

MINUTES OF A CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE STUDY TEAM, HERITAGE PARK AND NW DACE: ESKOM TRANSMISSION 6 X 765KV DELTA – EPSILON POWER LINES

Date: 18 April 2007

Venue: NWPTB Board room, Heritage House, Cookes Lake, Mafikeng

Time: 14H00

In Attendance

1. MARGEN INDUSTRIAL SERVICES
 - Mr. Moses Mahlangu
2. PBAI
 - Ms Jean Beater
3. Eskom
 - Ms Mmamoloko Seabe
 - Ms Joyce Mashiteng
 - Ms Nonkululeko Khumalo
 - Ms Mamokete Mafumo
 - Mr. Koos van der Merwe
 - Mr. Mfundu Songo
4. NW PARKS & TOURISM BOARD
 - Mr. Charles Vuyisile Ndabeni (CEO)
 - Mr. Willie Boonzaaier
 - Ms Maretha Shroyer
 -
5. NW DACE
 - Mr. Letlhohonolo Gaborone

ITEM	PRESENTATION
1. Introduction and Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting was chaired by <u>Mr. Charles Vuyisile Ndabeni</u> ▪ He opened the Meeting by welcoming everyone present & requested that each member present introduced himself/herself
2. Objectives of the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ndabeni explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed Eskom Transmission project which had the potential of impacting on the North West Heritage Park that is planned between Pilanesburg and the Madikwe Game Reserve. <p>Mr. Ndabeni called for members to contribute to the discussion bearing in mind that the NW Heritage Park was faced with the challenge of establishing a heritage park that is expected to contribute to the eco-tourism industry. It must also be accepted that Eskom is faced with the challenge of meeting the energy requirements of the country. The two challenges can be met if the discussion for the day and the way forward can come up with proposals that will allow the co-existence of the two projects in the same area.</p>
3. Project Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Mfundu Songo explained the motivation behind Eskom Transmission Power lines that are planned to integrate the new Medupi Power Station near Lephalale and the Mmamabula Power Station (in Botswana). The six 765kV lines form part of the proposed integration system.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Jean Beater explained the EIA approach and the proposed alternative corridors being investigated in the defined study area. She also explained that the proposed Matimba B – Dinaledi/Marang lines passes north of Lebatlane Community Game Reserve. ▪ Mr. Willie Boonzaaier gave a short presentation on the Heritage Park and the progress made in establishing this park. He pointed out sensitive areas that are considered ‘no go’ areas. Areas with possibilities of taking the lines through were discussed.
<p>4. Open Discussion</p>	<p><u>The following questions and responses were raised:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ndabeni: Asked for confirmation of the number of lines proposed and the separation distance. [<i>It was confirmed that six 765kV lines are proposed in three corridors that will have a minimum separation of 2km or six lines in one corridor with the minimum separation distance of 2km still in place.</i>] ▪ Mr. Boonzaaier: Is it confirmed that the Marang/Dinaledi lines do not go through the Lebatlane Game Reserve? [<i>Ms Beater responded to say that to the best of her knowledge the lines avoid the reserve</i>] ▪ Ms Shroyer Are the three Marang/Dinaledi lines avoiding the Vaalkop Dam? [<i>Using the map Ms Beater explained that the lines go on either side of the dam hence avoiding the dam</i>]. ▪ Ms Beater: Will the NW P&TB accept the idea of putting the six lines in one industrial corridor? [<i>Mr. Boonzaaier commented that this option will be preferred but the problem will be through which farms will be such a wide corridor be placed. The communities that own affected farms may feel excluded from participating in the Heritage Park</i>]. ▪ Ms Beater: Asked as to how the Heritage Park will treat other linear developments. [<i>Mr. Boonzaaier explained that presently the existing infrastructures are not conspicuous and visible. The roads that are already in the park are going to be used to access the area</i>]. ▪ Ms Beater: At what phase of development is the Heritage Park project? [<i>It was explained that the project idea was conceived in the late 1990s and the project received a go ahead two years back and the approach is that the whole development will start from some nodal points in the park</i>] ▪ Mr. Ndabeni: What is the target date for construction of these lines? [<i>Ms Seabe stated that the first line must be completed by the end of 2011</i>]. ▪ Mr. Boonzaaier: Commented that Kgosi Pilane asked him to convey his message to the study team that the lines will not be allowed to compromise the Bakgatla project and Eskom must be prepared to negotiate for the payment of the servitude for the existing lines that were never compensated for. ▪ Ms Beater: What is the status of the Heritage Park? [<i>The park is not yet proclaimed since most of the farms are still communal land and other farms are privately owned with some land claims. The Department of Land Affairs is considered a facilitator that advises different communities on how to participate</i>] ▪ Mr. Van der Merwe: Wanted to know the different categories of landowner; viz. if it was private landowners;

