

HYDRA – PERSEUS 765KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINES ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT

ISSUES AND RESPONSE REPORT (MAY 2006)

The various sources of the comments contained in this Issues Report include:

- ***Records of key stakeholder and public workshop and focus group meetings; and***
- ***Comments received by fax, e-mail and mail.***

All comments received from I&APs as part of the Scoping process have been categorised as follows:

NO	CATEGORY
1	Tourism related issues
2	Agriculture and farming operations
3	Ecological impacts and biodiversity conservation
4	Cultural heritage resource management
5	Social and socio-economic issues
6	Land tenure and compensation
7 (a)	Project alternatives - alternative power line corridors
7 (b)	Project alternatives - alternative power sources
8	Technical issues
9 (a)	EIA Process – technical
9 (b)	EIA Process - public participation
10	Eskom Distribution queries
11	Job creation and economic opportunities
12	Other queries and comments

1. The project team has tried to reflect as accurately as possible, the issues raised by I&APs. Should you feel that your issues are not accurately captured or have been placed under the incorrect category, please contact the Public Participation Office.

2. "Unidentified stakeholders" refer largely to persons who attended meetings and verbally raised issues without the project team managing to capture their name. This in no way diminishes the value of the issue raised. Should you recognise your issue and would like to have your name recorded next to it, please contact the Public Participation Office.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
1. Tourism-related issues		
Mr Etienne de Villiers Brandvlei Boerdery BK	We have recently spent a great deal of money to redo the fences, roads, water points and guesthouse. The seclusion of the farm, the open savannah with Camelthorn trees and the surrounding koppies make for a very special experience to visitors. Power lines will destroy the ambiance and threaten the financial viability of the enterprise.	Concerns raised as well as the position of the farm have been noted. The study team will attempt to minimize the potential impacts on both the ecology and aesthetics of the study area. The corridor(s) with the least potential environmental impacts will be taken forward for more detailed investigations in the Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA. Should the significance of the potential impacts warrant, detailed visual/aesthetic, ecological and heritage resources specialist studies will be undertaken to assess the specific impacts of the proposed transmission lines and associated infrastructure within the preferred corridor(s). The results of these studies will be made available to all stakeholders for their comment.
Mr Julius Koen Dept of Tourism, Environment & Conservation: Northern Cape	Aesthetics.	A specialist visual impact assessment was undertaken during the Scoping Phase of the EIA. Please refer to Section 5.2.2 of the Environmental Scoping Report.
Prof Gerhard Verdoorn Birdlife South Africa	Negative visual impact.	A specialist visual impact assessment was undertaken during the Scoping Phase of the EIA. Please refer to Sections 5.2.2 of the Environmental Scoping Report.
Mr Hendrik Strydom	Besides visual impacts what other negative impacts will a 765kV line have on the environment?	Impacts (positive and negative) identified during Scoping are presented in Section 7 of the Environmental Scoping Report.
Mr Anboe Diokpala Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Alignment of power lines, and their impact on the aesthetic quality of the landscape.	A specialist visual/aesthetic impact assessment was undertaken during the Scoping Phase of the EIA. Please refer to Section 5.2.2 of the Environmental Scoping Report.
Mrs Sandra Hedges Dept of Tourism, Environment & Conservation	Long term plans for expanding nature conservation area between Rolfontein and Doornfontein Nature Reserves. Possible consolidation. Lines anywhere in this area would have a negative affect.	Noted. Rolfontein and Doornkloof Nature Reserves have been considered during the preliminary identification of alternative power line corridors.
2. Agriculture and farming operations		
Mr Jack Webb Platkop Farm 1069 Rooidam 406 Vleiplaats 1595	The ground along the river is the most valuable ground for agricultural activities as the area is relatively dry.	Comment noted. The specialists will consider the location of high potential agricultural land in the planning of the final alignment of the power lines and these areas will be avoided as far as possible.
Mr Buks Roets Dept of Tourism, Environmental & Economic Affairs	What is the impact of electromagnetic fields on plants?	There is no conclusive evidence regarding the impact of electromagnetic fields on plants. However Eskom receives updates on various research studies that are conducted.

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Mr Etienne de Villiers Brandvlei Boerdery BK	Brandvallei 242 is the only farm in the area with a natural Blinkblaar-Wag-'n-Bietjie forest. These trees are extremely important to my Bonsmara stud as the trees do not only protect my calves in the winter against the extreme cold but is also a great food source to sheep and cattle. Clearing this forest for a power line will be disastrous to both the survival of my stock and the natural environment. Sterkfontein 113 is a game farm. Sterkfontein 113 already has an Eskom line that crosses the one corner of the farm.	Concerns raised as well as the position of the game farm have been noted. The study team will attempt to minimize the potential impacts on both the ecology and socio-economic activities currently undertaken within the study area. The corridor(s) with the least potential environmental impacts will be taken forward for more detailed investigations in the Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA. Should the significance of the potential impacts warrant, detailed visual/aesthetic, ecological, socio-economic and heritage resources specialist studies will be undertaken to assess the specific impacts of the proposed transmission lines and associated infrastructure within the preferred corridor(s). The results of these studies will be made available to all stakeholders for their comment. Noted. All identified farms have been marked on the study area maps as part of the landowner identification process.
Mrs Ronella de Villiers	Adequate consultation between construction teams and farm owners should take place to prevent misunderstandings.	Construction companies/teams are required to adhere to all conditions stated in the agreement signed between Eskom and the Contractor. This contract also contains landowner specifications. ECO will be appointed by Eskom to ensure communication between Eskom, landowners and contractors.
Mr Piet Kruger Dept of Agriculture	3000 ha irrigation development planned around Oppermans, Koffiefontein, Luckhoff and Jacobsdal area.	Noted.
Mr Loffie Myburgh	The agricultural activities in the area, specifically Petrusburg (not Petrusberg as in the pamphlet), are dryland agriculture, irrigation agriculture and livestock farming. The impact of the proposed line will therefore differ, depending on whether it runs through dryland, irrigation or grazing areas. This information is not known to us, since the affected farms are not known.	Noted. The alternative power line corridors identified during the Scoping Phase of the EIA are up to 5km wide and all landowners within the corridor are identified and invited to participate in the study. A landowner identification process runs throughout the EIA although concentrated during the initial phases of Scoping. Subsequently, a Focus Group Meeting was held with potentially affected members of Petrusburg Landbou and Perdeberg Boerevereniging on 15 March 2006.

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Mr Etienne van der Walt	Please take Private Game Farming into consideration and not only game reserves such as Rolfontein.	The study team will attempt to minimize the potential impacts on both the socio-economic activities (e.g. game farming) currently undertaken within the study area. The corridor(s) with the least potential environmental impacts will be taken forward for more detailed investigations in the Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA. Should the significance of the potential impacts warrant, a detailed socio-economic specialist study will be undertaken to assess the specific impacts of the proposed transmission lines and associated infrastructure within the preferred corridor(s). The results of this study (and others) will be made available to all stakeholders for their comment.
Mr Benjamin Venter	Permission should be obtained from each landowner.	Construction of a power line is preceded by negotiations with affected landowners. Before the commencement of construction, Eskom also consult landowners to discuss the location of access gates within the servitude. Therefore, consultation with landowners is an important aspect of transmission power line construction.
Mr JD du Toit Farmer	Notify landowners of visits to their farms – you are welcome.	The Environmental Control Officer and Contractor will liaise with landowners for access prior to entering the property.
Mr Phumulani Manzi Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Compensation of landowners for the erection of Eskom Transmission Power Lines.	Eskom pays 100% value of the land for veld, cropping, grazing, etc. Therefore Eskom compensates the value of the servitude width. Eskom does not take ownership of the land. Eskom only acquires the servitude right. If buildings have to be moved, Eskom gets a valuator to calculate the actual value to be paid to the owner. Compensation rates also take into account cases where a landowner cannot utilise his land due to fire hazards, falling trees, etc.
Mr Pieter Rossouw Department of Water Affairs and Forestry – Vanderkloof Dam	There is an important development for economic and agricultural use in the Jacobsdal area. This needs to be taken into consideration. It consists of a large number of hectares that are earmarked for agricultural development.	Noted. This information will be submitted to specialists dealing with land use.
Mr Jurgens van den Heever Phillipstown Boerevereniging	Erosion control. Provision of water during construction.	Aspects such as the minimisation of erosion and provision of water (including potable water) will be covered in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Construction and Operation phases of the proposed project. The Contractor(s) (construction and maintenance) will be contractually obliged to adhere to the specifications contained within the EMP. Eskom will appoint an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to oversee the implementation of the EMPs.

