

APPENDIX 3

**LETTER TO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & TOURISM
REGARDING PROPOSED STUDY**



Margen

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Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism
Fedsure Building
315 Pretorius Street
Pretoria, 0002

Attn Ms Mosili Ntene

Dear Ms Ntene,
Eskom Transmission Zeus-Mercury 765kV Power line EIA: Vredefort Dome Options (Project Ref: 12/12/20/433)

Eskom Transmission has requested Margen to carry out a re-evaluation of the route options along the western edge of the Vredefort Dome. We understand this follows discussions between yourself and Eskom Transmission on the necessary approach to resolve appeals that have been submitted to DEAT on the publication of the Record of Decision dated 2 March 2007.

We propose to undertake the following:

- Hold a public meeting on the 8th August in Potchefstroom with as many of the potentially affected landowners as possible. The public meeting has already been advertised in the local press.
- The public meeting will advise stakeholders of the current status of the authorization and Eskom's proposal to re-evaluate the options through more detailed study. Specialist terms of reference will be presented to the stakeholders for approval.
- Once the study approach has been generally approved by the stakeholders, the specialists will investigate the three main alternatives and any (reasonable) alternatives proposed by the stakeholders.
- An impact assessment report will be prepared and made available for public comment (a 30 day review period).
- The final report, with public comments, will be submitted to your office for consideration.

While the above is deemed to be good process, we are unsure of the status of such a report and how the existing RoD will be amended. As we understand it, there is no specific provision in the current regulations for the process that we are now following. Therefore we would be grateful if you could provide the following:

1. Clarity on the status of the RoD issued on the 2nd March 2007,
2. Will the current RoD be amended depending on the outcome of the above re-evaluation?
3. Will stakeholders have opportunity to appeal your decision on the above re-evaluation?
4. What response has been given to the current appellants to date?

The above are important procedural issues that we need to understand in order to adequately inform stakeholders, as well as to ensure that a sound process is being followed.

We would be very grateful if you could give the above queries your urgent attention, as we would like to report back on the status of the RoD to stakeholders at next week's meeting.

Furthermore, it would be very useful to have a DEAT representative present at the meeting on the 8th August to assist in explaining the basis of the decision given in the RoD.

Yours sincerely

GM Mahlangu
DIRECTOR

Cc Ms C Streaton, Eskom Transmission