



**SIVEST**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

Proposed Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project

EIA NEWSLETTER (November 2009)

(DEA Ref Nos:

Southern Corridor – 12/12/20/1211;

Northern Corridor – 12/12/20/1212;

New Port Elizabeth Substation – 12/12/20/1213)

We hope that you, as a registered Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), have received the various documents that were distributed during the Scoping Phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that is being conducted for the proposed Thyspunt Transmission Lines Integration Project (TTLIP).

This EIA Newsletter aims to further facilitate your understanding of the proposed TTLIP and the EIA process, including the public participation process, being followed. The first phase of the EIA process (i.e. the Environmental Scoping Study) has been completed, and the desktop/preliminary specialists' assessment and EIA process have been captured in the Final Scoping Report (FSR). The Final Scoping Report and its accompanying documents, after completion, were submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) on Friday, 7 August 2009 for acceptance of the final Scoping Report and approval of the Plan of Study for the EIA.

SiVEST received confirmation from DEA on Wednesday 28 October 2009 that they had evaluated the submitted documents and is satisfied that the documents comply with the legal requirements, and therefore the FSR and Plan of Study for EIA are accepted. Should you want a copy of this letter, please send us your request, in writing, by e-mail, fax or letter (contact details below).

The Final Scoping Report is available on:

- SiVEST's website ([www.sivest.co.za/Download.aspx](http://www.sivest.co.za/Download.aspx)) and on
- Eskom's website ([www.eskom.co.za/eia](http://www.eskom.co.za/eia)).

## 1. PROJECT CHANGES

### 1.1 Proposed New Port Elizabeth Substation Site Alternative

Further to consultation between the Scoping Phase and the start of the EIA Phase, it was determined that the location of the proposed new Port Elizabeth Transmission substation was not suitable, both in terms of interested and affected parties in the area, and from a technical and strategic planning perspective of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality. SiVEST is therefore investigating another alternative location for this infrastructure. More detail will be issued on this process as soon as details are available.

### 1.2 Addition of alternatives to a short section of the Northern and Southern Corridors (Thyspunt to Humansdorp)

The sections of the Northern and Southern Corridors between Thyspunt and Humansdorp will be considered as alternatives in the EIA Phase in response to concerns raised in the Scoping Phase regarding the approved developments in the region of the Southern Corridor. It is therefore considered that between Thyspunt and Humansdorp, that the Northern Corridor could accommodate five Transmission power lines (see attached Map for details). These five (5) lines could then split into three (3) and two (2) lines respectively as Northern and Southern Corridors again once north of Humansdorp (see attached Map)

### **1.3 KwaNobuhle**

Through consultation with NMBMM and affected landowners, it has been proposed that the Southern Corridor will be narrowed to 100m in the area to the south of KwaNobuhle to accommodate existing approved developments immediately to the south of the corridor (see attached Map).

### **1.4 Specialists Studies during Impact Phase**

During the impact phase the following specialists' studies will be conducted by means of field assessments, and for some of these field assessments access will be required to properties, whether privately, company or government owned (refer to the public participation process for SiVEST access arrangements). The specialist studies that will be undertaken are:

- Agricultural Potential
- Avi-Fauna (Birds)
- Fauna
- Flora
- Geotechnical
- Heritage
- Socio-Economic
- Tourism
- Visual
- Wetlands and Hydrology

