

## **APPENDIX 4**

**LETTER TO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & TOURISM  
REGARDING STATUS OF THE EXTENDED STUDY**



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

03 September 2007

Attention: Ms Mosili Ntene

Dear Ms Ntene

**ESKOM TRANSMISSION ZEUS-MERCURY 765KV POWER LINE EIA: VREDEFORT DOME OPTIONS (DEAT REF: 12/12/20/433**

The meeting that was held on 20 August 2007 between yourself, Eskom representatives (Ms Mashiteng and Ms Streaton), Messrs Grové, Retief and Ngoasheng (DEAT) and Ms Beater from PBAI, refers. As agreed at the meeting, this letter confirms the way forward regarding the proposed extended study and the acceptance of the process by your Department in writing.

The plan to undertake an additional study of the alignments of the proposed Zeus-Mercury power line near the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site was elaborated at the meeting. Subsequent to the issue of the Record of Decision (RoD) by DEAT, a number of appeals were received by the Department.

In order to address these appeals, an additional study of the three alternatives (eastern, central and western alignments) investigated initially for the FEIR and any other reasonable alternative is recommended. The specialists involved in the additional study will include an ecologist, an archaeologist, social and avifauna specialists and a visual impact specialist.

The following was decided at the meeting:

- The existing RoD regarding the Zeus-Mercury 765kV power line EIA and subsequent appeals to the RoD would remain unchanged.
- The extended study will provide additional information and will be used by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to come to a conclusion regarding the appeals
- The existing RoD will then either be amended or withdrawn and a new RoD will be issued.

As discussed at the meeting, your legal section will address any legal issues regarding the process mentioned above and a response in writing either accepting or amending this process will then be issued by your office.

Please could your legal section also address the issue as to whether appeals can be lodged against an amended or new RoD.

Yours truly,

G.M MAHLANGU