised people around the area. This aspect will also be investigated in the EIA specialist studies.</p>
<p>The project should benefit the local community by empowering local people by giving them tenders like cleaning, transport, catering etc, subcontracts be given to local communities</p>	<p><i>Mr K.J John Kgoana Tsabadi</i></p> <p><i>Comment and Registration Form, 20 November 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted. As explained above, Eskom supports local economic development initiatives throughout these built projects.</p>
<p>Unemployment rate is high. Outside companies and contractors are the ones recommended than local companies. When there are existing vacancies opportunities should be distributed to all companies.</p> <p>Arethusaneng Tubatse co-operation LTD is a local</p>	<p><i>Ms Margaret Malope Kgopane</i></p> <p><i>Comment and Registration Form, 20 November 2006</i></p>	<p>Processes will be put into place to ensure that as far as possible local communities are provided with opportunities arising from this project.</p>

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company and needs a chance to prove itself		
Concerned that the irrigation water will be suspended or switched off	<i>Mr Neels Greyling, Comment and Registration Form,06 November 2006</i>	The supply of irrigation water is not through the PSS, but Eskom is also a user of the water resource. The irrigators should consult DWAF regarding their concerns.
The project directly influence her farming activities, all her planning regarding her farm, the value of her farm and her future plans for retirement.	<i>Mrs. S.A Antoinette Joubert, Land Owner, 13 November 2006.</i>	The EIA studies will investigate the social and socio economic impacts of the effects of the proposed project.
I am aware that Eskom and DWAF are communicating regarding optimisation of project and associated impacts given the De Hoop Scheme. Ensure that this process and associates timeframe is considered.	<i>Ms Geraldine Munro-Grundlingh Comment and Registration Form, 21 November 2006</i>	The comment was noted.
Could Eskom also pump raw water up to the NEBO plateau to be purified for the people.	<i>Mr. Louis Blom Comment and Registration Form, 02 November 2006</i>	The request was noted, but this would be a result of negotiations between Eskom and DWAF, as DWAF is still investigating other water supply options to the Nebo plateau.
In which province does the project fall?	<i>Mr. Simphiwe Mahlangu, MDALA Focus Group Meeting , 17 November 2006</i>	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, due to the demarcation process not yet been finalised. Hence all the associated provinces have been consulted for their input. DEAT is the lead environmental authority.
	<i>Mr. Andrew Hoffman,</i>	The project area falls into Limpopo and as they have

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	<p><i>Mpumalanga Tourism Authority</i></p> <p><i>Focus Group Meeting , 17 November 2006</i></p>	<p>done a lot of work in Limpopo area they have been requested to stay involved in Limpopo projects although they are in Mpumalanga.</p>
<p>The area is mountainous and how will the biological and ecological part of the area be handled, as there are herbal plants, which have a medicinal value and are used by the communities.</p>	<p><i>Mr. Andrew Hoffman, Mpumalanga Tourism Authority</i></p> <p><i>Focus Group Meeting , 17 November 2006</i></p>	<p>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. The ecological specialist will make specific recommendations in this regard.</p>
<p>Is the development going to be on the Chief's land and if so, have Eskom thought about the compensation of the landowner?</p>	<p><i>Mr Makabane,</i></p> <p><i>Focus group meeting 14 November 2006</i></p>	<p>Eskom will handle the matter appropriately. The value of the land will be negotiated based on generally accepted principles and appropriate compensation offered.</p>
<p>How will the project 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.</p>	<p><i>Mr Ralph Lekgeu, Spitskop</i></p> <p><i>Focus Group Meeting , 14 November 2006</i></p>	<p>All consultation with and from Interested &amp; Affected Parties is kept on records, and as a minimum, the same I&amp;APs will be consulted throughout the process. It was explained that as the development would be in Sehlakwane some of both skilled and unskilled laborers would be employed from the local labour. Attendants to meetings would receive information on the EIA process through individualized letters.</p>
<p>Enquired how deep below the ground is the power station and whether there will be benefits to the public</p>	<p><i>Mr Niek Gouws, Steyndrift,</i></p> <p><i>Focus Group Meeting, 14</i></p>	<p>The power house complex would be 300m below ground.</p>