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Mr Abraham van Zyl Vanderkloof Boerevereniging	Landowner issues range from construction camps, potential theft of game and livestock. Will these issues be taken into consideration when negotiating with landowners? Security issues associated with the construction camps and potential theft during construction requires reasonable action. The negotiation process is important for landowners.	Eskom emphasizes all landowner specifications to the contractor, i.e. all special conditions that need to be taken into consideration. There will also be clauses in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which aim to deal with these issues.
Mr Francois Taljaard Emthanjeni Local Municipality	Restrictions on the 80m servitude - are you allowed to drill for water within an 80-metre servitude? What if the only source for water is groundwater and is within the 80m servitude?	Drilling for water is not allowed. The power line could be aligned in order to avoid the area of concern.
Mr Piet Kruger Dept of Agriculture, Koffiefontein	Koffiefontein and Jacobsdal require power for agricultural developments. It would be worthwhile to convene a meeting with Eskom in order to discuss the electrical needs of the agricultural sector within their area of operation.	Comment noted. This information will be passed on to Eskom Distribution for their attention.
Mr Casper Badenhorst Taaiboschdraai, Petrusville	How can a landowner be assured that bad behaviour will not be accepted on his farm? Can a landowner obtain proof from Eskom that should all requirements not be met during construction, a landowner will be compensated accordingly?	The agreement between Eskom and the landowner becomes written proof of the 'Terms of Agreement'. All specifications within the agreement need to be adhered to by Eskom. Eskom also appoints an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) who is on site daily during the construction period. At the end of construction, a landowner is expected to "sign off the servitude documentation". In this document, a landowner needs to indicate if he is happy with the work that has been undertaken within his property. A landowner concerned is not expected to sign off the documents if there are still outstanding issues.
Mr WC Venter W N G Boerdery	There are center pivots (irrigation) along the Modder river. I would like to know whether it will affect me.	All landowners within the alternative corridors are considered potentially affected. The final alignment of the power line can only be determined during the servitude negotiation process with individual landowners. Power line design will accommodate existing center pivot irrigation.
Mr Piet Kruger Department of Agriculture, Koffiefontein	In terms of centre pivots of the individual farmers, what are the limits of towers regarding the 400m radius of centre pivots?	Towers can expand or be reduced to the minimum or maximum diameter. They can deviate slightly to avoid the pivot.
A stakeholder*	Can a farmer still irrigate with a centre pivot under the power line?	Yes, farmers can still irrigate.

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Mr Casper Badenhorst Taaiboschdraai, Petrusville	Eskom needs to consider areas where there are existing centre pivots and avoid placement of towers. Consider placement of towers with regards to centre pivots.	Noted. This will also depend on the costs associated with the relocation of centre pivots vs costs associated with the realignment of towers. Noted.
Mr Abraham van Zyl Vanderkloof Boerevereniging	In terms of centre pivots, the highest point of centre pivots when not controlled can be 6 or 7m high. What is the clearance between the centre pivot and the lowest point of the line? Is there a safe distance or clearance height as the fountain can be a danger to the power line?	Eskom will take the clearance height into consideration during the design of the 765kV Transmission Power Line. Currently, 14m – 15m is the clearance distance which can extend up to 20m. Mr Abraham van Zyl should provide details of the dimensions, size and length required for the centre pivots when controlled and uncontrolled to Mr Jose Diez Serano. Information can be submitted via the Public Participation Office.
Mr Piet Kruger Soil Conservation/Landcare Dept of Agriculture	The routes that the line will follow must consider the future irrigation development under pivot systems of 3000 ha for PDI farmers in Xhariep District (Oppermans, Koffiefontein, Luckhoff and Jacobsdal) and sensitive erodable areas next to the Rietrivier banks.	Noted.
Mr IS Weideman Lemoenspruit	What is the impact of transmission power lines on livestock and plants? The effect of electromagnetic fields (EMF's) on livestock and plants.	Research internationally is ongoing, however at this stage it has been found that power lines have no effect on plants and animals. There are specific EMF limits to which Eskom has to adhere and these are based on international standards. See study in EIR.
Mr Jacobus van den Berg Tafelkop Farm	What is the effect of Electro Magnetic Fields on animals	Extensive studies have been done on the potential effect of EMFs on livestock and no impact has yet been identified. Eskom receives updates on the latest developments about EMFs.
Mr Kobie du Toit Farmer	Damage caused by vehicles in the veld during wet periods.	The Environmental Management Plan (Construction and Operational phase) will include a specification that covers vehicular traffic within the power line servitude. The Contractor(s) (construction and maintenance) will be contractually obliged to adhere to the specifications contained within the EMP. Eskom will appoint an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to oversee the implementation of the EMPs.
Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	Can a landowner continue to farm within a section of the servitude or under the power line? Eskom should build a gate for access to the servitude area.	It depends on the type of farming. As an example, a farmer can continue to plant maize under a transmission power line. In the case of trees and sugar cane, a farmer cannot continue to plant due to fire hazards and falling trees. Before the commencement of construction, Eskom puts in access gates. This is done in consultation with landowners.

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Oppermans Gemeenskaaplike Eindomme	How safe are animals during the construction period?	An Environmental Management Plan for the power line construction has specifications regarding protection of animals during construction. The Contractor(s) (construction and maintenance) will be contractually obliged to adhere to the specifications contained within the EMP. Eskom will appoint an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to oversee the implementation of the EMPs.
A stakeholder Petrusburg & Perdeberg Landbou	What is the effect of Electro Magnetic Fields (EMFs) on animals? It is perceived that EMFs affect lambs.	Extensive studies have been done on the potential effect of EMFs on livestock and no impact has yet been identified. Eskom receives updates on the latest developments about EMFs. There is a study being undertaken by Independent Specialists investigating the perceived effect of EMFs on animals. The findings of this study should be available before the completion of the EIA study.
Mr Deon Calitz Winkelhaak Farm Petrusburg Landbou	The contractors leave gates open and this is a huge problem for farmers as it disrupts farming activities. Contractors are extremely negligent and this includes contractors cutting down trees within farms.	Eskom emphasises all landowner specifications to the contractor, i.e. all special conditions that need to be taken into consideration. There will also be clauses in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which aim to deal with these issues.
Mr Pretorius Bezuidenhout Rykoppies Farm Perdeberg Boerevereniging	During construction of a transmission power line, are the contractors restricted to the servitude area or can they move within the adjacent farming areas?	Contractors would be limited to a reasonable working area. For a 765kV line, the working area at tower position is approx. 100x50m. Contractor is limited to agreed access and the servitude area under the line. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is drawn up for the construction and maintenance phases. This EMP is given to the contractor as part of the agreement. The EMP specifies requirements of the landowners and the contractor needs to adhere to these specifications. If the contractor does not adhere to these specifications, the landowner has a right to report the contractor to the Environmental Control Officer who is on site during the construction period.

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Mr Chris Volschenk	His farm is a relatively small piece of land and already has an existing power line. Should Eskom construct another power line on his farm, this will render his farm non-viable economically. The size of the farms needs to be considered, as the impacts can be significantly higher for smaller farms.	Concern raised has been noted. The study team will attempt to minimize the potential impacts on the economic viability of farms within the study area. The corridor(s) with the least potential environmental impacts will be taken forward for more detailed investigations in the Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA. Should the significance of the potential impacts warrant, a detailed economic specialist study will be undertaken to assess the specific impacts of the proposed transmission lines and associated infrastructure within the preferred corridor(s). The results of this study (and others) will be made available to all stakeholders for their comment.
Mr Pretorius Bezuidenhout	Everything sounds fine for now, i.e. during the EIA study. However, once the contractors begin their construction work, everything becomes different, as the contractors do not adhere to the stipulated conditions.	<p>During negotiations with affected landowners, landowner conditions form part of the agreement. A landowner has an opportunity to state his special conditions as part of the contract. The farmers' special conditions and specifications should be adhered to. Eskom/contractor cannot 'do as they like'; they have to continuously strive to maintain a good relationship between farmers/landowners and Eskom.</p> <p>The agreement between Eskom and the landowner becomes written proof of the 'Terms of Agreement'. Therefore, all specifications within the agreement need to be adhered to by Eskom.</p> <p>After the finalisation of servitude negotiations, landowners will be provided with contact details of the Site Inspector as well as the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). During the construction phase, the Site Inspector and the ECO will be on site every day and this will ensure that landowners are able to contact them should a need arise.</p> <p>At the end of construction, a landowner is expected to "sign off the servitude documentation". In this document, a landowner needs to indicate if he is happy with the work that has been undertaken within his property. A landowner is not expected to sign off the documents if there are still outstanding issues.</p>

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<p>Mr Sarel Dippenaar Boshof – Suid Boerevereniging & Bethel Farm</p>	<p>Erosion problems within farms. Problems with unauthorised vehicles on farms.</p>	<p>Eskom emphasises all landowner specifications to the Contractor(s), i.e. all special conditions that need to be taken into consideration. In addition, there will also be clauses in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which aim to deal with these issues. The Contractor(s) (construction and maintenance) will be contractually obliged to adhere to the specifications contained within the EMP. Eskom will appoint an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to oversee the implementation of the EMPs</p> <p>The issues raised are understood to be management, maintenance and operations related. They do not have a direct bearing on this EIA study. However, there is a concern that unless the issues are addressed, any new line will generate similar problems with associated environmental impacts. This matter is addressed in more detail in Section 7.</p> <p>1. Preventing erosion on a new line:</p> <p>The construction of a new line requires access to tower positions by excavating equipment as well as concrete trucks for the pouring of foundations as well as cranes for the erection of the tower. The planning of access roads is done during the EIA and before construction and is managed by means of the management plan. Any erosion that was not prevented by means of these actions will be repaired at the end of construction.</p> <p>2. Existing erosion</p> <p>The causes of erosion are numerous and include overgrazing, above average rain, alteration of drainage patterns etc. Certain soils are also more erodable than others. Eskom will maintain its access roads in such a manner that it does not erode. Eskom will also bear its pro-rata responsibility for the repair of any erosion that occurs under its lines.</p> <p>3. Unauthorised entry:</p> <p>Any reported unauthorised entry will be fully investigated and acted upon according to circumstances.</p>

