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OFFICE OF THE ACTING EXECUTIVE MANAGER
SOUTHERN REGION

To Margen / Eskom

Attention Mr. Moses M Wangu

Fax No 013 - 656 - 2233

From MRS. E. GREYLING

Subject AND PETITION AGAINST
COMMENTS ON PROPOSED 765 kV LINE ALONG
EASTERN ALIGNMENT.

Date 15/01/2008

Sent by E. Greyling Pages including cover 10

*Our telephones and faxes were very erratic
due to "power sharing" electricity cuts!*

ESKOM TRANSMISSION

MERCURY - ZEUS 765kV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE

VREDEFORT DOME OPTIONS (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/433)

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

*(Comments Sheet on Minutes of Public Meeting)**(Complete and return before 14 December 2007)*

| PARTICULARS OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----|--------------|
| NAME | S J GREYLING and wife E GREYLING | | |
| POSTAL ADDRESS | Box 393 | | |
| | Potchefstroom | | |
| | 2520 | | |
| TEL | 083 375 4077 | FAX | 082 299 8277 |
| E-MAIL | egreyling@nwpg.gov.za | | |

1. Do you have any comments on the minutes? Yes.

*Item 11: Mrs Greyling is against the Eastern alignment and definitely would not say "opposes".
It should read: The eastern line runs close to the Dome seemed to be preferred by the Dome committee, but the dome has not been gazetted as a heritage site yet, so I do not understand how the Dome committee can ~~oppose~~ prescribe where the line should be.*

Item 19: Comment was made by Mr. Aucamp who said he could see the whole valley in which the present 400kV line is situated.

2. Are there any interested and affected parties you believe should be consulted in the study? If any, provide contact details.

I (E Greyling) went to some of the people in the immediate vicinity. Pages with their comments will be sent separately.

3. Do you have a comment on the presentation given at the Public meeting? Yes.

1. The photos shown at the meeting were taken at positions lower down the road and did not show the visual and social impact the eastern alignment would have on the upper part of Rooipoortjie farms (parts 85, 86, 121, 122, 123).

I (E Greyling) took some photos and have attached them as "Visual&Social Impact" attachment to this document.

2. By taking photos only at/near Copperfield the impression was created that the upper part of the eastern alignment was of less importance.

3. The actual positions of the various alignments are not very clear on the maps provided and differ from previous presentations each time. The multiplication of alternatives contribute to a lack of focus and more confusion.

4. The presentation was a bit rushed, because of farmers' impatience to get into their lands as it was at the height of the planting season. (This would also be the reason if you got back very little feedback!)

5. The knowledge imparted was of course important, but could have been gathered by reading the impact study reserved at the library in Potchefstroom. To me the most important part of such a presentation is the knowledge one gathers about one's neighbours:

- Mr Fourie obviously came to presentation with his attorney to impress and intimidate farmers opposed to the eastern alignment.*
- Mr Coetzee (attorney) said (item 9 of the minutes) that "most people accepted the eastern route", though on what grounds he said that is not clear. (There was no vote for/against). He obviously said it to sow confusion and uncertainty.*

①

- Mr Grobler harped on his GPS that would not work and ESKOM's responsibility for his dead cattle, when it was already made clear that the western alignments were not preferred.
- The difficulty to capture buffaloes by helicopter (item 14 of the minutes) would have been true if the game farm consisted of Copperfield alone. I took a pictures at the corners of the enclosure and marked on the map where I took them, to give an indication of the size of the farm.

4. Do you have further comment, concern or issues regarding the project? Yes.

1. I have already said that by taking photos only at/near Copperfield, the impression is created that the upper part of the eastern alignment was of less importance. This was borne out by the scant investigation by environmental and other specialists in the upper part of the eastern alignment (Rooipoortjie, parts 85, 86, 121, 122, 123, 1, 2, 78).

There was only one very young woman one afternoon who asked a few questions mainly about possible stone-age heritage sites.