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	<i>November 2006</i>	
Enquired if should the project receive authorisation, from whom will Eskom buy the land	<i>Mr Niek Gouws, Steyndrift, Focus Group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	If the scheme is a success, Eskom may buy the land from a private landowner or the appropriate landowner(s).
Enquired if the traffic flow is going to be disturbed during construction phase.	<i>Mr Niek Gouws, Steyndrift, Focus Group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	The traffic flow would be disturbed during construction, as trucks will be coming in and out, but this will be minimized as much as possible. A Traffic study will investigate the impacts on traffic and will make appropriate recommendations.
A concern was raised about the area proposed for the project is going to affect the people living there	<i>Charl Botes, Highveld Mine, Public Meeting , 23 November 2006</i>	The potential impact on people will be investigated. Negotiations will take place with the affected families if relocation is required.
The scheme should 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.	<i>Charl Botes, Highveld Mine, Public Meeting , 23 November 2006</i>	The comment was noted.
It was suggested that it is critical that the Land Claims be investigated to establish the status of the land claims in the area	<i>Simphiwe Mahlangu,MDALA Focus Group Meeting , 17 November 2006</i>	As part of the EIA process, Bohlweki will investigate this and advise Eskom of such claims.
What is the current uses of the proposed project area ?	<i>Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture, Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	The lower dam is currently zoned as agricultural or farming land, and the upper dam is virgin land that is currently grasslands.

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Does the land belong to the government or to an individual.	Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture, <i>Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	The land at the upper reservoir is tribal land, but land at the lower reservoir belongs to private landowners.
Enquired if the area was sloping or flat	<i>Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET, Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	With regards to topography of the land, the upper dam is sloping and the land in the lower dam is undulating.
Are agricultural studies conducted by ARC?	Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture, <i>Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	The agricultural studies are being conducted by ARC they have done a site inspection and desktop studies. Further investigations would still continue at the EIA phase.
Has Eskom Generation received a "go ahead" from the tribal authorities.	Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture, <i>Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	Eskom has already consulted the tribal authorities. The traditional leaders and landowners would still be consulted during the scoping phase of the project.
The department would wait for the availability of the Environmental Draft Scoping Report and thereafter they would be able to make comments.	Mrs Violet Baloyi, Department of Agriculture, <i>Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	The draft scoping report will be available for public review in December 2006 and would be available on Bohlweki Environmental website ( <a href="http://www.bohlweki.co.za">www.bohlweki.co.za</a> ) and Eskom website ( <a href="http://www.eskom.co.za/eia">www.eskom.co.za/eia</a> ) and various public areas as would be advertised. All comments received would be incorporated into the issues trail, to be submitted to the environmental authorities.
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.	Ms Maria Maredi, Department of Land Affairs; Regional Land Claims Commission: <i>Focus group Meeting, 13 November</i>	As part of the EIA process, Bohlweki will investigate this and advise Eskom of such claims.

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	<i>2006</i>	
It was 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?	<i>Mr. B Havenga, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting, 07 December 2006</i>	Mr. 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
He asked if there were any land claims in the area of the proposed project.	<i>Jaap Kroon, DWAF, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting, 07 December 2006</i>	At this stage no know land claims have been identified, however continued investigation into this matter is proceeding throughout the project and the EIA phase.
SAHRA have highlighted that, although there was no indication of an assessment of the archaeological resources in the Draft Environmental Scoping Report, SAHRA suggested that an Archaeological and palaeontological assessment be undertaken. SAHRA proposed that Bohlweki Environmental contact an accredited Archaeological and palaeontological specialist to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report	<i>11 January 2007, Comments from EDSR</i>	Bohlweki Environmental has appointed Mr Johnny van Schalkwyk from National Cultural History Museum, to undertake the heritage assessment in the Scoping and EIA phases of the proposed project and to validate the Environmental Screening report. In the Scoping Phase the heritage studies focused on heritage resources and did not focus on a detailed archaeological or palaeontological impact assessments. It was anticipated that the study would only require heritage studies as there would be no impact on the archaeological and palaeontological resources. However, subsequent to the receipt of your comments, Bohlweki Environmental will ensure that the necessary archaeological and palaeontological studies are included in the scope of the heritage specialist for the EIA phase of the proposed project.