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3. Ecological impacts and biodiversity conservation		
Ms Tania Anderson McGregor Museum	Request copies of the Scoping & EIA Reports for comment on ecological issues.	Noted. The Public Participation Consultant will make these reports available for your comment.
Mr Mark D Anderson Dept of Tourism, Environment & Conservation: Northern Cape	Hazardous sections of power lines must be marked to prevent bird collisions.	It is Eskom's practice to mark transmission power lines using different kinds of flappers in order to prevent bird collisions. A specialist avi-fauna study will be undertaken during the Impact Assessment Phase. This will influence the selection of the preferred power line corridor.
Mr Kobus de Villiers	There are rare game species and their habitat is on Routes 3 and 4 in the Renosterberg/Petrusville District.	Noted.
Mr Martinus Steffhanus Bredenkamp Landowner	Should the proposed power line cross my farm, there must be as little as possible disturbance to the natural environment please.	Noted. Landowner specifications will be discussed with individual landowners during the negotiation process. In addition, during the construction phase, the Site Inspector and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) will be on site daily to monitor the construction process and to deal with issues that may arise, this includes disturbance to the natural environment.
Mr Etienne de Villiers Brandvlei Boerdery BK	The endangered Cape Vulture also frequents the koppies; your power lines will threaten the existence of these birds as well as other birds such as Blue Cranes and Secretary Birds.	This information has been forwarded to Mr Chris van Rooyen of Endangered Wildlife Trust who is an avi-fauna specialist.
Mrs Ronella de Villiers	If the line runs along or across hills or koppies, sufficient erosion measures should be built to prevent and minimise erosion. Everything possible should be put in place to prevent any damage to the environment, because in our climatic conditions, it takes years for the environment to recover if it is badly damaged.	Noted. Noted.
Mr Julius Koen Dept of Tourism, Environment & Conservation: Northern Cape	Possible Raptor electrocutions Power line collisions - large terrestrial birds Rare plants	A specialist avi-fauna study was undertaken. Please refer to Sections 4.10., 5.2.2., 7.1.9 and 7.2.3. of the Environmental Scoping Report.
Mr Anboe Diokpala Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Monitoring – Eskom to explain what monitoring mechanisms will be in place, after construction, especially where power lines cross water-bodies.	Monitoring mechanisms will be explored and included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which will be part of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

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Mr Hendrik Strydom	The removal and rehabilitation of plant species that are area specific. Listing all plant and animal types within the proposed area.	Sensitive plant communities will be avoided as far as possible. The removal of any vegetation is limited to that which is absolutely necessary for the power lines and is guided by Eskom's Guideline on Vegetation Management. The specific suitability of this Guideline to this project will be explored in the EIR. Please see the specialist reports on flora and fauna for a list of the possible plant and animal species in the study area.
Prof Gerhard Verdoorn Birdlife South Africa	Large birds of prey population such as Vultures, Eagles Secretary Bird and Jackal Buzzard. Large terrestrial birds such as Storks & Cranes.	This information has been forwarded to Mr Chris van Rooyen of Endangered Wildlife Trust who is an avi-fauna specialist.
Prof Gerhard Verdoorn Birdlife South Africa	Negative impact on drainage lines.	Specialist recommendations and mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize all negative impacts if they cannot be avoided.
Prof Gerhard Verdoorn Birdlife South Africa	Negative impact on wild life.	Specialist recommendations and mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize all negative impacts if they cannot be avoided.
Mr N J Wessels	Eskom should be more environmentally friendly. In June 2004 they placed ant poison at the base of wooden power lines as a termite deterrent, but this killed off a population of meerkats.	Eskom Distribution has been informed. Feedback will be supplied.
Mr Piet Kruger Soil Conservation/Landcare Dept of Agriculture	The routes that the line will follow must consider sensitive erodable areas next to the Rietrivier banks.	Noted.
Mr J D du Toit Farmer	Protect and maintain roads against erosion. Protect fauna and flora.	Eskom should repair any roads they damage during construction or maintenance of the line. In addition, there will also be clauses in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which aim to deal with these issues. The Contractor(s) (construction and maintenance) will be contractually obliged to adhere to the specifications contained within the EMP. Eskom will appoint an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to oversee the implementation of the EMPs Noted.
Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	Effect of the proposed transmission power line on Riet Canal.	Specialist recommendations and mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize all negative impacts if they cannot be avoided.

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Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	Any measures to prevent or minimise erosion during construction or maintenance phases?	<p>Measures on erosion control during construction and maintenance will be provided in the Eskom's Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The EMP ensures that environmental management considerations are implemented throughout the construction phases. The Contractor(s) (construction and maintenance) will be contractually obliged to adhere to the specifications contained within the EMP. Eskom will appoint an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to oversee the implementation of the EMPs</p> <p>4. Preventing erosion on a new line:</p> <p>The construction of a new line requires access to tower positions by excavating equipment as well as concrete trucks for the pouring of foundations as well as cranes for the erection of the tower. The planning of access roads is done during the EIA and before construction and is managed by means of the management plan. Any erosion that was not prevented by means of these actions will be repaired at the end of construction.</p> <p>5. Existing erosion</p> <p>The causes of erosion are numerous and include overgrazing, above average rain, alteration of drainage patterns etc. Certain soils are also more erodable than others. Eskom will maintain its access roads in such a manner that they should not erode. Eskom will also bear its pro-rata responsibility for the repair of any erosion that occurs under its lines.</p>
Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	What makes an area sensitive?	<p>There is no standard methodology for the assessment of environmental sensitivity and this would depend on the specialist discipline concerned. The methodology used for each specialist study will be outlined in the specialist reports, which are appended to the Scoping Study.</p>
4. Cultural heritage resource management		
Mr Anboe Diokpala Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Monitoring – Eskom to explain what monitoring mechanisms will be in place, after construction, especially where power lines cross cultural properties.	Audits are undertaken during and post construction. Maintenance EMP will be in place and the power line managed accordingly.
Mr Kobus de Villiers	There is a large archaeological site on alternative routes No 2, 3 and 4 on the farms Jakkalskuil and Ventersdam in the Renosterberg/Petrusville District.	Noted. This information has been submitted to the archaeology specialist.

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Mr Etienne (JE) de Villiers Brandvlei Boerdery	Brandvallei 242 and Sterkfontein 113 form part of a commercial enterprise to protect and market the Anglo Boer War sites (specifically the battle of Paardeberg). Relics of the Anglo Boer War, scattered on the koppies on the farms, as well as war graves are protected, among others, under the Commonwealth War Graves Act 8 of 1992. Since the Royal Horse Artillery traversed the farm, Kelly-Kenny's 9th Division and the Scotts Greys, it will be of special significance to historians from the United Kingdom. Power lines through these historical koppies will be detrimental to this commercial venture, and seriously damage this important historical area, which is part of our national cultural heritage.	Noted.
Judge J P O de Villiers	Relics of the Anglo-Boer War are scattered on both my farm and the farms of my children. Moreover my farm and a section of their farms are being developed as a game and hunting area. A power line of the scope envisaged in your document will seriously jeopardise the cultural heritage of the War, as well as the development of the game farm enterprise.	Noted.
Mr Johan H du Pisani Oorlogsmuseum	The proposed line in Petrusburg area: The Western Alternatives might run through the Perdeberg battlefield. This is one of the sites from the Anglo Boer War in 1900, where there are many graves and historical sites.	Noted. This information has been forwarded to the Archaeology and Heritage Specialist.
Mr Julius Koen Dept of Tourism, Environment & Conservation: Northern Cape	Impact on historical and archaeological sites.	A specialist has been appointed to assess the impact of the proposed transmission power line on historical and archaeological sites. Refer to the Environmental Scoping Report.

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Ms Mary Leslie South African Heritage Resources Agency	<p>SAHRA would like to convey the following stipulations of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) that must be addressed as part of the Scoping process.</p> <p>In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) no heritage resources and graves may be disturbed without a permit. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer, if it is not to find itself in contravention of the legislation, to ensure that the heritage is assessed and that an archaeological and if applicable a palaeontological assessment has been done and that appropriate mitigation has happened.</p> <p>A Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the heritage sites and assess their significances. It will make recommendations (as indicated in Section 38 of the Act) about the process to be followed. For example there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.</p> <p>If any road cutting or disturbance of the country rock or of ancient sediments such as old river gravels is to be undertaken, a palaeontologist must be asked whether or not it is important to assess the area and again provide an Impact Assessment Report.</p> <p>Of course if there are other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or views that require protection, these must also be assessed.</p>	Noted. This information has been submitted to the archaeology and heritage specialist, Mr Albert van Jaarsveld.
Mr AJ van Jaarsveld	Do not endanger bird life.	Noted. Mr Chris van Rooyen of Endangered Wildlife Trust is the appointed avi-fauna specialist and will deal with measures aimed at protecting bird life.
Mr Gabriel Tlhapi South African Heritage Resources Agency	To ensure that the requirements of Section 38 (HIA of the NHRA No 25 of 1999) are considered and adhered to where heritage resources may be affected.	Noted.
Prof Gerhard Verdoorn Birdlife South Africa	Cultural Heritage Sites. Archaeological characteristics in “Karoosupergroup” formations.	Noted. This information has been forwarded to the archaeology and heritage specialist.

