

THYSPUNT TRANSMISSION LINE INTEGRATION PROJECT (TTLIP)

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ONE-ON- WITH LAND OWNERS AND WARD COUNCILLORS

Report

prepared by:
SiVEST
Environmental Division
P O Box 2921
Rivonia
2128

Issue Date: February 2010
Revision No: 1

Contents

Page

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	PROGRAMME UNDERTAKEN IN BRIEF	3

1 INTRODUCTION

As part of SiVEST's consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Thyspunt Transmission Line Integration Project (TTLIP), new land owners and communities have been identified for consultation along the refined route alignment of the Southern and Northern corridors. SiVEST has thus embarked on a comprehensive community consultation process with communities from KwaNobuhle in Uitenhage, Kwanomzamo in Humansdorp and Thornhill Community as well as landowners at Kwamanzi and Kruisriver.

2 PROGRAMME UNDERTAKEN IN BRIEF

On Monday, 08 February 2010 T Skonje met with Clrs of Motherwell to brief and consult them on project's status and outlining PPP followed this far and way forward. Gave an outline of the activities followed this far dating back from the initial project announcement in July 2008 to the EIA Newsletter circulation as well as the current community consultation resulting from previous consultation with other stakeholders.

- Councillors welcomed the process and requested to be kept informed throughout the process. A suggestion was further made that prior community engagement, councillors needed to be informed and to form part of consultation process.
- T Skonje explained and outlined that the current consultation is part of the Public Participation Process followed by SiVEST which is embedded in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and this is also a legal requirement.
- Councillors raised concern about health and safety of the Transmission Lines
 - Suggested that Transmission Lines needed to be constructed far away from the residential areas.
- T Skonje made reference to the BID that it had been mentioned that Eskom power lines are designed and built to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act (Act 85 of 1993). As long as activities under the power line comply with the servitude conditions, they are therefore safe to undertake. EMF effects decrease as distance from the power line increases and any living quarters outside the servitude will not be affected by the power line and radiation from the power line is nil at the edge of the servitude.
- Councillors requested that Eskom provide current studies that have been undertaken recently in relation to the EMF.
- T Skonje noted the request and indicated that it would be forwarded to Eskom.
- Community Development Worker by the name of Mlungwana immediately submitted a comment form in which he mentioned that he is part of a community that was resettled because in an informal settlement area where he resided before, power lines had to be constructed.
 - He further indicated that he is in support of the project as long as the resettlement of residents is conducted correctly.
 - Also pointed out that while he lived in an informal settlement near the power lines, he observed a high level of whistling sound from the power lines.
 - Requested that power lines must not interfere with community.
- T Skonje noted the comment and indicated that comment will be forwarded to Eskom.

T Skonje also took to the streets and distributed some BID & EIA Newsletter and explained project's status and outlined PPP followed this far.



Figure 1 Motherwell Cllrs, T Vusani, Madlavu & Q Mlungwana after consultation



Figure 2 Motherwell community member at Motherwell Community Centre



Figure 3 Ward Committee Members Motherwell Community Centre

Later on T Skonje went to Kruisriver and met up with land owners Mr MBZ Dwane of Dwane Family Communal Property Association, to brief and consult him on project's status and outlining PPP followed this far and way forward. Gave him an outline of the activities followed this far dating back from the initial project announcement in July 2008 to the EIA Newsletter circulation as well as the current community consultation resulting from previous consultation with other stakeholders. His concern was that:

- The farm is registered a family communal property consisting of members that do not stay at the farm.
- On decision making members have to be consulted, though a mammoth task he can try to coordinate such a consultation process.
- He intends to improve the chicken farm as well as expand the farm to cater for Query and Lucern.

Other farmers consulted were Mr Fezile Maseti of Laphumikhwezi Farm as well as Mr Litoli Langboo of Ruby Family Trust. They too articulated the same views mentioned by Mr Dwane that:

- Their farms are registered as family communal property consisting of members that do not stay at the farm.
- On decision making members have to be consulted, this they said could be a daunting exercise, but could be coordinated given time in the consultation process.
- They intend to improve and expand their farms.

On Tuesday, 09 February 2010 T Skonje met with landowners from Amanzi Mr Sipho Tikiso and Mr Zolile Mama both of Iliso Farmers Trust Amanzi as well as Mr V Qengwa from Department of Agriculture in Uitenhage. All were briefed and consulted on project's status and PPP followed this far and way forward was outlined to them. T Skonje also gave an outline of the activities followed this far dating back from the initial project announcement in July 2008 to the EIA Newsletter circulation as well as the current community consultation resulting from previous consultation with other stakeholders.

