



# EPSILON SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED TURN-INS

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



# FINAL SCOPING REPORT VOLUME 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

Project ref: 294-04

DEAT ref: 12/12/20/887

July 2009

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## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS**

**DEAT** – Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

**DSR** – Draft Scoping Report

**EMP** – Environmental Management Plan

**EIA** – Environmental Impact Assessment

**EIR** – Environmental Impact Report

**Eskom Tx** – Eskom Transmission (the Applicant)

**FS DTEEA** – Free State Department of Tourism, Environmental and Economic Affairs

**FSR** – Final Scoping Report

**I&AP** – Interested and Affected Party

**NEMA** – National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)

**NW DACE** – North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment

**PoS for EIA** – Plan of Study for EIA phase of the project

**PPP** – Public Participation Process

**PS** – Power Station

**RoA** – Record of Authorisation

**SR** – Scoping Report

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# EPSILON SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED TURN-IN POWER LINES

## *Environmental Impact Assessment*

### FINAL SCOPING REPORT

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Public Participation for the Epsilon Substation and Turn-in Power Lines project was initiated in January 2007, by way of announcing the project to the public through advertisements in the local and national newspapers, placing notices in the study area and posting information documents to already identified stakeholders. The objectives of the Public Participation Process (PPP) during the scoping phase of the project was to give stakeholders, specialists and the proponent/developer (Eskom Transmission) the opportunity to share information about the project and to identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) the project might have on the receiving environment. Stakeholders in the study area were afforded the opportunity to raise issues and comments on the project at public meetings and focus group meetings.

In December 2007, after approval of the Scoping Report by DEAT (approval letter dated 08 February 2008; ref 12/12/20/888) air quality studies indicated that pollution from the mine tailings dams around the Stilfontein area could negatively impact on the functioning of the proposed Epsilon substation sites. Hence, five additional sites have been identified north of the original sites for environmental investigation in order to determine if that area is better suited for the location of the proposed substation. These sites are on farms Eleazer 377 IP, Modderfontein 383 IP, Rietkuil 378 IP, Rooipoort 354 IP and Syferfontein 376 IP. An application was submitted to DEAT on 20 June 2008 to increase the study area to incorporate the new sites; the application was acknowledged and granted on 09 September 2008. The Scoping Report was then duly retracted and a Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA are submitted, which incorporates all eight sites.

Margen Industrial Services conducted the PPP for the Scoping Phase of the proposed Epsilon Substation & Turn-in Power Lines project, involving as many potentially Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) as possible. I&APs already registered in the database will continue to receive information regarding the extended study and newly identified I&APs have also been registered in the database for this project.

This report provides a detailed account of the PPP conducted and will outline the way forward for the process. The aim of this report is three-fold:

- To provide a description of the PPP activities conducted during the extended scoping phase of the study.
- To provide a list of issues and comments raised regarding the area covering the new alternative proposed sites; and
- To outline the way forward.

## 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 2.1. PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Pro-activity:** Public participation requires that governments and the public take initiatives, in accordance with their respective roles, to develop their maximum potential and enrich the process of decision-making for sustainable development.

**Inclusiveness:** Full participation by all those interested in and/or affected by sustainable development issues is essential to achievement of durable solutions. Special efforts should be made to include the participation of the private sector, and to create equal opportunities for women and other previously disadvantaged groups.

**Shared Responsibility:** Governments and the public must share equitably the commitments, burdens, and benefits of development.

**Openness throughout the Process:** Inclusive and continuous participation throughout the process of design, implementation, and evaluation of projects, policies, or programs inspires new ideas and expertise, legitimises decisions, and enriches outcomes. A decision-making process that is open to input at all phases can benefit from adjustments wherever they are needed to respond to new information or circumstances.

**Access:** The involvement of the public in development decisions is essential for lasting solutions. In order to participate effectively, the public must have timely access, at the various levels of government, to information, to the political process, and to the justice system.

**Transparency:** Productive relationships between the public and government require that both be more accountable and transparent. Transparency on the part of all concerned parties in a decision-making process facilitates more meaningful participation by ensuring that all motivations and objectives are explicit and that all information vital to the decision is reliable and available in a timely manner.

**Respect for public input:** Public participation will only be effective and efficient if there is assurance that, in the process of decision-making, contributions deriving from the implementation of various mechanisms for participation are evaluated, analysed, and given proper consideration in a timely manner.