- Although there are no stone-age heritage sites, these farms have been handed down from father to son/daughter since their fist occupation in the 1830s. On these farms are houses, outbuildings, cemeteries that date back to the time before the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902). Which means they are every bit as historically important as other sites.

2. The impression still exists that the farmers along the eastern alignment had already signed to have the line running there, although it was refuted in the previous Public Meeting. This assumption is not really true.

- We (S/J & E Greyling) looked at our copies of the "OPTION TO ACQUIRE A SERVITUDE" which were signed on 9 September 2006. The map included with the "OPTION" showed the proposed route of the 765kV line WAS THE CENTRAL ALIGNMENT. We never signed for an eastern alignment. (See attachment "Central alignment servitude option").

- This is in line with Eddie Grobler's comment in item 8 of the minutes: "We gave you rights on constructing the new line parallel to the existing power line".

3. The first part of the Eastern Alignment will go over houses and outbuildings like dairies and chicken runs. (See attachment "Visual&Social impact of 765kV line"). This is the most important reason why we want the Central Alignment to be chosen.

4. The valley through which the proposed eastern alignment is supposed to run, is one of the LAST UNSPOILT RURAL VALEYS in the Potchefstroom area. If we spoil it with an 80 meter high power line, which will in any case be seen from the dome (See attachment "Visual&Social impact of 765kV line"), we'll have lost a treasure for ever. That is the second most important reason for arguing that the line be built next to the existing line.

Thank you!

E Greyling
 ROOIPOORTJIE 85&86
 POTCHESTROOM
 14 Dec 2007

More comments on the proposed Mercury - Zeus 765 kV power line as concerns the "Eastern Alignment" from farmers on Rooipoortjie IQ 453.

1. If our houses and dairies are shifted to the back of our farms, and ESKOM drills and finds us water, it will be too weak to grow fodder crops, so the cows will have to walk all the distance to where the fodder is now. Cows cannot walk that far every day and still top produce. (Mr. Coenie Erasmus, part 22)
2. Even if houses and dairies could be shifted, the water we use to irrigate our fodder crops with cannot be shifted, and overhead irrigation is prohibited under the 765 kV power line. It will effectively kill our farming endeavours. We can stop farming! (Mr. Jannie Bezuidenhout, part 21)
3. We also have a vote, and surely 10 votes against erecting the 765 kV line along the Eastern Alignment, should bear greater weight than 1 (one) vote in favour of erecting the line along the Eastern Alignment. (Mrs Nakkie Pienaar, part 78).
4. I cannot understand why they would like to put up pilons in or near the Rooikraalspruit. This type of soil is too soft to bear the weight of the proposed line. And in the rainy season all access to the pilons will be flooded. (Mr. Nakkie Pienaar, part 78).
5. There has not been any drilling to determine the composition of the soil or its substrata and its weight bearing capacity. Even if ESKOM puts in deep foundations, it could prove to be disastrous, since many boreholes in or along the Rooikraalspruit are actually something like dolomite chambers. (Mr. S J Greyling, Parts 85,86)
6. Why was the Western Alignment 1 shot down? They did not give us sufficient reason why it was abandoned as a preferred route. Was it not the route favoured by Government? I have only about 65 ha. (Part 23) It will be even less if the 765 kV line passes along the Eastern or Central Alignment. I think they should reconsider the Western Alignment 1, where very few people with large farms will be affected, (Mr. Deon Smit, Part 23).

14 Jan 2008

Sent in by Mrs E Greyling

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2008-01-14

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COMMENTS TO PROPOSED MERCURY - ZEUS 765kV POWER LINE

I am the landowner of portions 1, 9, 38, 48 and 78 of the farm Rooipoortjie IQ 453 district Potchefstroom and if any of the two eastern route alternatives be the preferred route, these properties will be affected. I therefore need you to consider these comments.