Their concern was that:

- Their farm is registered as family communal property consisting of members that do not stay at the farm.
- On decision making members have to be consulted, this they said could be a daunting exercise, but could be coordinated given time in the consultation process.
- They intend to improve and expand their farms.

Later on Tuesday, 09 February 2010 T Skonje went to Thornhill and met up with Ward Councillors Fumanekile Lloyd and Ks Felix who were both briefed and consulted on project's status and PPP followed this far and way forward outlined. They were also given an outline of the activities followed this far dating back from the initial project announcement in July 2008 to the EIA Newsletter circulation as well as the current community consultation resulting from previous consultation with other stakeholders. Both did not have concerns except that when future consultation is conducted they need to be notified in advance.

Later on the same in the evening T Skonje went to Kwanomzamo in Humansdorp where he addressed various stakeholders who had converged for a meeting with the Ward Councillor Phumzile Oliphant and his Ward Committee members. Attendees were briefed and consulted on project's status and PPP followed this far and way forward outlined. They were also given an outline of the activities

followed this far dating back from the initial project announcement in July 2008 to the EIA Newsletter circulation as well as the current community consultation resulting from previous consultation with other stakeholders.

- Attendees raised concern regarding the Nuclear Power Station, citing in an event the unexpected happened, further wanted to know if there are any planes in place for evacuation.
- TS explained that the Nuclear Power station is a separate process run by a different independent EIA consultant (Arcus Gibb)
- TS explained that the Nuclear Power station is a separate process run by a different independent EIA consultant (Arcus Gibb)
- Also requested that Eskom conduct capacity building to create awareness on functionality of the Nuclear and power station, and highlighting the difference between the two.
- TS noted the comment and mentioned that it would be forwarded to Eskom.
- A reference was made to an incident that had occurred in Kwanomzamo where a child was electrocuted by faulty electric wires, the incident was quoted as supporting view that Eskom needs to capacitate various communities on dangers of electricity.
- TS noted the comment and mentioned that it would be forwarded to Eskom.



Figure 4 Attendees at Stakeholder meeting in Kwanomzamo



Figure 5 Attendees at Stakeholder meeting in Kwanomzamo



Figure 6: Cllr P Oliphant at Stakeholder meeting in Kwanomzamo

On Wednesday, 10 February 2010 T Skonje met with Cllrs of KwaNobuhle, though most of them had been consulted previously and were thus up to speed with project information, some members of the Ward Committee members were new and thus required to be briefed and consulted on project's status and have PPP followed this far and way forward outlined to them. TS Gave an outline of the activities followed this far dating back from the initial project announcement in July 2008 to the EIA Newsletter circulation as well as the current community consultation resulting from previous consultation with other stakeholders.

- Councillors welcomed the process and requested to be kept informed throughout the process. A suggestion was further made that prior community engagement, councillors needed to be informed and to form part of consultation process.
- T Skonje explained and outlined that the current consultation is part of the Public Participation Process followed by SiVEST which is embedded in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and this is also a legal requirement.
- Councillor Julius Mali was more interested in the future consultation where the whole project team would be available together with Eskom officials. Also mentioned that he is looking forward to receiving results from the outcomes of the recent consultation with land owners as well as the results from specialist studies that were conducted recently.



Figure 7: Cllrs & Ward Com Members at KwaNobuhle



Figure 8: Cllrs & Ward Com Members at KwaNobuhle



Figure 9: Cllrs & Ward Com Members at KwaNobuhle

Later on during the day Wednesday, 10 February 2010 T Skonje visited the Library and met with Library Manager Mrs Vuyina Mabizela who was also briefed and consulted on project's status and have PPP followed this far and way forward outlined to her. TS Gave an outline of the activities followed this far dating back from the initial project announcement in July 2008 to the EIA Newsletter circulation as well as the current community consultation resulting from previous consultation with other stakeholders.

- Mrs Vuyina Mabizela welcomed the process and requested to be kept informed throughout the process. Requested that Newsletters and any other information in respect of the project be made available to the library, and meeting invitations be sent to the Library too.
- T Skonje explained and outlined that the current consultation is part of the Public Participation Process followed by SiVEST which is entrenched in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and this is also a legal requirement.



SiVEST Environmental Division

51 Wessels Road, Rivonia. 2128. South Africa
PO Box 2921, Rivonia. 2128. South Africa

Tel +27 11 798 0600
Fax +27 11 803 7272
Email info@sivest.co.za
www.sivest.co.za

Contact Person: Nicolene Venter / Themba Skonje
Email: nicolenev@sivest.co.za / thembas@sivest.co.za