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<b>Process-related Issues</b>		
<p>It was commented that it is critical that the project team 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.</p>	<p><i>Mr. Ralepane Mamekoa, Mayor</i>  <i>Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted as the meeting with this community had been planned.</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>Therefore we need a written document from Eskom to prove the consultation and any assistance that they offer</p>	<p><i>Kgoshi Phasha, Ga-Phasha</i>  <i>Focus Group Meeting , 14 November 2006</i></p>	<p>Consultants are responsible for recording of all comments made during focus group and public participation meetings. These records are kept and included in the environmental scoping and other relevant documents/reports. All the discussions are recorded and will be made available to the public.</p>
<p>There should be a community liaison forum established where everything would be documented.</p>	<p><i>Mr Ralph Lekgeu, Spitskop</i>  <i>Focus Group Meeting , 14 November 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted. The public participation process offers I&amp;APs this opportunity.</p>
<p>He asked Bohlweki Environmental if DWAF could</p>	<p><i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF,</i></p>	<p>It was responded that the project would allow for this in order to ensure that DWAF comment on the project</p>

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have until the 10 January 2007 to review the draft environmental scoping report. .	07 December 2006	
<b>Water-related Impacts / Issues</b>		
<p>How would you choose a Site where waterways will be constructed and other related associated infrastructures</p> <p>How would you choose a site where reservoirs will be placed (which factors are being considered)</p> <p>How the assessment will be executed (which environmental factors/natural resources will be disturbed or be affected)</p>	<i>Mr Paul Mazwi, Comment Form, 11 October 2006</i>	<p>An Environmental Screening Investigation (ESI) report and additional desk-top and field investigations for the proposed Pumped Storage Scheme were undertaken by the environmental consultant.</p> <p>Various specialist studies were conducted and a site with less negative environmental impacts was selected. These details will be documented in the Scoping report which will be made available to the public shortly. More detailed studies will be investigated during the EIA phase for each aspect.</p>
Is Eskom going to develop an underground tunnel?	<i>Akila Leshaba, ward councilor</i>  <i>Focus Group Meeting, 18 October 2006</i>	It was indicated that an underground waterway (tunnel) will be built and will be 2.3 km in length from intake to outfall
Should the proposed PSS be situated within the catchment area of the Watervals River, the Watervals River Irrigation Board needs to be notified regarding the potential impact on current water use rights.	<i>Mr. Leon Lotter, Secretary: Watervals River Irrigation Board</i>  <i>Comment form, 15 November 2006</i>	The board will be notified as requested.
Expressed concern regarding domestic water supply	<i>Mr K. Pieter Joubert, tenant</i>	Eskom would ensure that all the necessary precautions are taken not to interrupt water supply on the properties.