- On the Rooikraal gravel road, about 600 meters from where it joins the the Rooipoortjie gravel road with a T-junction sits a farm school. This school is on the northern side of the Rooikraal gravel road and about 100 meters from the road and it is called Thalobologo Primary School. It caters for around 80 pupils of the community and draws children from the area. If the eastern alignment be the preferred alignment this will mean children will have to cross under these powerlines on a daily basis because they still walk to school. The consequence of playful young children leaves me with goose bumps.
- On the southern side of the Rooikraal gravel road in the same vicinity is housing for people working on the farm J.C.Pienaar Boerdery. These eastern lines will be even closer to their homes if not directly overhead.
- If the lines are moved more south of these houses it will be in or on top of the Rooikraalspruit which I have seen flood it's banks in such a way, that we cannot use the low water bridges.
- From an aesthetic view point I will have a major issue because these lines will be an eyesore for everybody facing them.

- In a social impact way, these eastern lines will also become a major problem. On a farm, a small community forms with the people working there, and having these lines cutting right in the middle of such a community will cause all sorts of problems. From future developments to current expansions, will have to be planned around these unwanted obscure and dangerous structures.

In conclusion, taking all the above into consideration it is my opinion, that the eastern alignments definitely, has not been well examined. The preferred alignment should be the central alignment, for the landowners and the environment, have largely adapted to the existing line and running the new line parallel to this will have the least impact.

Yours truly,



L.I. Pienaar

Direkteur: L.I. Pienaar

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PETITION AGAINST THE ERECTION OF A 765Kv POWER LINE ALONG THE "EASTERN ALIGNMENT"

AND IN FAVOUR OF ITS ERECTION PARALLEL TO THE EXISTING 400KV POWER LINE ALONG THE "CENTRAL ALIGNMENT" OR ALONG THE "WESTERN ALIGNMENT 1"

We, the undersigned land owners of Rooipoortje, parts 85,86, 21, 22, 23,1,2,78, 54 and 55 **oppose** the erection of a 765 kV power line along the "Eastern alignment" on the following grounds:

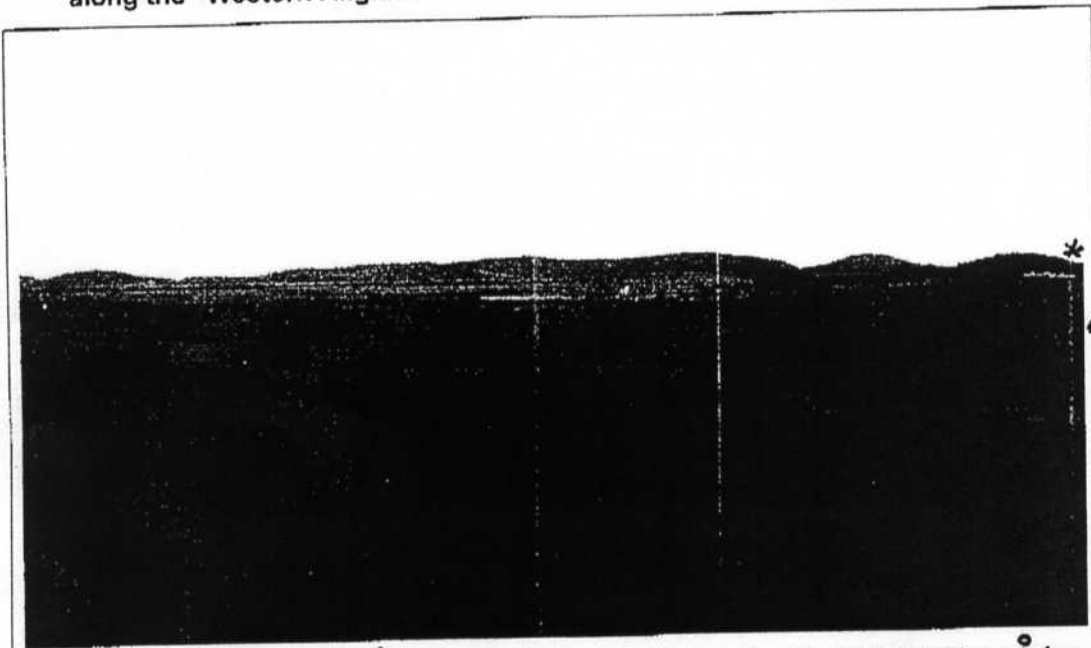
1. The suggested "Eastern Alignment" would **pass over** existing houses of farmers and their employees, outbuildings like dairies and chicken runs and even workers' cemeteries.
2. On some farms workers will have to pass underneath the 765 kV line daily to get to their work. **Long term health influence** of emissions of a 765 kV line on the health of people has not been unquestionably established.
3. Our farms are relatively small (made even smaller by the existing 400kV line along the "Central alignment") and arid. Boreholes in the veld deliver just enough water to water the cattle. The **only water sources** to be found on these farms are in or around the Rooikraalspruit, where the water table is fairly high and boreholes are strong enough to sustain overhead irrigation.