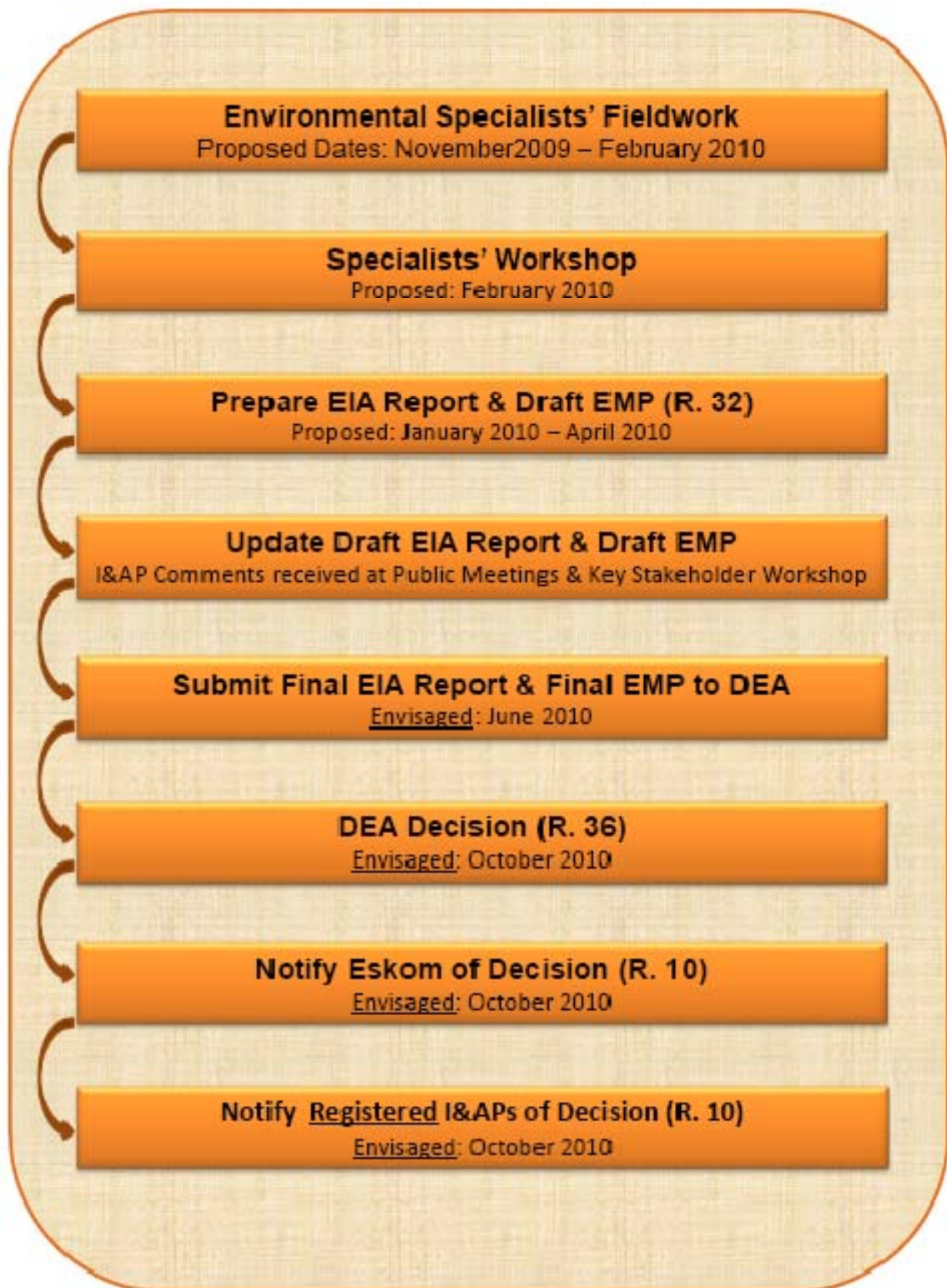
### **1.5 Environmental Management Plan**

An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will furthermore be compiled by SiVEST. The EMP will detail mitigation and management measures to be undertaken during the construction and operational phases, as well as the de-commissioning of the proposed Transmission power line. Mitigation and management measures will address potentially significant impacts associated with activities during any of the above-mentioned phases in order to protect the environment (biophysical as well as social) from harm.

The draft EMP will be made available to I&APs for review and comments during the same review period of the draft EIR. After the review period the EMP will be submitted to DEA together with the Final EIR for review and decision-making. Should DEA require any additional mitigation measures or monitoring activities, the EMP will be revised to include the recommendations made in the EIR. The EMP is a tool to ensure that all mitigation requirements that are stipulated in the EIR are met and where relevant exceeded.

An environmental auditing will be implemented during the construction phase.

## 1.6 EIA Process to be followed



## 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

Public involvement is one of the cornerstones of effective environmental assessments as it is your comments that add value to the environmental process. We therefore, once again, request your active participation in this phase of the EIA as your knowledge of the local area will be valuable to the various specialist studies being undertaken.

The following chart outlines the Public Participation Process that will be followed:

### 2.1 Flow-chart of the Public Participation Process to be followed during the impact phase



## 2.2 Way Forward

Please note that public involvement is a two-way communication and consultation process and we kindly request that you as an I&AP or possibly affected landowner to:

- provide us with the contact details of your neighbour, friend or family member who you believe should be informed regarding the proposed TTLIP. We will take the process from there and ensure that they are informed; or
- provide them with our contact details and request them to contact us directly.

As indicated in the public participation flow-chart, the public participation process is an ongoing process. You will thus be informed through personal correspondence and advertisements of the various stages of the EIA.

Should you, during this impact assessment phase, require any additional information or wish to submit comments on the specialist studies or the proposed TTLIP project, you are welcome to forward your inputs, in writing or by completing the Comment Form included with this EIA Newsletter, to the Public Participation Office given below.

## We look forward to your contributions

### COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Nicolene Venter, Chris le Roux or Themba Skonje

✉ PO Box 2921, RIVONIA, 2128

☎ Phone: (011) 798 0600

✉ E-mail: [thuyspuntlines@sivest.co.za](mailto:thuyspuntlines@sivest.co.za)

☎ Fax: (011) 803 7272

Websites: [www.sivest.co.za](http://www.sivest.co.za) or [www.eskom.co.za/eia](http://www.eskom.co.za/eia)

### Documents Included:

- EIA Newsletter Comment Form
- Map