



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED THYSPUNT TRANSMISSION LINES INTEGRATION PROJECT

(DEAT Ref No: 12/12/20/1211 - Southern Corridor; 12/12/20/1212 - Northern Corridor;
12/12/20/1213 - New Port Elizabeth Substation)

NEWSLETTER – COMMENT FORM

Comment period: MONDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2009 to FRIDAY, 29 JANUARY 2010

Please **complete** this form and return it to the Public Participation Office below **on or before Friday, 29 January 2010** (close of business day)

SIVEST Environmental Division
Attention:
Chris le Roux or Themba Skonje

51 Wessel Road
PO Box 2921
Rivonia 2128
South Africa

Phone + 27 11 798 0600
Fax + 27 11 803 7272
E-mail thyuspuntlines@sivest.co.za
Website www.sivest.co.za

TITLE (Prof/Mr/Mrs)	MS	FIRST NAME	BEV
SURNAME	GEACH		
POSTAL ADDRESS	PO BOX 11235 SOUTHERNWOOD	POSTAL CODE	5213
TEL. NO:	(043) 742 2557	CELL NO:	0823044220
FAX NO:	0866119208	E-MAIL ADDRESS:	bev.geach@ecparks.co.za

I would like to submit the following comment(s) on the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase (you are welcome to attach additional pages, should it be required)

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED COMMENTS LETTER DATED 29 JAN 2010 AND COPIES OF EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE.
Thank you. Beach
14 pages

(Sien keersy vir Afrikaans)



EASTERN CAPE
PARKS

REF: ESKOM Thyspunt Powerline
ENQ: Dave Balfour
DATE: 29 January 2010

SiVEST Environmental Division
Attention: Chris le Roux or Themba Skonje
Fax: 011 803 7272

Dear Chris le Roux and Themba Skonje

Re: Proposed Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project : Comments on November 2009 Newsletter

This letter is in response to the call for comments on the Newsletter dated November 2009, which was received via email on 4 December 2009 and hard copy in early January 2010.

On 30 June 2009, Eastern Cape Parks (ECP) submitted comments on the Draft Scoping Report, with particular reference to the Northern Corridor (DEAT Ref No: 12/12/20/1212) noting concerns about the proximity of the proposed corridor to Groendal Nature Reserve (see letter attached for ease of reference).

We are therefore dismayed to note in the map attached to your newsletter, that further routes were proposed for the northern corridor, which had not been indicated in previous reports and which cut across the southern section of Stinkhoutberg Nature Reserve. The newsletter offers no explanation for this change, although it does refer to certain other "project changes", namely proposed alternatives near Port Elizabeth, KwaNobuhle, and Humansdorp.

Mr Wayne Erlank, Regional Manager: Western Region met with your consultants and other I&APs on 4 December 2009. Although your minutes note rather oddly that it was "not a formal meeting", the minutes reflect that concerns about the transmission lines crossing the Protected Area were discussed. Mr Erlank has since communicated these concerns to you in a letter dated 28 January 2010 (copy attached for ease of reference).

ECP wish to reiterate that we are opposed to the construction of transmission lines across any portion of the protected areas, or in close proximity to the protected areas, due to their status as nature reserves, wilderness areas and likely future World Heritage Site status.

Thyspunt Transmission Lines: Comment on Newsletter and revised maps: 29 January 2010

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ECP would like to see these concerns noted explicitly in the final EIR, with the Groendal and Stinkhoutberg Nature Reserves. In addition to this, we would like to bring to your attention the existence of a DEAT (DEA) endorsed National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) which was developed under the National Biodiversity Framework which has been approved by National Cabinet. As part of the intent of the NPAES, the ECP has been engaged in an active programme of protected area expansion in the Baviaanskloof / Groendal region (due to its biodiversity importance). We thus request that any routing of the transmission powerlines take cognizance of this and accommodate an adequate buffer zone around the existing protected areas so as to not foreclose on future expansion possibilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr Dave Balfour (Head: Scientific Services and Acting Executive Director: Conservation (Planning and Policy) at Tel: 043 742 2557, Fax: 086 511 9880, or e-mail: dave.balfour@ecparks.co.za, should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Dr D. A. Balfour

Acting Director: Conservation (Policy and Planning)