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Dr Herman Opperman Vluytjeskraal Aandele Blok	There are many archaeological sites, e.g. engravings along the rivers. He would like to provide a report on the archaeological significance of the koppies located close to the river.	Dr Opperman assisted the Project Team by marking these sites on the 1: 50 000 study area maps. Noted with thanks.
5. Social and socio-economic issues		
Mr AJ van Jaarsveld	No lines close to houses.	The recommended distance is 27.5 metres from the centre point to the edge of the servitude. There are international concerns regarding electro-magnetic fields that could affect the lives of humans. For safety, purposes, Eskom has calculated that the effect of this field would be almost within internationally accepted standards outside of the servitude. Thus, houses must be relocated outside this area. There is no conclusive evidence that this electro-magnetic field is harmful. Eskom however adopts a precautionary principle. Therefore, Eskom prefers to avoid houses and homesteads and the line will be diverted to avoid them if possible. However, if houses have encroached into vacant servitudes, then Eskom will ask the occupants to move.
Mr Michael Adonis Oppermans Besproeing Skema	How will a transmission line affect us? How can we benefit from a transmission power line?	Possible impacts of the proposed transmission lines (positive and negative) identified during Scoping are presented in Section 7 of the Environmental Scoping Report. There are no direct benefits from a transmission power line as it only transmits bulk power. These projects fall under Eskom Transmission who is responsible for building high voltage power lines from 765kV – 220kV. Eskom Transmission only deals with transporting bulk power supply from Generation Stations and large power users via the national network. Transmission lines therefore offer no direct benefits to landowners.
Mr Anboe Diokpala Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Health and safety hazards, e.g. how envisaged leakage of chemicals such as Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls from substation transformers will be disposed of during leakage and replacement.	All PCB spills to be reported to the substation Engineering Assistant (or in the case of a project, the Project Manager). An investigation procedure is then in place. Eskom will report the incident to DWAF. Disposal of equipment (eg capacitor cans) to be disposed of at a licenced facility, approved by DEAT. A certificate to be issued by the facility after disposal. All records (of correspondence, reports, etc) to be kept (requirement by Government).

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr E Higgins Farmer Zwartlaagte	What will the impact of the intensity of magnetic emissions be on human and animals when more power lines are erected alongside existing ones? Against the background of recent asbestos claims, there will definitely need to be a thorough study of the above-mentioned.	Research internationally is ongoing, however at this stage it has been found that power lines have no effect on humans and animals. There are specific EMF limits to which Eskom has to adhere and these are based on international standards. Eskom has commissioned their own specialist study into the biological impact of EMFs which will be included in the EIR.
Mr Hendrik Strydom	Health risks associated with the transmission power line.	Perceived health risks with respect to EMFs have been considered as a possible impact in the Environmental Scoping Report. Eskom has commissioned a specialist study in this respect and a copy of this study will be provided in the EIR.
A stakeholder*	What are the limits for Electromagnetic Fields?	The EMF limits are based on international standards. In addition, the standards for building a power line are set to meet international requirements. The conductor has a specific limit set for rising above the ground. The higher the conductors off the ground, the more the EMF levels are reduced. The servitude of the line is dictated by how much the conductors/line will swing during windy periods. See study in the EIR.
Mr Phumulani Manzi Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Understanding of municipalities, planning for municipalities, IDPs, alignment of Eskom's development plans with the Municipalities IDPs.	Noted. The EIR will also focus on understanding the status and plans of the municipalities within the study area as outlined within their Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). Future developments/plans will also be taken into consideration.
Mr Reggie Sibley Oppermans Community	What job opportunities will be available during construction? Will the Oppermans area benefit?	The construction of a power line requires specialist skills, therefore contractors use their skilled and specialised labour. There are minimal job opportunities available, which are not specialised in nature.
Mr Rudzani Mudau Dept of Minerals and Energy, Northern Cape Regional Office	What are Eskom's corporate social responsibilities after the construction of the power line, i.e. apart from compensation?	Eskom has a Department that deals with social issues. If areas that need attention are brought to Eskom's attention, Eskom takes care of them. Obviously, there is a criterion applied in dealing with the social issues.
Mr H Jacquire Oppermans Gemeenskaaplike Eindomme	The proposed power lines look straight, what about the houses under the lines?	Eskom tries to avoid construction of power lines over houses. For safety purposes, Eskom does not allow people to live under a transmission power line. The recommended distance is 27.5 metres from the centre point of the power line to the edge of the servitude. Thus, houses must be relocated outside this area.

NAME & ORGANISATION		ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Oppermans Eindomme	Gemeenskaplike	<p>How is the Oppermans Community going to be affected by the project?</p> <p>In the Oppermans Community the size of the farms are relatively small and thus the effect will be great if power lines transects the farms.</p>	<p>A social specialist has been appointed to look at the impacts of the proposed power line on communities.</p> <p>An agricultural specialist has been appointed to look at the impact of the proposed power line on land use. This will take into consideration the size of farms and seeks to identify areas that will be least impacted by the proposed power line.</p>
Oppermans Eindomme	Gemeenskaplike	Will there be job opportunities for local communities?	The construction of a power line is highly specialised and therefore requires specialised skills. Employment creation is on a relatively small scale and is limited to bush clearing, trench digging and possibly fencing. Also the contractor determines how much labour he requires from the communities.
Oppermans Eindomme	Gemeenskaplike	Where will the construction camps be located?	The location of the construction camps will be decided upon once the final route alignment has been determined. The location of construction camps will also be done in close consultation with the landowners and local authorities.
Oppermans Eindomme	Gemeenskaplike	Effect of ablutions on ground water and use of chemical toilets in the construction camps.	An Environmental Management Plan for the power line construction has specifications regarding ablutions and toilet facilities for the Contractor's staff during construction. The Contractor(s) (construction and maintenance) will be contractually obliged to adhere to the specifications contained within the EMP. Eskom will appoint an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to oversee the implementation of the EMPs.
Oppermans Eindomme	Gemeenskaplike	What is the effect of electro-magnetic fields on people and animals?	There are international concerns regarding electro-magnetic fields that could affect the health of humans and animals. For safety purposes, the recommended distance is 27.5 metres from the centre point of the power line to the edge of the servitude. Eskom has calculated that the effect of this field would be almost non-existent outside of this servitude. Thus, houses must be relocated outside this area. There is no conclusive evidence that this electro-magnetic field is harmful, however, Eskom adopts a precautionary principle.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
6. Land tenure and compensation		
Mr David Smit Northern Cape Provincial Land Reform Office	<p>Eskom needs to liaise with the Department of Land Affairs regarding the communal land within the Oppermans area under the Letsemeng Local Municipality.</p> <p>The land in Oppermans is owned by the MEC Land Affairs. Therefore permission should be obtained from the MEC before any structures can be erected on the land. Mr Reggie Sibley is the contact person.</p>	<p>Noted, the Public Participation Consultant will ensure that the Department of Land Affairs is involved in the study.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
Mr Willempie Nkuna Rolfontein Nature Reserve, Northern Cape Dept of Tourism, Environment and Conservation	<p>What is Eskom's position regarding the removal and replacement of infrastructure?</p> <p>Will Eskom rebuild the same structure of the same value if Eskom relocates or replaces the structure?</p>	Eskom ensures that they put people in a similar or a much better condition than before. Everything is done in consultation with the affected landowner.
Mr Willempie Nkuna Rolfontein Nature Reserve, Northern Cape Dept of Tourism, Environment and Conservation	<p>It has been mentioned that Eskom will use or stay within existing roads, what happens if the contractor drives off the existing road, will there be a penalty?</p> <p>Enforcement of the Environmental Management Plan and the role of Environmental Control Officer are important and require attention.</p>	During negotiations with affected landowners, landowner conditions form part of the agreement. Therefore a penalty can be established if it forms part of the negotiation process and contract between Eskom and the respective farmer. However and despite the contract/agreement, Eskom should repair any roads they damage during construction or maintenance of the line. Also landowners are expected to 'sign off' repairs for any damage caused during construction before Eskom will let the contractor leave the site. A landowner has an opportunity to state his special conditions as part of the contract. The farmers' special conditions and specifications should be adhered to. Eskom/contractor cannot do as they like; they have to continuously strive to maintain a good relationship between farmers/landowners and Eskom. In addition, the Environmental Management Plan will contain how this should be dealt with.
Mr CJ Heyman Farmer Brandfontein	Compensation to landowners.	Compensation is paid to directly affected land and property owners. See response below.
Mr Jack Webb Platkop Farm 1069 Rooidam 406 Vleiplaats 1595	If the power line crosses a farm, what compensation does Eskom provide to the farmers?	Eskom pays 100% value of the land for veld, cropping, grazing, etc. Eskom compensates the value of the servitude width. Eskom does not take ownership of the land but acquires the servitude right. If buildings have to be moved, Eskom gets a valuator to calculate the actual value to be paid to the landowner. Compensation rates also take into consideration cases where a landowner cannot utilise his land due to fire hazards, falling trees, etc.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr Chris Volschenk	<p>Why does Vodacom pay a large amount of money for one tower and Eskom pays so little for a servitude?</p> <p>Why does Eskom bulldoze over landowners, is it because of government power?</p>	<p>Eskom is not in a position to respond on behalf of Vodacom. However, Eskom pays 100% value of the land for veld, cropping, grazing, etc. Eskom compensates the value of the servitude width.</p> <p>Eskom views landowners as stakeholders and not adversaries in their business. Due to the importance of electricity to the economy, expansion is critical and at times it may be perceived as “government bulldozing” as apposed to the benefit of all SA citizens, taking into account the property rights of all affected landowners.</p>
Mr Jan van der Walt	In terms of compensation, does Eskom only offer a once-off payment to landowners and yet the power line runs through their properties forever?	<p>Eskom offers a once-off payment with interest calculating from the period the contract is signed between Eskom and the landowner.</p> <p>Eskom does not take ownership of the land but acquires the servitude right. Therefore, Eskom pays 100% value of the land for veld, cropping, grazing, etc. Eskom compensates the value of the servitude width.</p>
Mr JN (Kollie) Muller Klippan Farm	Is compensation paid out as cash price only? Are there any other payment methods?	Compensation is only paid in cash through bank transfer or cheque on registration of Eskom's servitude right.
7 (a) Project alternatives - power line corridors		
Mr Etienne de Villiers Brandvlei Boerdery BK	I urge you to consider keeping the line east of the existing green line.	Your preference is noted.
Mrs Ronella de Villiers	The surface on which the power line is built, should be as level as possible.	Noted.
Judge J P O de Villiers	Having perused your document on the proposed power line I find it difficult, if not impossible, to establish the routes of the different corridors. I accessed the map on the Internet but it remains difficult to determine with certainty to what extent it may affect my farm. As far as I can determine from the available map on the Internet, it seems that the power line will cross the farms of my children (Brandvallei BK) as well as my farm in its length and will seriously affect the totality of these farms, which are rectangular in shape.	<p>The Background Information Document only indicated proposed corridors, which are up to 5 km wide. There are no routes or power line alignments in the Scoping phase (power line routes or alignments are established once a preferred corridor has been selected).</p> <p>All feasible corridors will be assessed during the Impact Assessment Phase, with input from relevant authorities, Eskom, affected landowners, the public, other stakeholders and the EIA team, including specialists.</p> <p>Once a preferred corridor has been selected, Eskom Transmission will negotiate an 80 m wide servitude (for each transmission power line) with the affected landowners, and compensation terms will be agreed upon.</p>

