

APPENDIX 5

**LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & TOURISM**



**MINISTRY: ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Ref: 12/12/20/433

Mr G M Mahlangu
Mergen Industrial Services
P O Box 12822
LERAATSFONTEIN
1038

Fax: 013 656 2233

Dear Mr Mahlangu

ESKOM TRANSMISSION ZEUS-MERCURY 765 kV TRANSMISSION LINE: VREDEFORT DOME OPTIONS

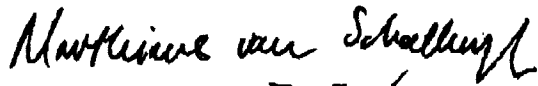
I refer to the meeting on 20 August 2007 between representatives of Eskom, your organisation and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) related to the above matter as well as your letter dated 22 August 2007, addressed to Ms Mosili Ntene.

I was informed about Eskom's intention to commission an additional and more comprehensive study on possible route options for the above-mentioned line in the area between Potchefstroom and the Vredefort Dome. The information that emanates from this study will assist in my decision regarding the appeals lodged against the current authorisation.

I wish to emphasise that an adequate public participation process must also be followed together with the additional study. The results of the study must be forwarded to my office as soon as possible after its completion to expedite my decision in this matter. I shall withhold the finalization of the consideration of the appeals against the authorisation granted on 2 March 2007, pending the completion of the study and the related public participation process.

With reference to the question as to whether an amended or new ROD issued following upon an appeal decision would be subject to another appeal process, I am advised that this would not be the case. Should the outcome of the appeals process not be to an interested party's satisfaction, the correct procedure would be for such a person to lodge a review application to the courts for relief.

Kind regards



MARTHINUS VAN SCHALKWYK, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
DATE:

8 OCT 2007