

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
OMGEWINGSIMPAKSTUDIE**

for the proposed / vir die voorgestelde

**ESKOM Hydra-Perseus  
765kV Transmission Power Line/  
765kV Transmissie Kraglyn**

**October 2005 / Oktober 2005**



**Background Information Document  
& Invitation to Participate**

This Background Information Document is aimed at introducing the Hydra-Perseus 765kV Transmission Power Line to key stakeholders and the general public.

**Agtergrondinligtingsdokument &  
Uitnodiging om deel te neem**

Die doel van die Agtergrondinligtingsdokument is om die Hydra-Perseus 765kV Transmissie Kraglyn aan sleutel belanghebbendes en aan die algemene publiek voor te stel.

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



**Strengthening of the  
Cape Corridor**

In order to strengthen the supply of electricity to the greater Cape area, Eskom Transmission is proposing to strengthen its Cape corridor by constructing a new 765kV transmission power line from Secunda, in Gauteng to Port Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape (see Figure 1). The line is approximately 1300 km long. For planning purposes and to facilitate the consultation process with various Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), the proposed power line has been divided into four sections, outlined below:

**Versterking van die  
Kaapse Roete**

Ten einde die voorsiening van elektrisiteit na die groter Kaap area te versterk, stel Eskom Transmissie die versterking van hul Kaapse Korridor voor, deur middel van die konstruksie van 'n nuwe 765kV transmissie kraglyn vanaf Secunda, in Gauteng na Port Elizabeth, in die Weskaap (sien Figuur 1). Die lyn is ongeveer 1300km lank. Vir beplanningsdoeleindes en ten einde die konsultasie proses met verskeie Geïnteresseerde en Geaffekteerde Partye (G&GPe) te vergemaklik, is die voorgestelde kraglyn in vier seksies verdeel, soos hieronder uiteengesit:

- > Secunda (Zeus) - Dealesville (Perseus) ± 450 km
- > Dealesville (Perseus) - De Aar (Hydra) ± 260 km
- > De Aar (Hydra) - Victoria West (Gamma) ± 140km
- > Victoria West (Gamma) - Port Elizabeth (Grassridge) ± 320 km

Due to the scale of the project the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the above-mentioned sections are being undertaken separately.

Weens die grootte van die projek word die Omgewings-Assessments (OIS) vir die bogenoemde seksies afsonderlik onderneem.

**Background and  
Project Description**

As part of the strengthening programme described above, Eskom Transmission is proposing a new 765kV transmission power line from Perseus Substation, near Dealesville in the Free State, to an area near Hydra Substation, in De Aar in the Northern Cape (see Figure 2, inside leaflet). The transmission power line is approximately 260km in length and each steel tower is approximately 48m tall. The compact cross rope tower design will be used (see Figure 3).

**Agtergrond en  
Projek Beskrywing**

As deel van die versterkings-program hierbo beskryf, stel Eskom Transmissie 'n nuwe 765kV transmissie kraglyn vanaf die Perseus Substasie, naby Dealesville in die Vrystaat, tot naby die Hydra Substasie, in De Aar in die Noord Kaap, voor (sien Figuur 2, op binneblad). Die transmissie kraglyn is ongeveer 260km lank en elke staaltoring is ongeveer 48m hoog. Die kompakte kruis kabel toring ontwerp sal gebruik word (sien Figuur 3).