These principles highlight several key conditions that are necessary to promote the success of policies and practices of public participation, which require firm, ongoing commitment from government and the public.

### 2.2. LIMITATIONS

Certain limitations are found with any public participation process. The most important are:

- I&APs not registering and therefore not partaking in public events and the public participation process;

- I&APs not attending public events;
- I&APs focusing on issues that do not relate to the potential impact assessment of the proposed project.

### **2.3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Public participation provides the opportunity for I&APs to participate in the project on an informed basis. It also ensures that their needs and requirements are considered. In so doing, ownership of the project is vested in both the project proponent and the community.

A Public Participation Process should achieve the following:

- Provide a "vehicle" for public input and the facilitation of negotiated outcomes;
- Create trust and partnerships;
- Minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts; and
- Provide an up-front indication of issues which may prevent project continuation, resulting in costly delays, or which may result in enhanced and shared benefits.

#### **2.3.1. Approach**

As the Public Participation Process is an integral part of the EIA, the PPP principles listed by DEAT (1998) include:

- Meaningful and timely participation of I&APs;
- Focussing on important issues;
- Due consideration of alternatives;
- Accountability for information used for decision-making;
- Encouragement of co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership;
- Application of "due process" particularly with regard to public participation in environmental governance as provided for in the Constitution, and
- The needs, interests and values of I&APs must be considered in the decision-making process.

#### **2.3.2. Methodology**

The approach towards any PPP is dependent upon the details of the project, the reason being that each project has a particular geographic and technical nature and hence the PPP should be structured accordingly. Where possible and within the required statutory frameworks, it is also desirable to structure such a process to address the process needs of I&APs.

Please note that for this project documentation sent out to I&APs, which included Background Information Document (BID), Advertisements, Letters sent with the BID, Executive Summaries of Documents, etc, have been translated from English into Afrikaans and SeTswana. I&APs have the choice of indicating which language they want to receive information. For the different meetings held, stakeholders were encouraged to speak in language of their choice and ask for translation if necessary. Documents attached in the Annexures are only in English.

The following methods were used during this round of the process:

#### *2.3.2.1. Reconnaissance Site Visits*

Once the application forms were submitted to the authority to apply for authorisation to conduct the environmental impact assessment, the PPP team undertook a reconnaissance site visit to the study area to gather information that could be used in all the Medupi PS and Mmamabula PS Integration projects. The objectives of the site visit were:

- To develop the preliminary understanding of the social context (representative structures; language; communication media, etc.);
- To identify points where information could be made accessible to the local communities (venues for meetings and public places where information documents could be placed); and
- To identify those parties or structures that may be interested in and/or affected by the proposed developments (farming communities; municipalities and tribal lands)

#### *2.3.2.2. Pre-Application Meeting*

The Project Team (The proponent, Eskom and the Consultant Team) had a pre-application meeting with government officials from DEAT and NW DACE in Pretoria, at the onset of the projects. Several changes were made to the Scope of the initial project, which resulted in the Project Team notifying the government officials and changing applications as was necessary in terms of legislation.

The scope of the project and the consultation process to be followed was discussed. It was agreed that National and local newspapers will be used to advertise the project and the language of the local communities were identified as being SeTswana, English and Afrikaans.

#### *2.3.2.3. Stakeholder Identification*

Through networking and advertising, I&APs were identified and these are currently registered on the database. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) endeavoured to ensure that individuals/organisations from a 'vertical' (institutional) as well as a 'horizontal' (geographical) point of view were identified.

Geographically, the EAP focused on nearby, adjacent and directly affected landowners, Traditional Authorities and organisations that represent them. A 'vertical' approach was used to identify those institutions or individuals that might be affected by, or could make a contribution to the project, but who are not necessarily in its direct sphere of impact.

The database submitted with this report includes stakeholders from:

- National, Provincial and Local Government;
- Landowners;
- Non-Governmental Organisations;

- Business, Industry & Tourism; and
- Refer to Annexure 1 for the I&AP database.

#### *2.3.2.4. Creating awareness*

Various communication media were employed, including, newspaper advertisements, street lamp posters, flyers, a briefing document and personal invitations to pre-identified I&APs to create awareness of the project and to invite the public to the introductory public open days and public meetings in the various areas.

#### *2.3.2.5. Exploratory survey*

An exploratory survey was undertaken, by the EAP, through a site visit on 30 June 2008 to identify landowners in the study area covering the new alternative proposed sites and to ensure that all potentially affected landowners in this project were given an equal opportunity to comment and raise issues of concern.