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mrs Sandra Hedges Dept of Tourism, Environment & Conservation	Consider re-routing around most sensitive areas by remaining in the West, instead of heading far South East (as per Hanre's presentation).	Your preference of the Western Section of the study area is noted.
Mr C J Landman South African National Roads Agency	<p>The only roads of ours (SANRAL Eastern Region) that will be affected by a power line from Dealesville to De Aar is a crossing of the N8 between Bloemfontein and Kimberley. There are standard requirements for this and once the proposal has proceeded to the stage of design and final route selection we will become involved.</p> <p>We will therefore not attend the stakeholder's workshop as we do not foresee any problem as far as crossing our road is concerned.</p> <p>As previously advised SANRA will only need to be consulted once a final route for the proposed 765 kV transmission line has been chosen and a road which falls under our jurisdiction is to be crossed like the N8 from Bloemfontein to Kimberley. Our Western Region may also be involved in the same manner.</p>	Eskom will liaise with SANRAL once the final proposed power line corridor has been selected, and road crossings identified, in order to carry out standard requirements. Thank you for your co-operation.
Mrs Niti Potgieter	The only request and opinion (and I trust it is also your view) is keep this line as close as possible to existing lines.	Your preference of constructing new power lines next to the existing ones is noted.
Ms Colene Runkel South African National Roads Agency	<p>The only road in the Northern Cape that might be affected by the proposed power line is the N10 near de Aar, which falls under the jurisdiction of SANRAL Western Region.</p> <p>SANRAL will not allow a high voltage power line inside the road reserve. If a road crossing is anticipated, SANRAL will impose conditions in terms of Act 7 of 1998.</p> <p>An application for wayleave approvals needs to be submitted to SANRAL once the final route has been selected.</p>	<p>Eskom will liaise with SANRAL once proposed power line corridor has been selected. Thank you for your co-operation.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>An application for a wayleave will be submitted to SANRAL once the final route has been selected.</p>
Mr Hennie Schoeman Spoornet	Timeous arrangements must be made regarding wayleaves and applications for permits to cross railway lines in the vicinity of Petrusburg (Kimberley - Bloemfontein line) as well as outside De Aar (De Aar - Noupoot line)	Noted. Eskom will liaise with Spoornet regarding wayleaves, permits and any other application relating to crossing Spoornet's infrastructure.
Mr Willempie Nkuna Rolfontein Nature Reserve	Proposed alternative corridors - will there be any that will have a direct impact on the Rolfontein Nature Reserve?	All corridors are proposals at this stage. Eskom avoids going through Nature Reserves, as they are particularly ecologically sensitive. The preliminary findings from the fauna and flora specialists have already suggested that the power line should avoid the Rolfontein Nature Reserve for similar ecological reasons.
Mr Jurgens van den Heever Phillipstown Boerevereniging	Western route would probably be the best as regards to mountainous terrain.	Noted.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr JD du Toit Farmer	Use existing routes where possible.	Noted.
Mr CJ Heyman Farmer Brandfontein	Crossing over other power lines. Terrain across which the power lines run.	Eskom tries to avoid power lines crossing over each other due to problems associated with the maintenance activities, particularly where they undertake live-line maintenance. Also to avoid the risks associated with one line collapsing on another. The terrain where the corridors are proposed is relatively flat with mountainous areas. To some extent, the terrain will influence the selection of the final corridor
Mr Francis Rahlapane Spoornet	Impact of the proposed power line on railway lines. Eskom needs to indicate or include the crossing of railway lines, e.g. building next to the railway lines, etc. Northern Cape and Free State Spoornet Offices should be contacted in this regard.	Noted. Eskom will liaise with Spoornet regarding wayleaves, permits and any other application relating to crossing Spoornet's infrastructure. Noted. The Public Participation Consultant contacted the Northern Cape and Free State Spoornet Offices and input obtained from these offices has been included in this issues report.
Mr Jack Webb Platkop Farm 1069 Rooidam 406 Vleiplaats 1595	The purple and pink alternative corridors (depicted on the maps) are not the best routes as there are a number of sensitive areas along the rivers, including koppies. The terrain is more flat along the yellow alternative corridor. Eskom should consider this route for the proposed power line. Why Eskom is not constructing a power line between the existing 400kV and 765kV transmission power lines as the visual impact already exists? Suggestion: Eskom should construct the new power line between the 400kV and 765kV Transmission Power Lines or put it next to the existing transmission power lines.	Noted. There are various options, which can be considered regarding the alignment of the new power lines. The new power lines can run parallel to the existing 400kV power lines or next to each other or apart. Eskom tries to avoid power lines crossing over each other due to problems associated with the maintenance activities, particularly where they undertake live-line maintenance. There are technical constraints that have informed the process to focus on the western side of the study area. These include input from various specialists, koppies, geological constraints, etc. All parameters including fauna, flora, visual sensitivities fall on the eastern side, hence the alternative corridors on the western side. Comment noted.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Dr Herman Opperman Vluytjeskraal Aandele Blok	What is the distance from the western boundary to the central study area?	Approximately 30 km.
Mr Jacobus van den Berg Tafelkop Farm	What is the minimum or allowed distance between two 765kV Transmission Power Lines?	The minimum distance is 100 m.
Mr Stephanus Menne Strydam Farm	Why are the proposed transmission power lines routed via De Aar from Dealesville to the Eastern and Western Cape?	Integration with Eskom's existing network and substations is required due to electricity transfer limitations over distances of more than 400km.
Oppermans Gemeenskapslike Eindomme	There are cross over power lines near Oppermans. What if the community does not want the servitude?	Noted. It is the intention of an EIA to seek to identify issues (negative and positive) related to the proposed power line. All I&APs are encouraged to raise issues at this early stage so that they can be addressed during the detailed investigations. The only way to achieve this is to involve I&APs and ensure that issues are raised and addressed.
Oppermans Gemeenskapslike Eindomme	There are 3 water pans and a water canal for irrigation within the Oppermans area (red alternative corridor as depicted in the BID map).	Noted. This information has been submitted to the land-use and ecological specialists.
7 (b) Project alternatives - alternative power sources		
Mr Pierre van den Berg Phillipstown Boerevereniging	Eskom is investigating the possibility of a Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) in Coega - any comments regarding this as an alternative power source. Any comments regarding coal shortages?	Eskom is looking at implementing a nuclear source. However Eskom's decision needs to be informed by the amount of waste that will be generated, capital costs, consideration of strategic decisions and the receiving environment. In addition, for the PBMR to be considered as an alternative source, the social, economic and environmental costs have to be looked at. Coal shortage is becoming a reality. The best alternative will be nuclear generation, but this requires a change in people's mindset. Nuclear energy is safe and Eskom has established a good record with the Cape Town Station. Eskom perceives the pebble bed nuclear power stations as safe if they are looked after and maintained properly.
Mr DJ Venter Waldau Belange Bk	To generate 765kV power on the Highveld with fossil fuel and to then transport it 1 300 km, with 1 300 km of negative impacts, should be considered against the cost and long term effect of rather constructing small pebble-bed power stations closer to the demand	Pebble bed technology is under investigation and not yet approved to be used within SA. This is therefore not an option for consideration to service the immediate demand for electricity.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr Etienne van der Walt	<p>The sensitivity of power supply within South Africa where lines are so concentrated through the Dealesville/Luckhoff area.</p> <p>What about nuclear generation where the electricity is needed, such as in Coega/PE?</p>	<p>This proposed power line has been planned around the existing infrastructure and network stability requirements.</p> <p>Eskom is investigating the building of a gas fired generation plant in PE. However the proposed 765kV transmission lines will still be required to avoid an area being dependant on one power supply.</p>
Mr Piet Kruger Department of Agriculture	Why Eskom is not using alternative power sources such as solar power generation or what is the possibility of using solar energy instead of building a new transmission power line?	Eskom is continuously investigating alternative power generation sources. However, solar energy is not an option as it generates a limited amount of energy.
Ms Sandra Jane Hedges Rolfontein Nature Reserve	Alternative power sources – use of coal vs gas turbines?	Eskom uses gas turbines because they can be switched on and off easily. It takes up to 8 hrs for coal-fired generation to function in the power station.
Mr Jack Webb Platkop Farm 1069 Rooidam 406 Vleiplaats 1595	Where is Eskom going to get the generation capacity for all the proposed new transmission lines?	Currently, Eskom is embarking on various programs and plans which include the upgrading of power stations and de-mothballing of generation stations. These plans form part of the capital expansion programme to be able to meet the anticipated demands for electricity, which are fuelled by economic growth.
Mr Koos du Toit De Aar Boerevereniging	<p>There is a railway line in the North Western section of De Aar Town (parallel to the red alternative corridor).</p> <p>Transtel Sun Panels are located in the North Western Section of De Aar.</p> <p>At the crossing of the railway line and the red alternative corridor, there is also a substation.</p>	Noted. This information has been marked on the study area maps.
Mr Pretorius Bezuidenhout	Is Eskom using the Garona lines?	Yes.
Oppermans Gemeenskaaplike Eindomme	Is Eskom considering any other power generation sources, e.g. wind generation?	Eskom is continuously investigating alternative power generation sources. However, wind generation is not an option to deliver power for large industrial development e.g. smelters.
8. Technical issues		
Mr Reggie Sibley Oppermans Community	<p>Impact of soil types on the tower structures needs to be looked at.</p> <p>Design feature to prevent or reduce corrosion by 'salty' soils? Has Eskom not come up with some alternatives or improvements in order to prevent corrosion or how to manage content of the soil?</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Eskom is busy with a study that is investigating solutions that will minimise the effects of salt content on tower structures, etc.</p>