Figure 1/Figuur 1

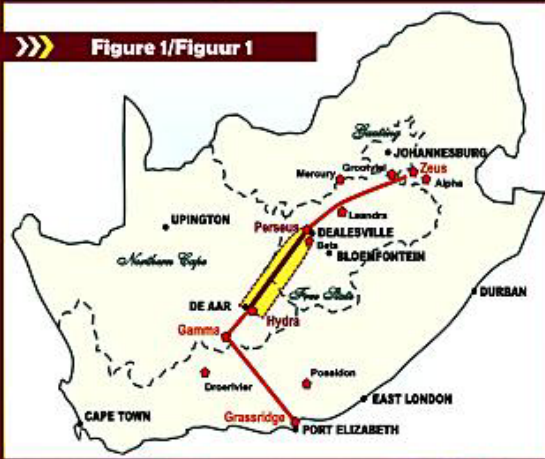


Figure 3/Figuur 3

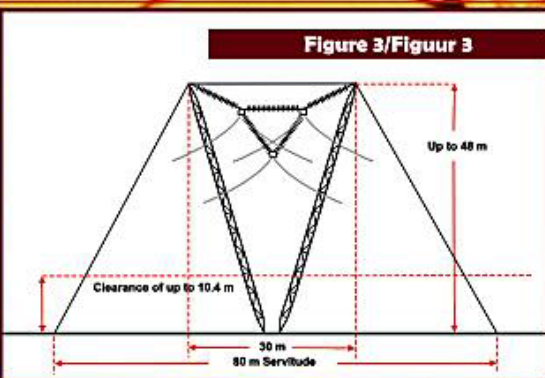


Table 1/ Tabel 1

<b>Archaeology and heritage</b>	<b>Argeologie en erfenis</b> Albert van Jaarsveld
<b>Avi-fauna (birds)</b>	<b>Avi-fauna (voëls)</b> Chris van Rooyen, Ndangered Wildlife Trust
<b>Ecology (fauna &amp; flora)</b>	<b>Ekologie (fauna &amp; flora)</b> Willem de Frey, Ekoinfo
<b>Geology</b>	<b>Geologie</b> Petrus Steenkamp, Rehab Green
<b>GIS and mapping</b>	<b>GIS en kartografie</b> Hester Badenhorst, GIS Corporation
<b>Socio-economic (social, tourism and agriculture)</b>	<b>Sosio-ekonomies (sosiaal, toerisme &amp; landbou)</b> Titus Baloi, Bemani
<b>Soil</b>	<b>Grond</b> Gawie Steyn, Knight Hall Hendry
<b>Visual and aesthetics</b>	<b>Visuele en estetiesa</b> Alan Cave, Cave Klapwijk & Associates

### Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The construction of an electricity transmission power line is a listed activity in terms of current environmental legislation, requiring the proponent to undertake an EIA ahead of construction activities.

### Omgewingsimpakstudie (OIS)

In terme van die huidige omgewingsbewing wetgewing, word dit van die proponent verwag om 'n OIS te onderneem voordat konstruksie van 'n elektrisiteitstransmissielyn kan begin.

Eskom Transmission has appointed ARCUS GIBB as the independent Environmental Consultant to undertake the EIA for the Hydra-Perseus 765kV Transmission Power Line. The findings of the EIA will be considered by the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) with recommendations from its provincial counterparts: the Free State Department of Tourism, Environmental and Economic Affairs and the Northern Cape Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation. At the end of the EIA process, DEAT will issue a Record of Decision that either contains approval of the proposed project (with conditions) or a rejection of the project.

Eskom Transmissie het ARCUS GIBB aangestel as Onafhanklike Omgewingskonsultant wat die OIS vir die Perseus-Hydra 765kV Transmissie Kraglyn sal onderneem. Die bevindings van die OIS sal deur die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerisme (DEAT) oorweeg word. Aanbevelings sal deur die Vrystaatse Departement van Toerisme, Omgewing- en Ekonomiese-sake en die Noord Kaapse Departement van Toerisme, Omgewing en Bewaring gemaak word. Aan die einde van die proses, sal DEAT 'n Rekord van Besluit uitreik wat die projek of sal goedkeur (onderhewig aan voorwaardes), of afkeur.

### Specialist Studies

The range of specialists selected for this study include people with expertise in the natural environment, landuse and economic activities, archaeology and heritage, visual landscape and human environment (see Table 1).

### Spesialisstudies

Die spesialiste wat vir hierdie studie gekies is sluit individue in met vakkundigheid oor die natuurlike omgewing, grond gebruik en ekonomiese aktiwiteite, argeologie en erfenis, die visuele landskap en menslike omgewing (sien Tabel 1).