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Dear Chris le Roux

Re: Environmental Impact Assessment Draft Scoping Report: Proposed Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project

Eastern Cape Parks (ECP) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Scoping Report, with particular reference to the Northern Corridor (DEAT Ref No: 12/12/20/1212) as follows:

ECP is opposed to the construction of the transmission lines across any portion of the Groendal Nature Reserve, or in close proximity to the protected area, due to its status as a wilderness area. It should also be noted that a process is underway to extend World Heritage Site (WHS) status to Groendal, as part of the Cape Floral Region WHS. An evaluation of the status of all the protected areas within the Cape Floral Region WHS has been concluded, and on the basis of the recommendation that Groendal should be included in the extension and receive WHS status, an application is currently in process through DEAT to UNESCO.

During site visits and discussions, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner noted this concern. ECP would like to see this noted more explicitly in the final EIR, with the Groendal Nature Reserve, and preferably a reasonable buffer zone outside the reserve boundary, excluded from the proposed northern corridor.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr Dave Balfour (Manager Scientific Services - Tel: 043 742 2557, Fax: 086 511 9880, e-mail: dave.balfour@ecparks.co.za) should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lenoray Gower
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Thyspunt Transmission Lines: Comment on Draft Scoping Report. 30 June 2009

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EASTERN CAPE
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REF: ESKOM Thyspunt Powerline
ENQ: Wayne Erlank
DATE: 28 January 2010

SIVEST Environmental Division
Attention: David Blair
Fax: 011 803 7272

Dear David

Re: Proposed Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project Route Discussion

Our meeting of 4 December 2009 at ECP Boardroom Patensie refers,

ECP is opposed to the construction of the transmission lines across any portion of the Stinkhoutberg Nature Reserve, or in close proximity to the protected area, due to its status as a protected area and the inclusion of this area as part of the Baviaanskloof nature Reserve and World Heritage Site. It should also be noted that a process is underway to extend World Heritage Site (WHS) status to Groendal (including Stinkhoutberg), as part of the Cape Floral Region WHS. An evaluation of the status of all the protected areas within the Cape Floral Region WHS has been concluded, and on the basis of the recommendation that entire network of protected areas between Baviaanskloof and Groendal (including Stinkhoutberg) should be included in the extension and receive WHS status, an application is currently in process through DEAT to UNESCO.

ECP is of the opinion that the route for the northern transmission lines should be diverted south of the Stinkhoutberg area as discussed at the meeting and proposed that the 5 transmission lines run closer to the southern corridor close to Loerie Dam Nature Reserve before splitting at or near Diepkloof into the firebreak to the south of Longmore Forest before proceeding towards Uitenhage and on to Grassy Ridge.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Erlank
Acting Director: Conservation

Thyspunt Transmission Lines: Stinkhoutberg meeting 28 January 2010

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Nicolene Venter

From: Bev Geach [Bev.Geach@ecpta.co.za]
Sent: 27 June 2012 15:38
To: Nicolene Venter_External
Subject: RE: SUBJECT LINE: NOTIFICATION: EIA TTLIP - Helicopter fly-over (Wednesday 27 June 2012)

Hi Nicolene

It is a concern to receive this notification at such short notice. Am I correct in assuming that the northern route still crosses sections of the protected areas, or has that alternative been shelved?

Regards
Bev

From: Mabel Qinisile [mailto:MabelQ@sivest.co.za]
Sent: 25 June 2012 03:45 PM
Cc: Faith Kalibbala; Kelly Tucker; Nicolene Venter_External; Mabel Qinisile
Subject: SUBJECT LINE: NOTIFICATION: EIA TTLIP - Helicopter fly-over (Wednesday 27 June 2012)
Importance: High

Dear Stakeholder

Please find attached notification letter notifying you of a helicopter fly-over for the proposed Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project (TTLIP) for your perusal.

Kind regards

Nicolene Venter
Public Participation & Stakeholder Engagement Practitioner
Tel.: +27 12 662 2843
Cellphone: 083 377 9112
E-mail: lafrica@icon.co.za

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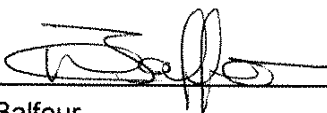
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