	<p>communal; state or mines? [<i>Landownership in the farms earmarked for the Heritage Park differs from farm to farm but it is mainly Department of Land Affairs, communal or tribal land and some private land.</i>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Shroyer: Requested the study team consider putting the lines close to developed areas or existing infrastructures such as pipe lines, roads or railway lines and that a site visit was preferred to show the study team the area under discussion. [<i>Ms Seabe commented that Eskom would prefer a route that is close to developed area. If the input from members of the Heritage Park also favors such alignment then it will be advisable to look at undertaking a site visit to get to know the area better in terms settlements/villages. Mr. Boonzaaier used the map to show where the corridors can be placed through the Heritage Park, especially through the central part of the study area near Mabeskraal.</i>]
5. Proposals for Consideration on the Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ndabeni suggested that the discussions of the day be concluded by proposing areas that can be investigated for taking the lines through the Heritage Park. Three strips through the areas were named: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dwaalboom – Mabeskraal – Mabelstad Dwaalboom – PPC – Gansvley/Vogelstruisdraai Farms The area along the northern borders of Pilanesburg and close to the villages and infrastructures (roads or existing Eskom power lines) along the western border of Pilanesburg. Mr. Songo wanted to know the average distance through the park for the proposed line? [<i>It is estimated to 12km</i>]. M. Koos van der Merwe requested that the Heritage Park officials accompany the team of consultants and Eskom on the site visit. Ms Mamokete Mafumo was asked to arrange for flight and site visit within a month period (on or before 18 May 2007). Site visit will include representatives from the Provincial Department of Land Affairs, Land Restitution Commission, North West Parks & Tourism Board (CEO), Bakgatla Ba-Kgafela Traditional Council (Kgosi Pilane), Eskom and Consultants.

CORRECTIONS, COMMENTS AND ADDITIONS

The minutes were circulated amongst the attendees of the Focus Group Meeting and the comments and additions received are:

From Mr. Willie Boonzaaier:

I have read the minutes.

- Check spelling of Pilanesberg throughout the document
- Under point 4 “open discussion”: I did not merely say that Kgosi Pilane asked me to convey his request that “..., Eskom must be prepared to negotiate for the payment of the servitude for the existing lines ...”. I specifically mentioned that he said that contracts for existing lines, the registration of servitudes as well as compensation were not yet finalized.
- Under point 4 “open discussion”: I do not recall that it was said that “... other farms were private farms with land claims ...”. What was said is that certain properties were affected by land claims and others were earmarked for land redistribution programmes. Therefore; negotiations for incorporation of those properties could therefore only be commenced quite recently.

- Under point 4 “open discussion” – last comment: Make sure to record the fact that it was stressed that the options for transecting the Heritage Park as indicated on the map during the meeting was only to be considered if there was no way of going around the east of Lebatlane and Pilanesberg. It did not comply giving consent to go through the Heritage Park.
- Under point 5: Spelling of Mabaalstad
- Under point 5: Spelling of “northern borders’

From Ms Mmamoloko Seabe:

- I am happy with the minutes.

From Ms Jean Beater:

- Comments, corrections and additions from Ms Beater were added directly to the text of the minutes.