Issues requiring further investigation will be dealt with during the detailed impact assessment phase.

Kwessies wat verdere studie vereis sal ondersoek word tydens die gedetailleerde impakbepalingsfase.



**EIA Study/ OIS Studie**

Plan of Study for EIA	Plan van studie vir OIS
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	Omgewingsimpak Verslag (OIV)
Distribution of EIR for comment	Verspreiding van die OIV vir kommentaar
Deadline for comment	Sperdatum vir kommentaar
Submission of EIR to DEAT	Inhandiging van OIV aan DEAT
Record of Decision by DEAT	Rekord van Besluit deur DEAT
Notification of Record of Decision to registered I&APs Kennisgewing van Rekord van Besluit aan geregistreerde G&GPs	
Appeal period	Appel periode

Stakeholders will be notified of these timeframes once DEAT has considered the Scoping Report.

Sodra DEAT die Omvangsbepaling Verslag oorweeg het, sal belanghebbendes in kennis gestel word van die tydperke.

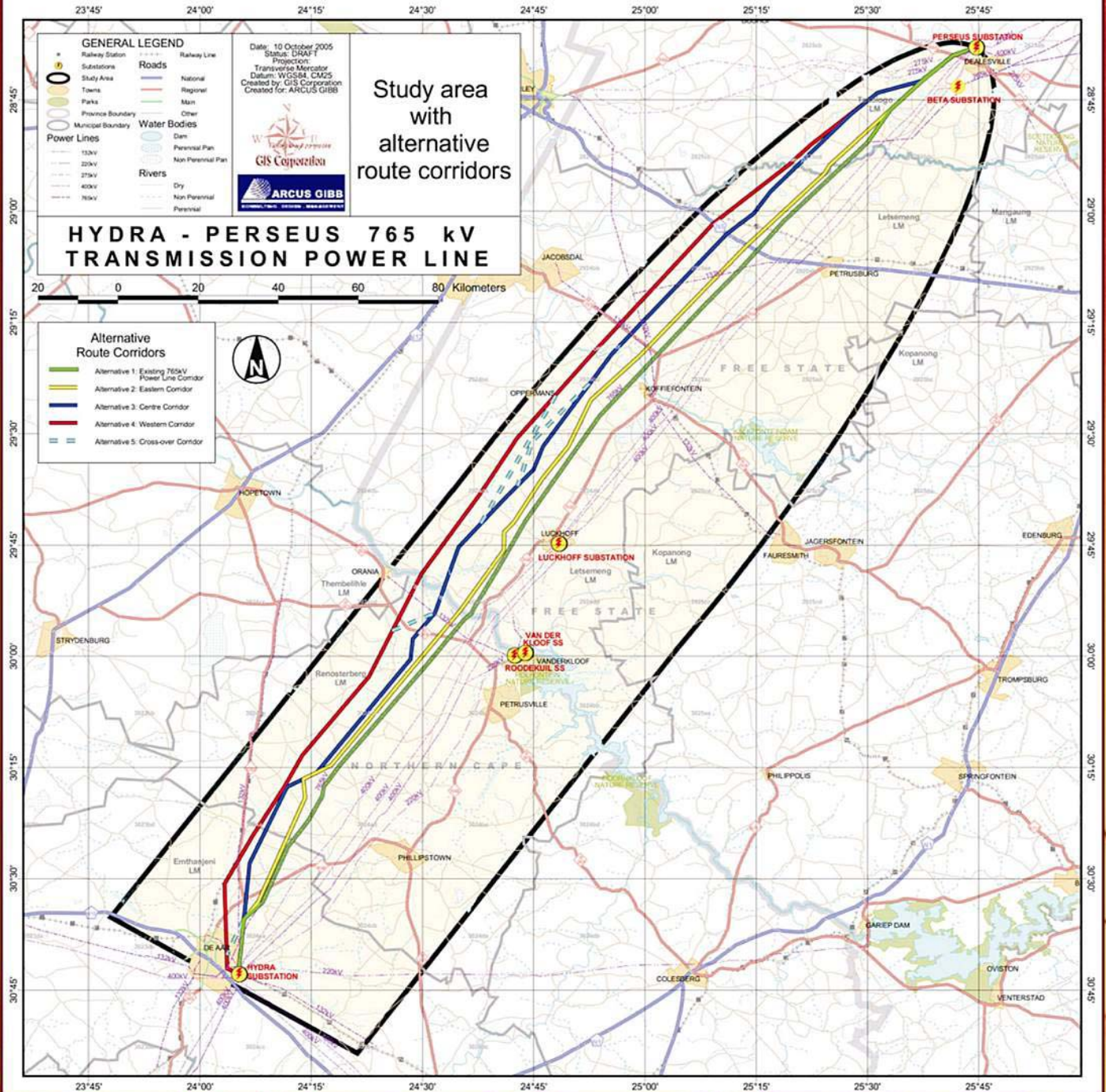
**Proposed EIA Programme/ Voorgestelde OIS Program**

