



Margen

INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

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Date:

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING (HELD ON 08 AUGUST 2007): MERCURY - ZEUS

VREDEFORT DOME ADDITIONAL STUDY: (DEAT Ref: 12/12/20/433)

Margen Industrial Services was commissioned to conduct an additional study and related public consultation process regarding alternatives for the section of the Mercury-Zeus 765kV transmission power line route to the north-west of the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site.

A public meeting to discuss alternative routes in this section of the power line was held on 08 August 2007 in Potchefstroom. Your participation and contribution at this meeting is highly appreciated. The minutes of the meeting are herewith enclosed for your comment. You are requested to use the enclosed comment sheet to confirm if your comments, issues or concerns have been correctly captured in the minutes. Further comments on the project are also welcomed. Please give us your comment by 21 September 2007.

At the public meeting it was agreed that the minutes will be sent to stakeholders together with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) response to the question regarding the status of the study. At the time of posting the minutes no response had been received from DEAT, therefore the comment from DEAT will be forwarded to stakeholders as soon as it is received.

Your continued participation and constructive input in the study is greatly valued.

Yours faithfully

.....
MOSES MAHLANGU

ZEUS-MERCURY 765kV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE PROJECT:
 EXTENDED STUDY OF ALIGNMENTS BETWEEN VREDFORT DOME WHS AND POTCHEFSTROOM
 PUBLIC MEETING
 8 AUGUST 2007

Item No.	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>The independent facilitator, Ms Karin Bowler opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. She explained that the presentations were going to be in English but translations will be made if necessary. Ms Bowler confirmed if everybody in the meeting were comfortable with the use of English. Attendees were encouraged to use the language of their choice in participating in the discussion for the day.</p> <p>Introductions of the study team (Eskom, Margen & PBAI) were made. Mr. Kobus Delpport requested that it be minuted that it was the first time he heard of the Mercury – Zeus Project was when he was invited to the meeting for the re-evaluation of the study. The facilitator then commented that that was precisely the reason why the extended study was initiated and the meeting was organized..</p> <p>The purpose of the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explain the status of the project at the time • To explain why the re-evaluation and to agree on how specialists would access properties during the study • To agree on the terms of reference for the specialists that will be investigating the different potential impacts on the proposed alignments • The facilitator mentioned that Eskom would also like to give a presentation on photographic method of showing affected landowners and stakeholders how the line will visually affect the area at different sites or viewsheds where visual impact is considered of importance/concern. Stakeholders were therefore invited to identify sites at which such demonstrations will be relevant. <p>Attendees were requested to sign the attendance register and clearly write their contact details so that they can receive all information dissemination documents regarding the project.</p>	
2.	<p>Project Description</p> <p>Ms Jean Beater gave the presentation on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to the project (Zeus – Mercury – Perseus) • The need for the re-evaluation of the study in the area between Potchefstroom and Vredefort Dome • Public consultation process followed • Terms of references for the different specialists involved and • The way forward. 	
3	Carol Streaton's presentation	
4.	<p>Discussions</p> <p>Issues raised during the discussion with responses are captured in the table below:</p>	

Item No.	Discussion	Action

ISSUES RAISED DURING DISCUSSION

NO	ISSUE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
1	What is the source of the buffer zone of the Vredefort Dome?	Magiel Scheepers [MS]	Information on the buffer zone was sourced from the internet and from the consultants that were conducting the study on Vredefort WHS
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a study conducted and the reports submitted recommending the eastern route, why do you want to change from the recommendations made earlier? The majority of landowners in the area have already signed for the eastern route. • I have signed for six farms, what happens then if other objections come up and we have to re-evaluate again? 	John Fourie [JF]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main reason for the re-evaluation of the route between Ptchefstroom and the Vredefort Dome is to address the appeals regarding the western alignment approved by DEAT.
3	The opinion of visual impact which was said to be from the Dome Meteorite Association is actually put forward by persons in their individual capacity and not as the directors of the association. We have about ten landowners affected by the route; can we get the one that is unhappy?	[MS]	The meeting was asked to not personalise the issues
4	<p>Eskom received information on Monday, 06 August 2007 from DEAT confirming that responses regarding the appeals had been forwarded to appellants.</p> <p>The appeals lodged against the record of decision go to the minister who gives the final ruling. If the appellant is not satisfied about the decision of the minister, the matter can then be taken to court. It needs</p>	Carol Streaton [CS]	