#### *2.3.2.6. Stakeholder Identification*

Information gathered during this site visit by the PPP team was used to update the existing I&AP database for this Project. Key stakeholders and landowners were identified by driving through the study area and randomly stopping and introducing the Project to landowners.

An Additional site visit was undertaken, on 29 of August 2008 by the PPP Specialist to continually identify potential I&APs.

The database submitted includes stakeholders listed under the following categories:

- Agriculture (landowners);
- Environment / Conservation;
- Government (National, Provincial & Local);
- Landowners;
- Industry, Business & Mining; and
- Tourism

#### *2.3.2.7. Announcement to the Public*

##### *Faxed, emailed and posted letters*

Personalised letters were forwarded to all stakeholders on the database informing them about the project and inviting them to planned public meetings and public open days that were held in February 2007. A Background Information Document (BID) was also included in this package. (Refer to Annexure 6 for BID).

Letters announcing the new alternative proposed sites were distributed during the site visits. Similar letters announcing the new alternative proposed sites and a project map were distributed during August 2008 and September 2008 through the post, by fax and by e-mails (see Annexure 2). The purpose of these letters was to provide I&APs with information on the EIA Process, the PPP, and the need for the proposed substation and power lines and to invite landowners and potential I&APs to focus group meetings.

Additional letters, informing landowners about specialist studies to be conducted and an updated map of the new alternative proposed sites were distributed during November 2008.

#### *Media Advertisement*

Advertisements were placed in national and local newspapers inviting I&APs to register to receive information on the project and inviting I&APs to attend public meetings and open days to be held in the study area. (Refer to Annexure 4 for a copy of the advertisements). The following newspapers were used:

**Table 1:** Print Media used for Advertisements

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Language</b>
Citizen	26/01/07	National	National	English
Beeld	26/01/07	National	National	Afrikaans
Sowetan	26/0107	National	National	English
Potchefstroom Herald	26/01/07	Local	Potchefstroom and Khuma	English; SeTswana; Afrikaans
Klerksdorp Record	22/05/09	Local	Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp and Khuma	English; Afrikaans
Lentswe	22/05/09	Local	Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp and Khuma	English; Afrikaans
Potchefstroom Herald	22/05/09	Local	Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp and Khuma	English; Afrikaans

#### *Street Lamp Posters*

The English, Afrikaans and SeTswana advertisement was enlarged into an A1 size poster that was placed at strategic points on the streets (taxi ranks; shopping centres and public pay points like post offices and municipal offices) where public meetings and public open days were held. These posters are considered to have served the purpose of the on-site notice since this is, to a large extent, a linear project.

#### *Information Points*

Information points were identified and information was placed at these information points. There are 4 information points in the study area. These information points will be updated for the duration of the project and will contain all relevant information of the project. I&APs can visit

these information points at their leisure and receive information on the project. The information points have BIDs, maps and will also have copies of the Scoping Report and Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

#### *Newsletter*

In order to be transparent and continual engagement with the I&APs, the EAP decided to introduce a Newsletter, giving all I&APs up to date information about the project as well as other related projects. The first edition of this Newsletter was released and distributed in August 2008, with the second edition in October 2008. The second Newsletter and a questionnaire, were also aimed to encourage landowners to raise issues of concern and to introduce more I&APs to the project, these were sent out to all registered I&APs. It is the intention of the EAP to distribute this Newsletter on a regular basis (quarterly) for the duration of the project.

#### *2.3.2.8. Distribution of Other Documents*

BID (see annexure 6) with registration forms was placed at information distribution points advertised in the newspapers. The BID was also forwarded to all I&APs in the database. The purpose of the BID is to provide I&APs with background information on the Environmental Impact Assessment Process, the Public Participation Process, and the need for the Proposed Epsilon substation with associated Turn-ins. It also provides information on where the substation might be located and where the lines might go and specialist studies to be conducted as part of the process. It provides persons, who are interested and/or affected by the project, with the opportunity to register as an I&AP. As part of the BID, a register and comment sheet is provided to enable the public to register as an I&AP and to provide the consultants with written comments. The registration sheet also ensures that the names and contact details of I&APs are captured correctly on the database so that they may receive all project-related information and invitations to public events.