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr Wilson Ndou Spoornet	<p>Need to take into consideration the impact of transmission power lines on Spoornet railway lines. This would require close liaison with Spoornet prior to the finalisation of the proposed power line alignment.</p> <p>An application for approval needs to be submitted to Spoornet prior to construction.</p> <p>Francis committed himself to providing details of the technical managers for Spoornet Kimberley and Bloemfontein offices.</p>	<p>Eskom is aware of this issue as power lines interfere with the Spoornet lines. Eskom will liaise and send plans to Spoornet for approval prior to construction. Therefore Eskom will liaise closely with Spoornet during the planning phases.</p> <p>Noted. Eskom will liaise with Spoornet regarding wayleaves, permits and any other application relating to crossing Spoornets' infrastructure.</p> <p>This information was submitted to ACER (Africa) and relevant Spoornet officials contacted telephonically. Project background information was also submitted. Comments from the relevant officials have been included in this Issues Report.</p>
Mr Louis van Wyk Free State Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport	Road use rights should be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport upfront.	Noted. Eskom will liaise with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport regarding road use rights and other associated applications.
Mr Reggie Sibley Oppermans Community	There are numerous small pump stations and distribution lines that need to be considered for safety purposes.	During the final selection of the route, a laser photo imagery, which picks up all structures, will be used.
Mr Rabbie Rens National African Farmers Union	Eskom needs to consider the impact of Transmission Power Lines on the existing distribution lines. There are also additional local substations where farmers generate electricity for their irrigation. What safety clearance is required for these lines?	Mr Jose Diez Serano indicated that satellites will be used to pick up all the lines going in and out of the area in order to allow a safe distance between the lines. Existing lines are always taken into consideration when servitude is acquired.
Mr Abraham van Zyl Vanderkloof Boerevereniging	What will be the effect of the proposed project on electricity price?	The National Electricity Regulator (NER) governs Eskom. The NER has to keep electricity prices as low and affordable as possible. However, Eskom cannot guarantee that electricity will not increase. If electricity prices increase, they basically increase for everyone.
Mr Reggie Sibley Oppermans Community	<p>How does Eskom manage the demand for electricity?</p> <p>Will there be dual pricing for households, industries and commercial?</p>	<p>Eskom is required by legislation to provide electricity where it is needed. The National Electricity Regulator (NER) regulates Eskom's activities in this respect. Eskom has a strategic plan for addressing electricity demand in the country including strengthening of the National Grid through additional power generation facilities and transmission infrastructure. This plan is being implemented over the next 6-7 years for finalisation by 2012.</p> <p>Eskom does not want to create a burden for industry. There needs to be a balance in terms of cost recovery as well as creating opportunities for new business in the country.</p>