If a 765 kV line is erected along the "Eastern Alignment" it would effectively **take away all means of earning a decent living** on these farms, as there are no other natural water sources on these farms that would make the production of crops under irrigation, like lucern or feed sorghum, possible. (Would the people in favour of the "Eastern Alignment", like Mr Fourie, supply water elsewhere on these farms? Just asking!)

4. An extra servitude so far from the existing servitude would also cause **less security** on the farms, because there would be extra gates and inroads giving access to "visitors" with criminal intent. In short, the more gates a farm has, the less control the farmer has over his own security and that of his loved ones and of his workers.
5. This valley is **culturally important** not only to us, but to the whole of South Africa. These farms have been handed down from father to son/daughter since their first occupation in the 1830s. On these farms are houses, outbuildings, cemeteries that date back to the time before the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902).
6. The **visual impact from the Vredefort Dome** will be 100%. The Rooipoortje valley valley lies at an altitude of 1130 m, as does the valley through which the Central line

goes. The difference is that there are virtually no koppjes or very low kopjes that will not shield the "Eastern Alignment" line from the dome. On the other hand, Klara's koppie and the other koppies along that ridge shield the 400 kV "Central alignment" completely and will shield the 765 kV line to a large extent.


6. ESKOM has been littering the countryside with power lines. **Please keep our unspoilt valley free from POWER LINE pollution.** Please keep our green valley green. The existing 400kV line (the "Central alignment") already spoils one beautiful valley, don't let us spoil another valley ! **Please build the proposed 765 kV power line parallel to the existing 400 kV power line along the "Central Alignment" or along the "Western Alignment 1"**






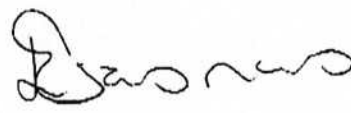



* Klara's Koppie on the right. The houses affected are just off the photo on the right. Mr Nakkie Pienaar's farm is just off the photo on the left. The dust cloud is from a car travelling along the Rooikraal road. The 765 kV ESKOM pilons will be situated in front of this road along the Rooikraalspruit.

If our valley is spoilt by an 80 meter high 765 kV power line, which will in any case be seen from the dome (See e-mail attachment "Visual&Social impact of 765kV line"), we'll have lost a natural treasure, a beautiful gift to mankind, for ever.

