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Mrs E. Greyling
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Potchefstroom

25 January 2008

Per Email: egreyling@nwpg.gov.za
Fax: 018 – 299 8277

Our Ref: 326
Your Ref:

Dear Mrs Greyling

REFERENCE: ESKOM TRANSMISSION ZEUS-MERCURY 765kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT: VREDEFORT DOME OPTIONS

Your faxed comments and petition regarding the above project dated 15 January 2008 refers. Your contribution is appreciated and your comments will form part of the final documentation submitted to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism as well as a copy of this response.

Point 3.1 of the Comments Sheet on the Minutes of the Public Meeting (page 1 of your submission) is noted. Thank you for your photographs.

With reference to point 3.2 of the same Comments Sheet, you state that by taking photographs only at/near Copperfield the impression was created that the upper part of the eastern alignment was of less importance. It should be pointed out that the first public meeting held in August 2007, a request was made at the meeting for those attending to suggest areas where panoramic photographs could be taken. The photographs included in the presentation and in the report include these suggestions. No area was regarded as less important than other areas when the study was undertaken.

With reference to point 3.3 of the Comment Sheet, you state that the actual positions of the various alignments are not very clear on the maps provided and differ from previous presentations and that the multiplication of alternatives contributes to the lack of focus and more confusion. It should be noted that the positions of the alignments did not change apart from Western Alignment 2 where a small site-specific change was made to the alignment to avoid the Wilgeboom smallholdings.

It should also be remembered that alternatives suggested were largely made by landowners affected by the project and were added as such to the maps. It is unfortunate to hear at this late stage that they caused confusion, as that was not the intention of mapping the alternatives.

Points 3.4 and 3.5 of the Comment Sheet are noted.

Point 4.1 on page 2 of the Comment Sheet refers. It should be noted that all areas were given equal attention by the specialist's during the study and section 5.1 *Alignment Assessment* of the Extended Study Report issued can attest to this. Sub-section 5.1.1 addresses the specialist assessments undertaken for the Eastern Alignment and under the Heritage section, mention is made of the Anglo-Boer War cemeteries and houses found along or near this alignment. At no point in the study is one alignment highlighted above the other alignments.

Point 4.2 is noted. The confusion regarding the signing of options by landowners along the eastern alignment has been raised previously. Your comments will hopefully assist in clarifying the situation.

Points 4.3 and 4.4 are noted.

The additional information and petition supplied is appreciated and will be submitted as stated above. In addition, thank you for the photographic record you sent under separate cover that will be included in your documentation.

Yours truly,

G.M. MAHLANGU