NO	ISSUE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	to be confirmed with DEAT that the report from this re-evaluation study will be used by DEAT to recommend the best route in the area and the minister will make a decision accordingly.		
5	The consultants are of the opinion that because of uncertainties regarding the reasons on which DEAT approved the western route; a fair process to address the appeals is to go through the evaluation process that will give scientific reasons for the alignment eventually selected.	Stuart Dunsmore	
6	Can we insist on DEAT giving us an explanation on how they approved the western route? Is it fair that a team of specialists must go and re-evaluate the different potential impact when we do not know if DEAT looked at the issue of visual impact against the other biophysical aspects of the report?	JF	DEAT is obliged to provide reasons for their decision. It should be noted that only a Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken of the 3 original alignments
7	Landowners have planned and developed their operations on their farms around the existing Eskom power lines. For the new proposed power lines there is no clear explanation given to landowners as to why the proposed line does not follow the existing line. The only reason given is the one-sided reason of visual impact which is made relative to the R53 . The proposed line is going to cross this road irrespective of the route chosen.	Niekie Pienaar [NP]	Consultants would like to evaluate all aspects of potential biophysical impacts that will be caused by the power line and consider them against each other
8	Why was the other (Dealesville-Zeus) route dropped?	Elmyrt John	This is a second line that is going to be constructed later.
9	Why was the photographic demonstration not done during the initial study process?	Cecil Rutherford (CR)	The large number of unhappy affected stakeholders makes it necessary for Eskom to use such process to look at different visual sites to determine how the place will look like after constructing the line.

NO	ISSUE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
10	Will Eskom consider monopole structures for this line?	NP	No monopoles have been designed to carry 765kV power lines.
11	Many landowners on the eastern route signed to give Eskom permission to construct the line through their properties with conditions attached. In my case I included conditions like visual impact next to my house and the potential impact on my agricultural activities when the line goes through irrigated land. I feel this has not been considered.	NP	Noted. These issues will be obtained from the Eskom negotiators and considered in this study
12	You are using the same Visual Impact Specialist that gave an opinion which led to DEAT giving the current ROD and the resultant appeals, is this good idea? We also ask that the report include the topographic layout of the visual impact.	CR	The consultants are happy with the visual specialist. The request for the topographic layout will be included in the specialist's ToR.
13	When we signed for the options we only heard that a line was going to be constructed through our properties. We were never shown on the map where exactly the line was proposed. Now that the presentation includes the map, it seems as if houses on different farms are going to be on the way or very close to the line. This will have social impact on landowners and farm workers and most of us are going to regret why we signed without proper information.	Mrs. Greyling	Option documents have sketches attached
14	Is the eastern line close to the gravel road? I also confirm what has been said by Mrs. Greyling that no map was used during the negotiation process.	John Fourie [JF]	Ditto 13
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I do not have a problem with the power through the area as long proper consultation and negotiations are done. I am unhappy about the negotiation process followed because the negotiator that came to 	Mr. Lourens	Mr. K. van der Merwe stated that the negotiator used was subcontracted to do the negotiations. It is not the procedure that Eskom follows to threaten landowners with expropriation. The process of