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr Rudzani Mudau Dept of Minerals and Energy, Northern Cape Regional Office	What is the status of the servitude once the power line is constructed?	Servitude is a natural habitat as determined by the Act. It is safe underneath the servitude, however humans are not allowed to live underneath or within the servitude. A distance of 27.5m from the centre of the power line to the beginning of a domestic house is allowed. Once a servitude has been acquired, Eskom only has the authority to build or construct the power line within the specified servitude, however the land remains the responsibility of the landowner/farmer.
Mr Nicol Jansen Agri Oranje Karoo Landbou Unie	Is it cost effective for Eskom to use cross-rope suspension towers for the proposed Transmission Power Lines?	Eskom Transmission has a department, which is continuously investigating options to upgrade the tower designs. At this stage it is considered that it costs Eskom approximately R2,5M to build one km of the 765kV Transmission Power Line.
Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	Towers and effect on lightning strikes? How do power lines effect television reception?	Towers are well earthed. If an Eskom power line causes interference to a landowners TV reception, Eskom will correct the problem.
Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	Who does the community deal with during the construction phase? What if something goes wrong during and after construction?	If the community is affected by the final alignment, community leaders and/or representatives will be provided with contact details of the Site inspector as well as the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). During the construction phase, the Site Inspector and the ECO will be on site daily and this will ensure that community leaders and/or representatives are able to contact them.
Mr Jacobus Strauss Farmer	What about existing high structures under proposed power lines?	Existing high structures will be identified and marked during the final alignment of the power line. Towers can deviate slightly to avoid existing high structures. The power line could be aligned in order to avoid the areas of concern.
Mr GJ de Swardt Kleingeldsnek	Location of construction camps needs to be well planned and be done in consultation with the landowners.	Noted.
Mr Sarel Dippenaar Boshof – Suid Boerevereniging & Bethel Farm	Eskom towers fall over existing power lines.	The issues raised are understood to be management, maintenance and operations related. They do not have a direct bearing on this EIA study. Indirectly, however, there is a concern that unless the issue is addressed, any new power line will be generating similar problems with associated environmental impacts.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
9 (a) EIA Process - technical		
Mr David Smit Northern Cape Provincial Land Reform Office	What process will be followed in choosing an alternative?	Different categories of alternatives were considered for this project including demand and scheduling alternatives, process and technical alternatives and location alternatives. Please see Section 5 of the Environmental Scoping Report for a description of the alternatives and the manner in which each was assessed.
Judge J P O de Villiers	At no stage have any of the specialists referred to in your document (which was passed on to me by my son) had access to my farm to do any form of environmental impact assessment in your pre-feasibility study.	<p>The appointed specialists have not commenced detailed impact assessments as the study is still in the Scoping Phase of the EIA. Detailed assessments will only commence once the Scoping Phase has been completed.</p> <p>No other environmental reports have been produced, with the exception of the release of this Environmental Scoping Report to the public for review. All I&APs will be given an opportunity to comment on the Environmental Scoping Report</p> <p>The process being followed for this process in accordance with relevant guidelines, policies and legislation including the principles of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) and in terms of the Plan of Study for Scoping approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).</p> <p>Also refer to response provided to Mr Etienne de Villiers above.</p>
Mr Rudzani Mudau Department of Minerals and Energy: Northern Cape Regional Office	<p>Have you identified properties within the study area where there are mineral rights?</p> <p>There are a number of prospecting and mining applications in the study area.</p> <p>DME also offered to assist with the gathering of information.</p>	ARCUS GIBB and ACER (Africa) met with DME, Northern Cape Regional Office to introduce the proposed project. At the meeting DME agreed to provide the Public Participation Consultant with a list of properties that are affected. ACER (Africa) will follow up with DME regarding the receipt of 1:250 000 maps and timeframes for the provision of available information.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
<p>Mr Etienne (JE) de Villiers Brandvlei Boerdery</p>	<p>I strongly object to the proposed location of the above power line. The objection is on behalf of the following properties: Brandvallei 242, De Werf section 3 and Sterkfontein 113. I have taken legal advice on the matter and the basis for my objection is the following:</p> <p>The EIA process is flawed and I will be forced to take you on review should this process continue.</p> <p>The EIA process with reference to public participation was not followed. I was notified on 15th of November 2005 of the EIA with a closing date of 18th November. It is clear that the requirement of certainty with regard to decision-making by organs of state on matters affecting the environment has not been met and public participation in this process has effectively been excluded. The National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (as amended) and legislation promulgated in terms of that Act as well as Regulations of September 1997 make provision for a process of public participation of all interested parties in the Environmental Impact study. This in effect means that interested parties had to be part of the whole process from the beginning. The fact that we were notified 3 days before the closing date for submission of objections is an administrative irregularity. Moreover, in all administrative actions the <i>audi alteram partem</i> rule must be heeded. This has obviously not happened in this instance, since the interested parties were not granted enough time to lodge proper objections and submissions. Some of the farmers whose land may be affected have not received any notice. For example Judge JPO de Villiers the owner of Brandvallei 22 has to date not received any notice.</p> <p>Your list of specialists should have included historians for example from the Boer War Museum in Bloemfontein to better understand the impact of the proposal.</p> <p>Brandvallei 242 has already been involved in two court cases to move two roads that criss-crossed the farm. The remaining road splits the farm in the middle.</p>	<p>For continuity purposes, the contents of the letter have been placed under this category.</p> <p>A meeting was arranged and held on Wednesday, 07 December 2005 with Mr Etienne de Villiers and Ms Gardiol de Villiers (who represent Judge JPO de Villiers). This meeting was set to explain the standard EIA process and provide clarity on the contents of the letters submitted by Judge JPO de Villiers and Mr Etienne de Villiers. Representatives from Eskom Transmission and ARCUS GIBB, the lead environmental consultant attended the meeting.</p> <p>Subsequent to this meeting, ACER (Africa), the Public Participation Consultant received a letter from Sustainable Law Solutions, a firm acting on behalf of Mr de Villiers. This letter was responded to by ARCUS GIBB in which it was indicated that there was a misunderstanding regarding the EIA process and the stage of the project within the EIA process.</p> <p>Key points for clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed Hydra – Perseus 765kV Transmission Power Line project is still in the Scoping Phase of the EIA. ▪ The Background Information Document and advertisements were aimed at announcing the project to the general public and <u>was not</u> calling for objections for the project. ▪ Issues identified during Scoping that require further investigation will be dealt with during the detailed Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA. ▪ The alternatives provided in the Background Information Document are alternative corridors, which are up to 500 m wide. Therefore, these alternative corridors are in no way representing alignment of the power line. ▪ These alternative corridors will be assessed during the Impact Assessment with input from relevant authorities, Eskom, affected landowners, the public, other stakeholders and the EIA team, including specialists.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr DJ Venter Waldau Belange Bk	<p><u>Very Important</u></p> <p>The specialists appointed are good, but insufficient. It is extremely important that the following specialists be added:</p> <p>a) <u>Geneticist/Oncologist</u></p> <p>The effect of electrical radiation/magnetic fields around the lines has not yet been sufficiently researched by Eskom.</p> <p>b) <u>Natural Scientist</u></p> <p>To generate 765kV power on the Highveld with fossil fuel and to then transport it 1 300 km, with 1 300 km of negative impacts, should be considered against the cost and long term effect of rather constructing small pebble-bed power stations closer to the demand. Universities should be involved. Think of someone like Prof Tersius Harmse of RAU – Johannesburg.</p>	Noted.
Mr Jack Webb Platkop Farm 1069 Rooidam 406 Vleiplaats 1595	Requested the project team to confirm if all the 3 X 400kV's on the maps are existing power lines.	The three 400 kV transmission lines as shown on the map do already exist.
Stakeholder*	What is the size of the corridor widths?	The final corridor will be 80 m. Currently, the corridor within which the power line is proposed is 500 m, however once the preferred route has been selected the actual servitude will be narrowed down to 80 m.
Mr Kobus de Villiers Jakkalskuil	Is SAHRA aware of the proposed project and have they been consulted?	Yes, SAHRA has been notified about the project. Correspondence has also been received from SAHRA. In addition, Mr Albert van Jaaarsveld, archaeology specialist is aware of the requirements of SAHRA as part of this EIA study.
Dr Herman Opperman Vluytjeskraal Aandele Blok	How much detail will be contained in the Scoping Report?	The Scoping Report will contain original reports on the specialists' findings. Based on the specialists' reports, recommendations will be made on corridors, which require detailed investigations as part of the Impact Assessment. In addition, a record of all issues raised and how they have been dealt with will be contained in the Scoping Report.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr Kobus de Villiers Jakkalskuil	Require details on the Specialists methodology. Requests detailed, “ground truthing” on Specialists information and/or studies.	During the subsequent phases that will precede the identification of the corridors, detailed investigations will be undertaken. These will include contacting farmers for undertaking investigations on their farms. Issues that need to be investigated by specialists will also come from stakeholders (in addition to those already identified by the specialists). The identification of sensitive areas occurs from the scoping level to the level of construction, i.e. if a tower needs to be moved to another area due to sensitive areas, that will be done in order to avoid red flag/sensitive areas.
Mr Pieter du Toit Roode Kraal Farm	Who is the contact person for queries on the EIA process? How will I&APs know whom to contact for the project during the post EIA stages?	ACER (Africa), the Public Participation Consultant is responsible for managing the communication channels between stakeholders, the EIA team and Eskom Transmission. All queries can be submitted to ACER (Africa), who will in turn forward them to the relevant Project Team members. If the landowners are affected by the final alignment of the proposed power line, an Eskom negotiator will be the contact person. After the finalisation of servitude negotiations, landowners will be provided with contact details of the Site Inspector as well as the Environmental Control Officer. During the construction phase, the Site Inspector and the Environmental Control Officer will be on site every day and this will ensure that landowners are able to contact them.
Mr H Jacquire Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	Do 2012 predictions include all farms?	The final alignment of the power line will determine which farms will be affected.
Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	Aerial photographs should be used to demonstrate the effect of power lines on vegetation.	The botanical specialist has used both aerial photography, aerial and on-the-ground truthing, as well as literature and past studies/local knowledge in order to assess the potential impacts of the transmissions lines on the vegetation.
Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	How many days is the Appeal Period?	Twenty one (21) days.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr Jack Webb	Concerned about the time taken to respond to questions submitted to the study team. He indicated that the time taken is too long and is unacceptable. He understands that some of the responses need to be confirmed and/or obtained from Eskom, however the time periods are extremely long.	<p>It is not practical to respond to all comments as soon as they are received. However, the public participation consultant acknowledges the receipt of comments.</p> <p>Responses to all comments and concerns raised will be provided in the Environmental Scoping Report, which will be made available in the public domain for review.</p> <p>A notification letter will be sent to all Interested and Affected Parties registered on the database advising them of the availability of the Environmental Scoping Report.</p>
Mr Chris Pienaar Kalkfontein Watergebruikers Vereniging	Does the time frame of 2012 refer to the entire project, i.e. Secunda (Zeus) to Port Elizabeth (Grassridge) and the construction of the power line?	<p>Yes. The project has been divided into four sections, as follows: Secunda (Zeus) – Dealesville (Perseus) Dealesville (Perseus) – De Aar (Hydra) De Aar (Hydra) – Victoria West (Gamma) Victoria West (Gamma) – Port Elizabeth (Grassridge)</p> <p>The project time frames have taken into consideration the times required for the completion of planning, EIA, negotiations and construction. The entire line is approximately 1 300km long and needs to be operational by 2012.</p>
Mr Sarel Dippenaar Boshof – Suid Boerevereniging & Bethel Farm	Can a landowner refuse a power line on a farm?	A landowner can refuse a power line on his property. Eskom would then be forced to expropriate the servitude right based on proof of adherence to existing legislation in acquiring linear property right for electric expansion.
9 (b) EIA Process - public participation		
Mr BJ Brits	Would you please be so kind to provide me with more information and keep me updated. Thank you.	Noted. Your details are on the project database and you will be kept informed.
Mr Imker Hoogenhout Farmer	I am keen to participate.	ACER has sent all project information to Mr I Hoogenhout.
Mr Etienne (JE) de Villiers Brandvlei Boerdery	The EIA documentation is inadequate. It does not supply enough information to make an informed decision. It is impossible for any person to apply his/her mind without the necessary information supplied regarding the exact route of the proposed power line.	See responses provided to Mr Etienne de Villiers and Judge JPO de Villiers in Categories 9 (a) and (b).

