

## Nicolene Venter

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**From:** Nicolene Venter [iafrica@icon.co.za]  
**Sent:** 23 October 2012 10:32  
**To:** 'Rebecca Thomas'  
**Cc:** 'Lerato Mokgwatlheng'  
**Subject:** EIA: TTLIP - Extension of Revised DEIR Comment Period: Notification Letter  
**Attachments:** Thyspunt Revised DEIR Reminder-key changes - 23 Oct2012.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

Dear Stakeholder

As you are aware, SiVEST has advertised and notified registered interested and/or affected parties (I&APs) on the availability of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Revised DEIR) review period.

Please find attached notification letter informing you that the Revised DEIRs' review period has been extended from Wednesday 31 October 2012 to **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012** (end of business day).

The EIA team is looking forward to your written comments on the Revised DEIRs.

Kind regards

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Your reference:

Our reference: 9520 Thyspunt

Date: 23 October 2012

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED THYSPUNT TRANSMISSION LINES INTERGRATION PROJECT (TTLIP)**

- **EXTENSION OF REVISED DEIRS REVIEW PERIOD: REVIEW PERIOD ENDING WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2012**
- **KEY CHANGES AS PER REVISED DEIRS**

SiVEST acknowledges the requests received for the extension of the review period for the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Revised DEIRs) which was made available from Friday 21 September 2012 until Wednesday 31 October 2012 (40 calendar days).

The reason(s) provided by the interested and affected parties for the extension of the above-mentioned review period has been taken into consideration. After evaluation of the requests the review period has been extended from Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 to **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012**, the comment period for the Revised DEIRs is now is now **61 days**.

The review period of 61 days is reasonable in the circumstances due to the following factors which were taken into account:

- The necessity for issuing the Revised DEIRs came directly from the DEA in order to address specific matters along the corridor and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. As per our Revised DEIRs notification letter, the changes was presented to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and after discussing the review period of the Revised DEIRs it was decided that a 40 (fourty) calendar day would be sufficient to comment on the project changes.
- There are no fundamental new findings impacting the conclusions as per the DEIRs.
- The public review period of the Revised DEIRs are in line with the type of project changes that took place since the DEIRs were out for public review and all the requested changes have been underlined throughout the Revised DEIRs for easy review by the public and stakeholders.

The key issues in revised DEIRs are:

- change of the proposed new Port Elizabeth Substation site;
- corridor issues due to environmental and technical constraints which necessitated further consultation with focused stakeholders (these changes are easily accessible under the Route Change Register (Chapter 6, 6.4);
- update of the EIA Team-preferred routing after consultation as mentioned above;
- updating of the Main Reports with requested issues addressed
- updating of the following associated specialist studies:
  1. Appendix 8 – Visual Impact Assessment addendum report addressing concerns raised along the Longmore Forest.
  2. Appendix 9 – Tourism Impact Assessment addendum report addressing concerns raised along the Longmore Forest.

3. Appendix 10 – KhoiSan Heritage Assessment Report as requested by the GamtkwaKhoiSan Council
4. Appendix 11 - Economic Impact Assessment addendum report addressing concerns raised along the Longmore Forest.
5. Appendix 12 – Minutes of Focus Group Meetings held on the above matters and proof of advertisements for Revised DEIRs.
6. Appendix 13 – Updated maps with minor preferred EIA route and corridor changes as a result of issue raised above.
7. Appendix 14 – Additional EMF data from Eskom.

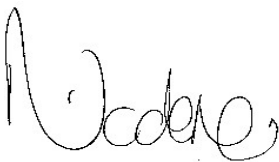
Throughout the EIA process, SiVEST has taken the best practice approach as dictated by the sensitivity and size of the project and extended the public review periods for draft reports from 30 days as provided in NEMA as follows:

- Draft Scoping Report was made available from Thursday 06 April 2009 to Friday 05 June 2009 for a public review period of 61 calendar days.
- Draft EIR was made available from Monday 18 July 2011 to Thursday 01 September 2011 (53 calendar days). Upon request the review period was extended to Monday 10 October 2011 (additional 35 days) which made the comment period a total of 85 days.
- Revised DEIR was made available from 21 September 2012 to Wednesday 31 October 2012 (40 calendar days). Upon request the review period is being extended to Wednesday 21 November 2012 (additional 21 days) which makes the comment period a total of 61 calendar days.
- In conclusion, it must be appreciated that the EIA process cannot be left open-ended as the project becomes open to the risk of more developments encroaching into the Northern and Southern Corridors. For example, the number of wind farms which are proposed (some have received Environmental Authorisation).

In the circumstances it is believed that sufficient time is provided during the revised draft DEIR review period for all interested and affected parties and stakeholders to submit their written comments.

We are looking forward to your written comments on the changes as indicated in the Revised DEIR.

Kind regards



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