#### **2.4. LETTERS OF CONSENT**

In order to conduct specialist studies on a farm, a landowner has to sign a letter of consent. Two additional site visits were undertaken where landowners were approached to participate in the EIA process and to sign letters of consent so that the different specialists can conduct their studies.

**Table 2:** The following Landowners Signed letters of Consent (see Annexure 3)

<b>Farm Name</b>	<b>Registered Owner</b>	<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Date signed</b>
Byl 421IP	Motswenyane Family Trust	Molifi Motswenyane	15-11-2006
Kareerand 441IP	Nonogang Agri Trust	Susan Mokone	15-11-2006
Wilbeespan 441IP	Motswenyane Family Trust	Izaak Motswenyane	07-12-2006
Eleazar 377IP	Barolong Boo Modiboa (CPA)	Mr. J Lerefolo	30-09-2008
Eleazar 377IP	Barolong Boo Modiboa (CPA)	Mr. E Styger	29-09-2008

<b>Farm Name</b>	<b>Registered Owner</b>	<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Date signed</b>
Eleazar 377IP	Mr. JD Cronjé	Mr. JD Cronjé	08-10-2008
Eleazar 377IP	Orion Properties 90 Pty.	Mr. D Webster	29-09-2008
Rietkuil 378IP	Mr. IM van Rooyen	Mr. IM van Rooyen	Not Signed
Rooipoort 354IP	Mr. B Keet	Mr. B Keet	04-11-2008
Syferfontein 376IP	Mr. JD Cronjé	Mr. JD Cronjé	08-10-2008
Syferfontein 376IP	Mr. HJ Cronjé	Mr. HJ Cronjé	30-09-2008
Syferfontein 376IP	Ms. EJ Schoeman	Ms. EJ Schoeman	22-10-2008
Tertia 384IP	Neels du Toit Familie Trust	Mr. N du Toit	29-09-2008

## **2.5. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

Different groups of stakeholders were identified and registered as Key Stakeholders. These groups include: Farmers Associations (FAs) and District Farmers Unions (DFUs), Local Governments (Municipalities), community trusts, mines and various other groups, as identified throughout the process. These groups have duly been added in the database.

### **2.5.1. Farmers Associations and Landowners**

The two main Farmer Union groups were contacted for a list of the different Farmers Associations (FAs) and District Farmers Unions (DFUs) affiliated to them. They are AgriSA and Transvaal Landbou Unie van Suid Afrika (TLUSA). Not many of the FA's are active in this region. Various efforts have been made to contact the FA's still in existence and to arrange meetings with them but none have been held to date. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) and the Department of Land Affairs (DLA) are facilitating the process of land redistribution and officials from these departments are registered in the database.

A number of farms in the area have new owners, due to settled land claims. Some of these new landowners have been consulted with and attended either the Open Day in Khuma or Potchefstroom. These new emerging black farmers also have project managers from the Department of Land Affairs and these project managers who also attended the Open Days to assist these emerging black farmers with any related issues.

One of the landowners who attended the Open Day is the chairman of a FA and he has committed to giving the information to his members. The chairman of Potchefstroom District Farmers Union also attended DFU meeting on 01 March 2007 at Koster. Representatives from all the FA's that are still active in this area have attended meetings between Eskom, the consultants and the Farmers Associations and District Farmers Unions. Information was handed to them to distribute to their members. Meetings will be arranged and held with those affected FAs and DFUs once the Scoping Report is made available for comment.

Additional letters have also been sent out to landowners who might be affected by this project and specifically the turn-ins. No response has been received to date from these landowners.

### **2.5.2. Local Governments (Municipalities)**

Two municipalities are affected by this project – Potchefstroom Municipality and Klerksdorp Municipality. The town of Khuma, which is close to the potential location of Epsilon substation falls under the Klerksdorp Municipality. A meeting was held with the Matlometsane Local Municipality on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2007, which falls under the Klerksdorp Municipality. This meeting was attended by various ward councillors.

A meeting was then arranged with the Mayoral Committee of the Klerksdorp Municipality on 21 May 2007, but due to short notice and previous commitments of the consultants, this meeting could not be attended. This meeting was postponed to 17 July 2007. A meeting was also held with the Potchefstroom Municipality on 31 May 2007. The consultants attended this meeting and gave a presentation on the proposed Epsilon substation project. The municipality requested a follow-up meeting with the consultants and Eskom once the Scoping Report is made available for public review and a full copy of the Scoping Report for their perusal.

