



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Mr Moses Mahlangu

EIA APPLICATION: ESKOM TRANSMISSION MATIMBA-DINALEDI 2 X 400KV POWER LINES AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The Scoping Report, dated September 2006, submitted to the department on 17 November 2006 and updated on 11 December 2006, and the Plan of Study for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), dated November 2006, received by the department on 11 December 2006, refers. You have submitted this Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA in fulfilment of the requirements of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989):

This department in consultation with the North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment have evaluated the above-mentioned Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA and is satisfied that it complies with the requirements of GN No. R.1183 of 5 September 1997 as stipulated in section 6(1) and 7(1).

By virtue of the power delegated to me in terms of section 33(1) of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989) I hereby, in terms of section 6(3)(b) and 7(2) of GN No. R. 1183 accept the Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA and request you to further follow the prescribed EIA process by submitting an Environmental Impact Report (EIR):

However, informed by the nature of the environmental setting to be traversed, the EIR should among others include the following:

1. A public participation process that satisfies the requirements of Government Notice No. R.1183 and gives the public ample opportunity to assess the draft EIR for comments. Special effort should be made to ensure that all the possibly affected landowners have been informed about the process, especially those on the final proposed corridor.
2. Please ensure that all issues raised during the scoping phase is addressed and assessed in the EIA phase of the study.
3. Information regarding the effects of electric and magnetic fields (EMF) on the environment.

4. A detailed socio-economic assessment of the effect on land use, land value and possible loss of jobs by workers on the farms where such a large number (4-5) of power lines will run parallel.
5. Detailed design drawings of the proposed extensions at the substations as well as the area affected at the substations to accommodate the new power lines.
6. Written comments from relevant Local, Provincial and National authorities on the EIR.
7. Written comments from SAHRA, SANPARKS, Wessa and other NGOs on the EIR.
8. A draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the construction phase to give IAPs the opportunity to comment on the EMP. The EMP should include but not be limited to the following:
 - Measures to limit and control vegetation clearing.
 - Measures for the minimisation and management of disturbance of topsoil at construction sites.
 - Rehabilitation plans and recommendations for rehabilitation of disturbed areas, as well as erosion and sediment runoff control measures, specifically at the substation sites and river and stream crossings.
 - Measures for the management of access roads and rehabilitation measures for any non-permanent roads.
 - Measures for the management of waste.
 - Recommendations for and measures for the management of construction camps, ablution facilities and store areas for materials and hazardous substances.
 - Measures for the protection of heritage sites and other infrastructure.
 - Measures for the protection of protected and endangered fauna and flora and specifically avifaunal interaction with the power lines. Penalties for removal and wilful destruction of fauna and flora should be included in the EMP.
 - A fire management plan should the line cross any areas of sensitive vegetation.

Yours sincerely



Ms Pam Yako
Director - General
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Letter signed by: M Ntene
Designation: Deputy Director, Env. Impact Evaluation

Date: 20/03/2007