NO	ISSUE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	<p>talk to us about the line threatened us with expropriation and we found ourselves forced to sign at that time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing small lines on our farms are shocking us. This is a hazard to my workers, their families and every body that come to our farm. 		<p>expropriating is used as the last resort in trying to secure servitude.</p> <p>Landowners that are dissatisfied with the negotiation process followed were requested to contact Mr. van der Merwe (Eskom).</p> <p>The problem of a fence that is causing shocks is caused by induced electricity and it can be eliminated by proper earthing of the fence and gates.</p>
16	<p>As indicated the electromagnetic field caused by power lines has already killed animals in the area and Eskom is refusing to pay. Landowners are expected to prove that it is Eskom's line that caused the death of animal. Landowners strongly feel that Eskom does not care about their welfare.</p>	Mr. Gunter	<p>Eskom defines servitudes for power lines and restrict building structures in the servitude because of safety considerations. For the Mercury – Zeus project a study on EMF was conducted and the findings assist Eskom in explaining the impact of EMF on farming activities.</p>
17	<p>The Dome Meteorite Association has done their own evaluation of the visual impact of the power line on the area near the Vredefort Dome and they now support the eastern alignment.</p>	CR	Noted
18	<p>Eskom is requested to renegotiate with all affected landowners. It is also suggested that landowners must see the report on the re-evaluation study before it is submitted to DEAT. The information given to appellants by DEAT must be included in the report for every body to see what the response of DEAT to appeals is.</p>	MS	<p>The landowners will have 30 days to review the report</p>
19	<p>Why was the centre line (parallel to the existing line) not followed?</p>	Mrs. Greyling	<p>One reason was the visual impact . For the current study the central alignment is an option that will be investigated.</p>
20	<p>Landowners ask that the review process must not hold the signing already done as a guide in deciding the route through the dome area. All</p>	Mr. Johan Scheppers	

NO	ISSUE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	options put forward must be investigated equally without the influence of some landowners having agreed to allow the line through their properties.		
21	Most landowners along the existing line accept the line..	Mr. J. P. Aucamp	(Mr. Fourie objected saying the impact is not the same, in some farms it is intolerable)
22	A more accurate map, on smaller scale must be used. The map currently used is on big scale and does not show all the details of what is on each farm especially building structures like the houses of farm workers.		Noted and will be done.

Closing Comments:

The summary of the way forward is that:

- The minutes of the meeting will be circulated for review and confirmation by all who attended.
- The copy of the letter that has been sent to appellants by DEAT will be made available to all stakeholders involved in the re-evaluation study.
- Stakeholders that conducted studies on any impact on the Vredefort Dome are requested to make their findings available to the study team
- Stakeholders (landowners) are reminded of their obligation to review the report and give comments with specified timeframe.
- Discussions with DEAT regarding the status of the extended study to be conveyed to landowners

ESKOM TRANSMISSION

MERCURY - ZEUS 765kV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE

VREDEFORT DOME OPTIONS: (DEAT Ref: 12/12/20/433)

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

(Comments Sheet on Minutes of Public Meeting.

Complete and return before 21 September 2007)

PARTICULARS OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY			
NAME:			
POSTAL ADDRESS			
TEL.		FAX	
E-MAIL			

1. Do you have any comments on the minutes? _____

2. Are there any interested and affected parties you believe should be consulted in the study? If any, please provide contact details. _____

3. Do you have a comment on the presentation given at the Public Meeting?

4. Do you have further comment, concern or issue regarding the project?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

ZEUS – MERCURY
(Vredefort Dome Section)




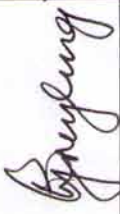

765 kV Transmission Power Lines

ATTENDANCE REGISTER



ATTENDANCE REGISTER

(Date: 08/08/07. Venue : _____)

Name	Org./Co.	Farm (Name; Number & Portion No.)	Contacts (Postal & e-mail Address)	Tel/ Cell & Fax	Signature
M.C. ERASMUS		Rooipoortjie	018 2911557 Bus 19575 Nooitdalle		
J.A. Bezuidenhout		Rooipoortjie	018 - 2911771		
J.P. Dehert		Elmsdale P.O. tusschen Pretorius	0836220151 0182973666		
E GREYLING (via van SJ GREYLING)		Rooipoortjie R 453 haddes 85 en 86	P.O. Box 393 Pekaer Bv. 082-375-4077 egrey@ingonwpg. gov.za.	018-2911582 082-375 4077	
A Dainton	Pekah City Council		15-16 Pekaer Bv. 103 P.O. Box 113 Pekah City Council 2520	299 5142 0536040882	




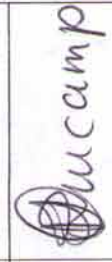
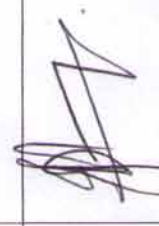
ATTENDANCE REGISTER