### **2.5.3. Traditional Authorities**

The study area for Epsilon substation and turn-ins is not under the control of traditional authority and there is no Traditional Council identified for consultation in this area.

### **2.5.4. Community Trust**

Members of the community trust (Nanogang Agri Trust) were consulted on the day of the signing of Letter of Consent on 15 November 2006 and during the specialists site visit on 22 February 2007.

### **2.5.5. Public Open Days (POD)**

The main objective of an open day is to give the public the opportunity to become involved in the project and to provide their inputs. PODs are an important platform for information assimilation during the consultation process. New issues are recorded and debated. Detailed presentations in the form of displays (maps, diagrams and aerial photographs) were used to communicate all aspects of the project (technological alternatives), the EIA process and the PPP, to the attendees of the open day. Members of the project team and the applicant were present to answer questions and to note issues and concerns.

Two PODs were held in February, one in Khuma on 22 February 2007 and one in Potchefstroom on 23 February 2007. The POD was combined with a Public Meeting later in the day. The POD started at 11:00 and continued until 15:00. The Open Day at Khuma was well attended (57 I&APs) and various impromptu meetings were held during the course of the day if there were enough people present. Most of the issues received revolved around Eskom Distribution issues and not the Transmission Projects that were presented. Eskom representatives who attended the Open Day committed to notifying the Eskom Distribution Representative to help solve these issues. Various people, including councillors who attended the Open Day indicated that the notification period for the Open Day and Public Meeting were too short and also insufficient. They indicated for future meetings that an advertisement must be placed in the Lentswe Newspaper and that a Town-Crier or Loud-Hailer is also used to notify about the meeting. This approach will be used for future meetings in Khuma.

The Open Day at Potchefstroom was attended by various councillors and representatives from government departments, such as the Department of Land Affairs, as well as by landowners who might be affected by the Epsilon substation and the associated turn-ins. The government officials are involved in land claims and land redistribution projects and will therefore be helping to advise the community trusts to negotiate for the servitude compensation.

#### **2.5.6. Public Meetings (PM)**

PMs are an important platform for information assimilation during the consultation process. New issues are recorded and debated. Thus the purpose of the introductory public meetings was to:

- Provide information on the EIA;
- Identify issues and concerns;
- Identify and register I&APs;
- Provide information on the technological alternatives;
- Provide information on the specialists studies that are and will be undertaken;
- Provide information on the PPP;
- Outline the way forward in terms of the process.

Three PMs were held – two in Khuma (on 22 February 2007 and 13 March 2007) and one in Potchefstroom on 23 February 2007. The PM was combined with the POD and started at 16:00 in the afternoon. The reason for starting at this time was to accommodate any working I&APs and also to accommodate any I&APs who do not want to travel at night.

Two additional PMs were held on 11 June 2009 at Potchefstroom at 10:00 and Klerksdorp at 16:00 after the new alternative sites for the proposed substation were identified.

The following was done to invite I&APs to the PM and POD.

For the first three PMs, letters were posted to 306 registered I&AP's, including municipality officials, ward councillors, school principals, various government department officials, chairmen of farmers associations, various individual landowners. Emails were sent to 67 registered I&AP's – this was sent a week before the public meetings and open days as reminder to people of the meetings. For the two PMs on 11 June 2009, 121 e-mails were sent and 443 letters were posted to I&APs, inviting them to the PMs and including an Executive Summary of the project. Included are municipality officials, ward councillors, various government department officials, Transnet, chairmen of farmers associations and various individual landowners. Also included were the Department of Land Affairs, Potchefstroom City Council, Potchefstroom Tourism, Centre for Environmental Management, Klerksdorp Tourism and Invest North-West.

Telephone calls were also made to various registered I&AP's – these I&APs were phoned a couple of days before the meetings and sms's were sent to other I&APs, reminding them to attend the PMs and to invite neighbouring landowners. Included is: Potchefstroom Tourism, Bult Sakeforum, Potchefstroom Business Association, Birdlife Potchefstroom, Mag Safari's, chairmen of farmers associations, Department of Land Affairs, Transnet, various landowners,

including landowners on whose properties Epsilon substation can be, all from Khuma and surrounding areas.

The PM at Khuma was cancelled at 12:00 the afternoon. The reason for the cancellation was that the hall was needed for a Memorial Service and that the community would be attending the Memorial Service. It was arranged that another meeting would be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 at Khuma to ensure that a PM is held in the town. Two presentations were given during the Open Day though as a number of people attended the Open Day.