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on the property.	<i>on proposed project site Comment and Registration Form, 27 November 2006</i>	However, Eskom will not supply water to any properties.
It is known that there is something with super power at the Meetse Mahlaba river. The water from that river can heal any disease if prayed for. We would like to keep it.	<i>Mr. Akila Leshaba, Ward 29 Councillor, 27 November 2006</i>	According to the environmental screening studies conducted by BKS it was indicated that the small tributary of the Steelpoort river will be affected by the proposed dam at Site A which is the selected site for the proposed development. The scheme may or may not impact the Meetse Mahlaba river, further investigations will be conducted in the EIA phase to determine the possibilities and the extent.
Concerned about the water that would be lost to the system, whether it would be lost through evaporation or any other method?	<i>Simphiwe Mahlangu, MDALA Focus Group Meeting , 17 November 2006</i>	Very small amounts of water would be lost through evaporation or seepage.
Is the pipeline part of the EIA study?	<i>Simphiwe Mahlangu, MDALA Focus Group Meeting , 17 November 2006</i>	The pipeline is not part of this EIA, but is part of the Department of water Affairs and Tourism's (DWAF) water initiative study for water supply to the Nebo plateau. The (DWAF) will be responsible for the environmental impact assessments and the operation of the pipeline and the water supply to the communities and to the pumped storage scheme
The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) confirmed that water would be supplied to the Nebo Plateau.	<i>Mr Niek Gouws, Steyndrift, Focus Group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	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.

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Would Eskom undertake the EIA for the water pipeline.	<i>Mr Niek Gouws, Steyndrift, Focus Group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	The EIA for the water pipeline belongs to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF), and they will appoint a consultant who will conduct studies, which will determine where the pipeline should be placed. It was explained that this pipeline does not form part of this Eskom's proposed project
How will Eskom handle the dam when it's full.	<i>Mr Niek Gouws, Steyndrift, Focus Group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	When the upper dam is full, the water will be released to the lower dam via the station. The lower dam will be constructed with an outlet works to allow environmental releases and a spillway for controlled discharge of flood water to the Steelpoort river
Raised a concern about the water scarcity in the area and wanted to know how this will be dealt with?	<i>Mr. John Amis, Anglo Gold Ashanti, Key stakeholder workshop, 24 November 2006</i>	The scheme would not "consume" water; however there would be losses associated with evaporation and with leakage/seepage. Water from the De Hoop dam would be used to initially prime the pumped storage scheme and then thereafter it would be topped up on a needs basis to compensate for any leakage and evaporation. The De Hoop dam has recently received a positive record of decision/environmental authorisation. The water will be pumped in a DWAFF pipeline to the pumped storage scheme. The scheme has also been moved out of the Steelpoort river in order to prevent the impacts of water abstraction to downstream users.
What is the distance between the two dams?	<i>Mr. Whity Maphakela, Department of Transport, Key stakeholder Workshop 24</i>	The distance between the two dams would be 2.3 km in length "as the crow flies", with a difference in elevation (height above sea level) of approximately 620m elevation from upper to lower dam.

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
	<i>November 2006.</i>	
It was asked what the volumes of the reservoirs are?	<i>Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET, Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	The volume of the reservoirs would be approximately 16 million cubic metres each.
Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET enquired about the depth at which the tunnels will be	<i>Ms Lovey, Modiba, LEDET, Focus group Meeting, 13 November 2006</i>	The tunnels would be 300m below ground and the shallowness of the reservoir would be 15-20m
<i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, stated that DWAF was lacking certain information regarding the water use in the Steelpoort area and they expect to receive it the week of the 7 December 2007. This information should assist them in providing clarity to all water users in the area, including Eskom. He stated that the engineers should not be the ones to decide on water use concerns and that Government and Eskom should be the decision makers.</i>	<i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i>  <i>Jaap Kroon, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i>	<i>The comment was noted</i>
<i>Ron Creasy, stated that the site for their mine is approximately 400m vertically above the lower dam 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.</i>	<i>Ron Creasy, Veremo Mine, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i>	The comment was noted. A Focus Group meeting should be scheduled between Eskom, Veremo mine and DWAF to discuss the mine's proposal.