Signed:


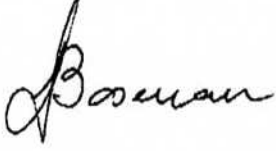
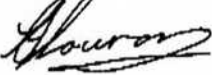
| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>E. GREYLING P.O. Box 393 POTCHEFSTROOM 2520 Rooipontjie IQ</p> |
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PETITION AGAINST THE ERECTION OF A 765KV POWER LINE ALONG THE "EASTERN ALIGNMENT"

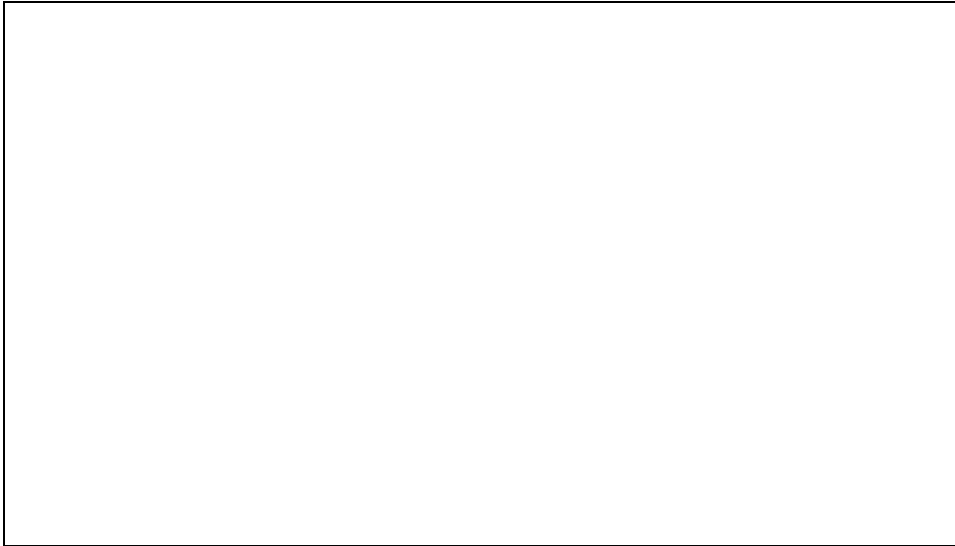
| | |
|--|---|
|  | L.I. PIENAAR . BUS 426 POTCHEFSTROOM 082 801 5444 |
|  | H.C. PIENAAR Box 426 POTCHEFSTROOM 082 905 4893 |
|  | M.C. ERASMUS BUS 19575 NOORDBRUG POTCH 2522 |
|  | A.E.C. ERASMUS BUS 19575 Noordbrug 2522 |
|  | J.A. BEZUIDENHOUT Posbus 237 POTCHEFSTROOM 2520 |
|  | B. Bezuidenhout Posbus 237 Potchefstroom 2520 |
| Please reconsider Western Alignment! -insufficient reasons were given why it was abandoned as a preferred route. Please furnish us with reasons! D.C. SMIT  | D.C. SMIT Postbus 6156 Bailliepark 2526 082 555 0839 |

Duly signed on above mentioned the farms
on 14 Jan 2008.

**PETITION AGAINST THE ERECTION OF A 765Kv POWER LINE
ALONG THE "EASTERN ALIGNMENT"**

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>S.J. GREYLING Postbus 393 Potchefstroom 2520 [Rooipoot IQ453 Ged. 85+86]</p> |
|  | <p>D. J. Bosman Postbus 1689 Potchefstroom. 2520 Rooipootjie IQ453 Ged 83-85.</p> |
|  | <p>C.F. LOURENS Postbus 447 Potchefstroom. 2520 Rooipootjie 19</p> |
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Duly signed on above mentioned the farms
on 14 Jan 2008.



Point 7: At the corner of the Game Farm, facing in the opposite direction, towards the Dome There are still no koppies to shield an eastern line (of 80 m high) from the dome. Visual impact will be 100%.



Point 8: On the road towards Nikki Pienaar's house, taken from the bridge over the "spruit" towards the Dome (Bakenkop at the centre on the horizon), showing no koppjes that will shield the line from the dome.



Point 8: On the right hand side of the road to Roodekraal, opposite Nikki Pienaar's farm, are the koppjes on the Game Farm, behind which the 400 kV ESKOM line (Central alignment) barely protrudes above the horizon to the right of the koppie.