The first PM at Potchefstroom was not held due to insufficient attendance by members of the Public. The reason for this is that the meeting was arranged for a Friday afternoon and also that a number of people had attended the Open Day. The consultants arranged another public meeting in Potchefstroom, not combined with an Open Day and not on a Friday after the Scoping Report was made available for public review. Four people attended the public meeting and through general consensus no formal meeting was held, but a presentation and informal discussion was held. No minutes were taken for this meeting. The attendance of the follow up PM at Potchefstroom during June 2009 was considerably better and consisted of mainly landowners of the new alternative proposed sites for the proposed Epsilon substation.

A second public meeting was held at Khuma on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2007. This meeting was announced through a loud hailer using one of the local voluntary community worker and the local municipality facilities (Transport and a hailer). This meeting was very well attended by residents of Khuma. (More than 200 people attended this meeting). Again, the majority of issues related to Eskom Distribution Issues and not the Eskom Transmission projects discussed. Eskom Distribution representatives attended the meeting and addressed the issues that related to their division.

Again only three landowners attended the PM at Klerksdorp on 11 June 2009 and it was agreed upon that no PowerPoint presentation was necessary and all discussions took place around maps, laid out on tables.

The poor attendance at these meetings demonstrates the lack of interest by the public, unless they are directly affected.

#### *Requests for information from Government Departments*

Various government departments were included in the database from the beginning and have received all relevant correspondence relating to the project including the BID, letter and invitation to the public meetings and open days. For a full list of the government departments please refer to the database. Some departments did send representatives to the public meetings. Separate meetings will not be held with these departments, unless requested by them.

Information has been requested from the Department of Land Affairs with regards to properties that have land claims registered against them. From information received from landowners, a number of properties in the Khuma and Potchefstroom area have land claims on them, with some of these land claims finalised and properties handed over to the new owners and some

land claims still outstanding. The consultants need to gain an understanding on these land claims and with whom to consult.

A representative from Land Affairs in Klerksdorp attended the meeting in Potchefstroom and promised his department's assistance in contacting emerging black farmers, as well as information with regards to land claims in this area.

No information has been received to date, but the consultants will continually contact the Department of Land Affairs for assistance in this regard.

#### *On-going communication*

Margen Industrial contact details were provided on all communications. I&APs phoned to register, obtain information and to raise issues. These issues were recorded in the issues register and their details recorded in the database.

### **2.5.7. Meetings with Specialists**

Meetings were held in the Delta-Epsilon study area to afford the landowners and the technical specialists an opportunity of sharing information on the approach and for investigation and issues to consider on the ground.

Though the meeting held on Hessie farm was for Delta-Epsilon project landowners mainly focused on the potential impact of the proposed Epsilon substation on the area.

### **2.5.8. PPP activities relating to the review period of the DSR**

The review period was from 22 May 2009 to 22 June 2009. During the review period of the Draft Scoping Report the stakeholders were offered opportunities to raise issues of concern and comments regarding the proposed substation and associated power lines and the potential impacts identified in the Draft Scoping Report. The process that will be followed for public consultation in the EIA Phase is outlined in the updated Plan of Study for EIA.

Only one written comment was received on 21 June 2009 from the landowners of the new proposed sites. A response on the queries is included in the Comments and Responses Report.

The following activities were undertaken during the review period:

- Issues, comments and responses gathered during the scoping phase were integrated into the Draft Scoping Report that was made available to the public for review (22 May 2009 to 22 June 2009). The objective of the review was to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the findings of the study team and to verify whether their issues and comments were properly captured and considered in the study.
- Two meetings were held on the 11 June 2009 to present findings of the scoping phase at Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp. The Minutes of Meetings held during the public review period are included in Annexure 7.

- Please note that the attendance registers for mentioned meetings are only included in the report submitted to the Authorities due to the attendance registers containing confidential information regarding landowners.

### **2.5.9. Additional PPP activities in the EIA phase**

In addition to the activities outlined in the plan of study for EIA, the following will apply:

- The availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be advertised in local newspapers.
- PM and FGM will be held in the study area.
- Identified stakeholders will be consulted with again
- All registered I&APs will be notified of the dates and venue where to review the DEIR
- Electronic copies of the DEIR shall be available on CD, on request as well as published on the Eskom website ([www.eskom.co.za/eia](http://www.eskom.co.za/eia)).
- Hard copies of the DEIR will be placed at information points which will also be advertised
- DEIR will be updated with comments before submitting to authorities
- Copies of DEIR will be made available to provincial authorities
- FEIR will be made available and will be advised to comment to DEAT
- Stakeholders will be notified about the Authority's decision
- There will be a 30-day appeal period and stakeholders will be notified about the appeal process

### **2.6. COMMENTS & ISSUES RAISED**

Comments and Issues raised during this phase of the project were recorded and responded to in the Comment & Response Report (see Annexure 8).