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
<p>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 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.</p>		<p>Any request to supply Veremo mine with water will be submitted to DWAF. Until then, the scheme will be developed for power generation and water supply to the community on the plateau.</p> <p>From DWAF's comment (Ockie Van Den Berg, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006), it is clear that Veremo mine will have to engage with DWAF as the PSS will not supply water to the mine.</p> <p>However, this is a 'work-in-progress' and will be resolved in a focus group discussion, as a stakeholder engagement process, comprising Eskom, DWAF and Veremo mine.</p>
<p>He stated that the pipeline between De Hoop and the Pumped Storage Scheme will only be used to initially prime the Pumped Storage Scheme and then it will top-up the 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 Pumped Storage Scheme for end use by the mine.</p>	<p><i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>Refer to previous question. The comment was noted. A Focus Group meeting should be scheduled between Eskom, Veremo mine and DWAF to discuss the mine's proposal.</p>
<p><i>Jaap Kroon, DWAF, stated that the Strategic Environmental Assessment and its recommendations are currently against the use and</i></p>	<p><i>Jaap Kroon, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
implementation of smaller water schemes.		
<p>He stated that Government/DWAF need to make the decision of how to get water to the plateau, this decision needs to be made by April 2007. The decision as to whether the Eskom Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme goes ahead or not will be decided by Eskom Board in December 2007. He stated that these timeframes do not fit in with Veremo Mines timing at this stage and the other alternative for the mine would be to pipe water from the De Hoop Dam, should the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme not go ahead. This alternative will again involve an EIA to be undertaken. He stated that the De Hoop Dam catches the water before it goes down the escarpment and this prevents water users down stream of accessing this water. He stated that the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme is an off stream project and would be ideal for the Veremo Mine. The mine would feed water to the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme in times of plenty and the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme would provide Veremo Mine with water in times of shortage. He commented that an integrated system must be implemented.</p>	<p><i>Ron Creasy, Veremo Mine, Focus Group Meeting, 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>It was clarified that Veremo Mines water requirements will commence between 2008 – 2010. It was stated that this would need to be phased in with Eskom requirements for the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme. Depending on activities, the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme would require 7.1 ml/day during the operational phase.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
<p>He stated that the study to configure in scenario planning for the whole Olifants area requires 16 million m<sup>3</sup> in dam yield model per annum.</p>	<p><i>Mr. B Havenga, DWAF , Focus Group Meeting, 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted.</p>
<p>He stated that if Eskom and DWAF resolve these decisions of the pipeline, an EIA would still need to be conducted and it would need to meet the requirements of the SEA. This process will put DEAT under pressure and the process needs to start as soon as possible.</p>	<p><i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted.</p>
<p>He stated that Veremo Mine had waited for a year for the De Hoop Dam appeal and the final water users to be finalised, and ultimately Veremo Mine has not been included in these plans. Someone has to take responsibility for pipeline and provide water to the mine</p>	<p><i>Ron Creasy, Veremo Mine, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted.</p>
<p>He stated that the decision making process needed information for bulk distribution to validate the decisions made. He stated that DWAF will do the EIA.</p>	<p><i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>The statement was concurred with DWAF, and it was stated that in general the country needs electricity capacity and Eskom is required to ensure security of supply.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
It was stated that Government/DWAF needs to supply water and Eskom needs to supply electricity capacity	<i>Ron Creasy, Veremo Mine, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i>	The pipeline from De Hoop Dam to the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme will be used to top up the water in the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme due to evaporation and seepage losses
He would prefer that Veremo Mine not have a reversible pipeline and rather only a one-way pipeline. The capacity of lower dam will initially be 16 million m <sup>3</sup> to fill it, and it would require 1 000 000 m <sup>3</sup> / year to top it up. The amount of water required on the plateau is 11 500 000 m <sup>3</sup> /year. Therefore the pipeline from De Hoop Dam to the Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme will be split between Eskom (10%) and water supply (90%), thus reversing pipeline is not economical	<i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i>	The comment was noted.
He stated that 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 possible 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.	<i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF, Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i>	In the same meeting, Mr Ockie Van Den Berg alluded to DWAF owning the pipeline, thus the onus lies with DWAF to complete the EIA studies. Eskom has stressed the importance of receipt of an RoD for the pipeline.
He stated that certain targets need to be met with	<i>Ockie Van Den Berg, DWAF,</i>	It was re-emphasised that the Steelpoort Pumped Storage scheme is only viable with DWAF pipeline from