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Judge J P O de Villiers	<p>My son (JER de Villiers) informed me that Eskom intends to build a power line over my farm, Brandvallei 22 in the Jacobsdal District.</p> <p>I strongly object to the proposed endeavor on the following grounds: I have not received any notification from you of your intention to build the power line.</p> <p>As interested and affected party in terms of the legislation referred to, I have not been given adequate time to assess the impact of the power line on my farm.</p> <p>I would appreciate it if you could send me a proper map so that I can ascertain the full impact of this power line on my farm.</p> <p>I am looking forward to hearing from you.</p>	See responses provided to Mr Eienne de Villiers and Judge JPO de Villiers in Category 9 (a).
Mrs Sandra Hedges Dept of Tourism, Environment & Conservation	Request the two maps used in Bongi Shinga's presentation.	ACER submitted the requested information to Mrs Sandra Hedges.
Mr Loffie Myburgh	<p>The abovementioned power line crosses the area which I serve as agricultural extension officer for the Department of Agriculture (together with other officials of the Letsemeng Municipality). The scale of the map which shows the proposed routes is too big to determine which farms may be affected. We would prefer to get a list of affected farm owners, if available. Alternatively, illustration of the five proposed routes on the following topo-cadastral (1:250 000 scale) maps would be useful: 2924 Koffiefontein and 2824 Kimberley. Unfortunately I could not attend the meeting at Vanderkloof, and I do not know which information was made available there.</p> <p>The agriculture activities in the area, specifically Petrusburg (not Petrusberg as in the pamphlet), are dryland agriculture, irrigation agriculture and livestock farming. The impact of the proposed line will therefore differ, depending on whether it runs through dryland, irrigation or grazing areas. This information is not known to us, since the affected farms are not known.</p>	<p>ACER forwarded 1:250 000 topographical maps to the Chairperson of Petrusburg Landbou.</p> <p>The alternative power line corridors identified during Scoping are up to 5 km wide and all landowners within the corridor are identified and invited to participate in the study. A landowner identification process runs throughout the EIA although concentrated during the initial phases of Scoping.</p> <p>Subsequently, a Focus Group Meeting was held with potentially affected members of Petrusburg Landbou and Perdeberg Boerevereniging on 15 March 2006. Mr Myburgh also attended the meeting.</p>
Mr Jack Webb	Request a more detailed map of the area north of Petrusburg to the Modder River.	ACER forwarded a detailed map to Mr Jack Webb.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr DJ Venter Waldau Belange Bk	The deadline for comment is 18 November 05, but your letter is dated 31 October 05, giving the impression of the process being "steam-rollered", without affected parties realising that there will be an affect on their lives.	The deadline date of 18 November 2006 was provided on the Background Information Document and newspaper advertisements for Interested and Affected Parties to register their interest in the project and for submission of preliminary comments as part of Scoping.
Mr H Venter Donkerpoort	I live in the Bloemfontein District. I will participate in issues that affect Bloemfontein, Reddersburg, Barnsvlei, Dewetsdorp, Botsabella and ThabaNchu. I cannot participate in things that happen outside of my area.	Noted.
A stakeholder*	Will the specialists' reports be available to I&APs?	Yes. Specialist studies will be part of the Scoping Report, which will be made available to the public for review. Due to the costs associated with the production of the Scoping Report, it is not made available on an individual basis, however it is placed in key strategic places (such as libraries, farmers association offices, information centre's, etc.) where members of the public can access the report. Also, CD copies can be made available to I&APs upon request. The report will also be posted on the Eskom website. All documents are posted on the Eskom website as and when they become available.
Mr Nicol Jansen Agri Oranje Karoo Landbou Unie	Most landowners would like to be involved once they are aware where the proposed lines will go. Their interest depends on whether the towers will be positioned within their properties or not. The Public Participation Consultant should continue to send updated information to the various Farmers Associations. Meetings should be held once the corridor has been narrowed.	It is the intention of the Scoping exercise to identify issues through consultation with I&APs and potentially affected landowners. Issues raised (from landowners, specialists, authorities, etc.) assist in informing and enhance the quality of the decision taken by the authorities. Noted.
Mr van der Merwe Orania Dorpbestuurder	A copy of the Scoping Report should be made available to the landowners in Orania for review.	Noted. All I&APs registered on the database will be notified in advance of the availability of the Environmental Scoping Report through a personalised letter. The Public Participation Consultant will distribute the Environmental Scoping Report to strategic public venues for public review.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr Koos du Toit De Aar Boerevereniging	Concerned about the processes of identifying potentially affected landowners and inviting them to the meetings. Municipal farmers do not belong to the Farmers Associations and need to be identified and involved in the EIA process.	The initial point of contact for landowners is through organised structures. It is recognised that not all landowners belong to organised structures, however, the sectors' perspectives in relation to a proposed project are always represented by key representatives. Noted. The Public Participation Consultant will contact Emthanjeni Local Municipality in order to identify farmers belonging to the various municipal structures.
Mr Kobie du Toit Farmer	Will there be individual consultation with landowners?	Individual consultation with landowners is undertaken during the negotiation phase. This is between an Eskom negotiator and the landowner concerned (i.e. landowner within the final power line alignment).
Mr Phillip Barnes Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	Has the Oppermans community missed out? How was the Oppermans representative identified?	No. This meeting is one of many opportunities, which are provided as part of the Scoping Phase to identify environmental issues. Focus Group Meetings are being held with various stakeholder groups and are part of a continued effort to making contact with I&APs. At the beginning of the project, advertisements were placed in various publications announcing the proposed project and extending a general invitation for the public to participate. It is not within our mandate to nominate representatives, however the approach is to work with representatives of existing or organised structures. It is ACER's understanding that the Chairperson and the Committee of the Oppermans Communal Landowners is representing the Oppermans.
Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	The Background Information Document is in Afrikaans, will all public documents be in Afrikaans as well?	The Scoping Report will be in English, however, summaries will be provided in Afrikaans. General correspondence from the Public Participation Office will be both in English and Afrikaans. Assistance with translations, where required and necessary will be provided to I&APs. This will be done in order to facilitate I&AP understanding of the various public documents and to support public participation in the process.
Mr P Barnes Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	The Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eiendomme is not against any individuals interested in participating in the process, however, the following should be noted: A number of people in the Oppermans area are occupants and tenants but not landowners at this stage. Eskom must negotiate through correct structures in Oppermans. There are legitimate landowner structures that have the authority to deal with land related matters.	Noted.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
Mr GJ de Swardt Kleingeldsnek	There is a problem with potentially affected landowners who are not members of Farmers Associations or Unions.	It is unlikely that everybody in the study area will be contacted, as it is such a large area. However, there is a concerted effort to consult with I&APs as they are identified. The Public Participation Consultant also relies on people to identify other groups of people who should be consulted. Opportunities to identify people who do not belong to organised structures or groups are mainly through media (paid advertisements), word of mouth, referrals and public meetings. Our approach in this regard is then to ensure that issues from all sectors have been raised and this is achieved via inclusive consultation with representatives of all sectors represented in the study area.
10. Eskom Distribution Queries		
Ms Jabulile Mthukwane Berg van Hoop Farmers Association	Koffiefontein small-scale farmers, mainly irrigating maize and wheat, are experiencing problems with reading their electricity metres. Can Eskom assist farmers with training on reading their electricity meters/boxes? The contact person is Daniel Mahura, Chairperson of Berg van Hoop Farmers Association.	Comment noted and will be forwarded to the relevant Eskom Distribution Offices.
Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	<u>Comment for Eskom Distribution:</u> The Oppermans Community is extremely frustrated by several 'power failures' in the entire district. Meisie Opperman in the Kimberley Office is difficult to work with as she is not willing to listen and is also not 'customer friendly'. The Oppermans District has 1-phase power and requires a 3-phase power.	These comments are for Eskom Distribution. The project team was not in a position to respond to these issues/concerns as they are outside the scope of this EIA. These concerns will be submitted to the relevant Eskom Distribution official(s) for their attention and action.
11. Job creation and economic opportunities		
Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	Is it possible for the construction of towers to be subcontracted to local communities?	Yes, it is possible if the contractor can comply with the Eskom vendor requirements.
Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	The term 'local communities' needs to be defined to eliminate misunderstanding and misinterpretation. Support and buy-in from the 'local communities and/or landowners' is important to ensure that the process is not politically biased.	Noted.
Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	Training of local people is important. Oppermans can provide some of the skills that are required for the construction of a transmission power line e.g. steel work and any other skilled or unskilled labour.	Noted. The matter will be referred to Eskom management.
Oppermans Gemeenskaplike Eindomme	Does Eskom have guidelines regarding estimates of costs involved in local job creation?	Eskom's procurement policy does favour local content above that of imported products.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
12. Other queries and comments		
Mr Martinus Stefanus Bredenkamp	<p>I own a large rubber wheel dozer and would appreciate it if my services can be used where necessary:</p> <p>Sand work - R350/hr + Diesel Debushing - R400/hr + Diesel Stone work - R500/hr + Diesel</p>	Noted. This information has been forwarded to Eskom Transmission.
Oppermans Gemeenskapaalike Eindomme	Any significant information obtained from the discussions held with the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) with regards to the area?	There are a number of prospecting and mining applications in the entire study area, however there is no significant information that has been provided by DME regarding the Oppermans area.
Mr GJ de Swardt Kleingeldsnek	Experiencing a number of problems with an Eskom Distribution Line that is crossing his farm.	The issue raised is understood to be management, maintenance and operations related. It does not have a direct bearing on this EIA study. Indirectly, however, there is a concern that unless the issue is addressed, any new power line will be generating similar problems with associated environmental impacts.