Some of the key issues raised were:

- The loss of prime agricultural lands;
- The impact of the proposed substation on the Highveld National Park and associated developments in the area;
- Health impacts (EMFs) associated with electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure;
- Noise impacts;
- Influx of people and additional infrastructure associated with encroaching people;
- Size of the substation and associated turn-ins is too big (4Km<sup>2</sup>)
- The lack of alternative sites for the proposed Epsilon substation.

- Planned development of a new tailings dam near some of the site alternatives.
- Preliminary site selection process.

All Written Comments, received during the extended scoping phase were captured and responded to in the Written Comments & Responses Annexure (see Annexure 8).

## 2.7. REVIEW OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The structure of Public Participation Process in terms of objectives, responsibilities (of stakeholders and consultants) and deliverables for the extended study stays the same as was outlined in the report for the first three sites.

The summary of PPP activities undertaken during the extended study is as indicated in the table 9 below:

**Table 3:** Summary of PPP Activities

Date	Activity	Participant / Target
2008-06-00	Letter to the Authorities, notifying them of alternative proposed sites for the substation	Consultant Authorities (DEAT)
2008-06-30	Reconnaissance site visit & Stakeholder Identification & Project announcement to the public	Consultant I&APs
2008-07-22	Notification of alternative proposed sites for the substation	Newly identified landowners
2008-07-31	Focus Group Meetings farm Hessie	General Public I&APs
2008-07-31	Focus Group Meetings farm Kromdraai	General Public I&APs
2008-08-26	Focus Group Meeting with the Barolong CPA	CPA members
2008-08-11	Sent out Minutes of Meetings (Annexure 7)	All meeting attendees
2008-08-11	Distribution of Newsletter (Edition 1)	I&APs
2008-08-28	Notification of alternative proposed sites for the substation	I&APs
2008-11-12	Distribution of Newsletter (Edition 2)	I&APs
2008-11-17	Letter informing landowners about specialist studies	I&APs
2009-05-26	Distribute hard copies of DSR to public libraries and electronic versions on CDs to landowners	General Public & Landowners
2009-06-05	e-mail invitations to attend PM	I&APs

Date	Activity	Participant / Target
2009-06-05	Distribution of Executive Summary (e-mail & post)	I&APs
2009-07-17	Sent out Minutes of Meetings	All meeting attendees
Ongoing	Database management (see Annexure 1)	Consultant

## 2.8. CONCLUSION

Based on the inputs received during the Public Participation Process conducted so far, the PPP team is confident that all reasonable efforts were made to inform the public in the study area about the Project and about the additional alternative proposed sites for the proposed substation. The consultation process is considered to have managed to give the public, especially the landowners ample opportunity to raise issues of concern, which they might have regarding the proposed substation and associated power lines. Mainly the concerns have been about compensation, job creation and the loss of agricultural land.

Consultation and/or communication with stakeholders and I&APs is ongoing throughout the project. Any information that they request is captured in the database and forwarded to them. In addition, information regarding the project, Environmental Impact Assessment process and the Record of Authorization (RoA) will be communicated to all I&APs.

## 2.9. WAY FORWARD

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for EIA is submitted to the Authorities for a decision. Copies of the FSR will be placed at information points identified for information purposes and stakeholders are advised to comment directly to DEAT on the FSR. Electronic copies of the FSR will also be available to I&APs, on request. I&APs will be notified about the Authority's decision and the start of the next phase of the project (EIA phase).

**ANNEXURE 1: I&APs DATABASE**

**ANNEXURE 2: COPY OF INVITATION LETTER**

**ANNEXURE 3: CONSENT LETTERS FROM LANDOWNERS**

**ANNEXURE 4 : COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT**

**ANNEXURE 5: COPY OF FLYER**

**ANNEXURE 6: COPY OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**ANNEXURE 7: MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**ANNEXURE 8: COMMENTS AND RESPONSE DOCUMENT**