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
<p>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 VerGeleger 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 needs to be made. 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.</p>	<p><i>Focus Group Meeting , 07 December 2006</i></p>	<p>the De Hoop Dam, inclusive of all infrastructures. It was stated that clarity on these concerns needs 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.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
<b>Issues/Comment</b>		
The world we are living in is one; we need to take care of it in every step of our development. Vegetation where graders will move must be rehabilitated to avoid run-off.	<i>Mr. Oupa Joseph, Comment and Registration Form, 29 September 2006</i>	The comment was noted.
Section 38 of our National Heritage resources act no 25 of 1999 need to be adhered to.	<i>Godfrey Tshivhalavhala, Comment and Registration Form, 06 October 2006.</i>	The heritage specialist would focus on all the heritage issues that need to be considered, within the legal framework.
Drinking points for stock would be lost should the proposed project be established.	<i>Mr K. Pieter Joubert, tenant on proposed project site  Comment and Registration Form, 27 November 2006</i>	Eskom would not destroy any structures, as there would be changes caused by the project, alternatives would be provided for in due time.
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.	<i>Andre Hoffman Mpumalanga Tourism Authority, Focus Group Meeting , 17 November 2006</i>	The ecological specialist would advise on appropriate handling of such plants.
The capacity of infrastructure, such as potable water supply and sewerage treatment plant in Roosenekal, is a problem; whatever is done these should be of high priority	<i>Mr Charl Botes Highveld Mine, Public Meeting, 23 November 2006</i>	If construction staff are to be housed at Roosenekal, Eskom will engage with the Local Council for any contribution to infrastructure improvement.
Enquired about the specialist studies done, as the ecology and certain species would be disturbed by	<i>Mr Botha, De Hoop, Focus Group Meeting , 14 November</i>	Various environmental studies, including a vegetation study, have been done by specialists and the results

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
<p>the development. He further explained that they have had a negative experience with Eskom as they always cut trees down.</p>	<p>2006</p>	<p>will be reflected in the various reports. Any site identified and approved for development needs establishment and clearance, and this will be done in accordance with relevant conditions in the environmental authorization (if positive), conditions in the Environmental Management Programme (EMP), relevant environmental legislation, and Eskom guidelines and procedure.</p>
<p>It was stated that the De Hoop dam project require 100 houses 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</p>	<p><i>Mr Charl Botes Highveld Mine, Public Meeting, 23 November 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p><i>Mr Charl Botes Highveld Mine, Public Meeting, 23 November 2006</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted.</p>
<p><b><i>General Comments / Issues</i></b></p>		
<p>He is in support of the proposed development and thinks that it is a good idea</p>	<p>Mr. Andre Hoffman <i>Mpumalanga Tourism Authority</i></p> <p><i>Focus Group Meeting , 17</i></p>	<p>The comment was noted.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised by and Correspondence Type	Response
	<i>November 2006</i>	
It is not necessary to be consulted by Eskom regarding the proposed development because somehow the authorities will take decision.	<i>Mr Niek Gouws, Steyndrift, Focus Group Meeting, 14 November 2006</i>	The comment was noted. It was explained though that the decision by authorities is informed by public input, and all documentation submitted to authorities for authorisation will be made available to the public as well.
The council will consult with the chief, regarding the proposed development, as the council do not have powers to take decisions on any issues. The Ndebele Traditional Leadership Council and Chief Maphepha Mahlangu 11 will let Bohlweki Environmental and Eskom know of any decision taken.	<i>Mr Paul Mahlangu, the deputy chairperson of the Ndebele Traditional Leadership Council, 13 November 2006</i>	The comment was noted.
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	<i>Mr Charl Botes Highveld Mine, Public Meeting, 23 November 2006</i>	The comment was noted. The De Hoop and pumped storage scheme could help to get the infrastructure developed in these areas and increase the tourism potential.