(Date: 08/08/07, Venue: _____)

Name	Org./Co.	Farm (Name; Number & Portion No.)	Contacts (Postal & e-mail Address)	Tel/ Cell & Fax	Signature
AB HILL	Wilgeboem 177	Wilgeboem 177	Postbus 5371 Kockspark 2523	0182911464 0725307271	<i>AB Hill</i>
G. CRUSWAGEN	THUSA	—	P.O. Box 6542 BAIKLIE PARK 2526 gent@webmail.co.za	018-290-9522 018-290-9524 0824970386	<i>G. Cruswagen</i>
BLANSRAK	THUSA. DLU	—	Box 152 POTCHERFSTRAAT 2520	0825750964	<i>Blansrak</i>
AA PULLER	Roosfontein	Roosfontein Phuse AC 20	Box 5358 Kockspark 2523	0182911448 0828027887	<i>AA Puller</i>

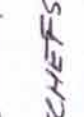




ATTENDANCE REGISTER

(Date: 08/05/07. Venue : _____)

Name	Org./Co.	Farm (Name; Number & Portion No.)	Contacts (Postal & e-mail Address)	Tel/ Cell & Fax	Signature
J. Bosman	Landowner		P.O. Box 2415 Potchefstroom 2520	082 336170	
J. Scheepers	Landowner,	Spruite 456, Telkom SA - Net	P.O. Box 89 Potch. 2520	083 412 6390 Johan.scheepers@telkomSA-net	
J. Beater	PBAI		Box 3300 Houghton	084 404 1118	
P. Aucamp	Landowner	Hartebees- fontein 437	P.O. Box 210 Potchefstroom 2520	0825553760	
J. D. Aucamp	"	"	"	0845004221	

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

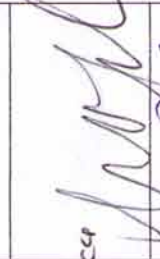




(Date: 08/08/07 Venue : _____)

Name	Org./Co.	Farm (Name; Number & Portion No.)	Contacts (Postal & e-mail Address)	Tel/ Cell & Fax	Signature
N. PIENNAAR		KRUIT FONTEIN	BUS 404 POTCHEFSTROOM	0823779184	
C. Kuitfontein	Dome Motens Park		P.O. BOX 2591 cecile@ruthfontein.com	0825534200	
J.A. FoucIE	F.P.F.		Box 14) Potchef.	016 2930202	
M.C. Schreppers	Ouman.	Sandhol.	P.O. Box 1061, Potchefstroom 2531	018 2971217 018 7946669 083 6004715	
E. John	Wero Trust	Shansok.	P.O. Box 29, Potchefstroom 2520	0936270865	

E John = Weser@africa.com



ATTENDANCE REGISTER

(Date: _____, Venue: _____)

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0770 EOTH	Amichon Tim	Amichon	Box 29 Puth	078 2915724 wesser@iafrica.com	
G.P. Grabier	—	Haetebeepote	Box 6572 Beetee penk	078 2911570	
DC Grobels	—	Haetebeepote	Box 1160 Puth penk	078 - 2909511	
NAKKIE PIENAR		ROOIPORRETTIE 453	BUS 426 PUTCH (NAKKIE@IAFRICA.COM)	018 - 2911680	
C.A. STREATON	ESKOM.		P.O. Box 1091 JHB. 2020.	083-6331345	

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

(Date: _____. Venue : _____)

Name	Org./Co.	Farm (Name; Number & Portion No.)	Contacts (Postal & e-mail Address)	Tel/ Cell & Fax	Signature
C.F. LOURENS	Land owner.	Roosfontein Berlin	Box 447 Potchef	082 4146640	
K. Delfort	bondswaer	Kloofstroom Wageloom Pretoria	Kdelfort @kank.co.za	0836218131	

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

(Date: 08/07/07. Venue : _____)

Name	Org./Co.	Farm (Name; Number & Portion No.	Contacts (Postal & e-mail Address)	Tel/ Cell & Fax	Signature
D.S. JEFFER		SODGE F2E1 458 WILHE BOOM		018-2911608	