Activity/ Aktiviteit	2005				2006		
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Application for authorisation Aansoek vir magtiging	♦						
Plan of Study for Scoping Plan van Studie vir Omvangsbepaling	♦						
Project announcement Projek aankondiging		♦					
Identification of issues Identifisering van kwessies		—	—				
Closing date for public comment (Scoping) Sluitings datum vir publieke kommentaar (Omvangsbepaling)			♦				
Drafting of Scoping Report (SR) Konsep Omvangsbepaling Verslag (OV)			—	—			
Distribution of Draft SR for comment Verspreiding van Konsep OV vir kommentaar					—	—	
Closing date for public comment (Draft SR) Sperdatum vir publieke kommentaar (Konsep OV)						♦	
Submission of SR to DEAT Inhandiging van OV aan DEAT							♦

18 Nov 2005



Figure 2/Figuur 2





### **Power line Corridor Selection**

At the end of August 2005, a pre-feasibility study was undertaken by Eskom Transmission, the EIA team and its specialists to establish the extent of the study area. The initial planning process has identified five (5) alternative power line corridors including cross-over alternative route corridors (see Figure 2). The distances involved for all alternative corridors are similar, at approximately 260km. These alternatives will be assessed during the EIA with input from relevant authorities, Eskom, affected landowners, the public, other stakeholders and the EIA team, including specialists.

Once a preferred corridor has been selected, Eskom will negotiate an 80m wide servitude with the affected landowners, and compensation terms agreed upon.

### **Kraglyn Korridor Selekteering**

Teen die einde van Augustus 2005 is 'n voorafgaande doenlikheidsstudie deur Eskom en die OIS span (spesialiste inkluis) onderneem om die omvang van die studie area te bepaal. Die aanvanklike beplanningsproses het vyf (5) alternatiewe kraglyn korridors geïdentifiseer en sluit kombinasies van alternatiewe in (sien Figuur 2). Die onderskeie lengtes van die alternatiewe roetes is belde ongeveer 260km. Die alternatiewe korridors sal geassesseer word gedurende die OIS deur insette van relevante owerhede, Eskom, geaffekteerde grondelenaars, die publiek, ander sleutel belanghebbendes en die OIS span.

Sodra die verkose korridor geselekteer is sal Eskom 'n 80m servituut en ooreenkomste vir kompensasië onderhandel met geaffekteerde grondelenaars.

During the EIA process, additional power line corridor alternatives may be identified in the study area. To ensure that you are kept up to date, register as an I&AP. If you are unsure about whether you will be affected, contact the Public Participation Office for assistance

Verdere alternatiewe kraglyn korridors kan gedurende die OIS-proses binne die studie area geïdentifiseer word. Om te verseker dat u op hoogte gehou word, registreer as 'n G&GP. Indien u onseker is of u geaffekteer gaan word, skakel asseblief die Publieke Deelname Kantoor vir hulp.

**Will you be affected by the proposed Transmission Power Line?**

The main settlements and towns which are situated close to the different alternative corridors include: Dealesville, Petrusberg, Koffiefontein, Oppermans, Luckhoff, Orania, Vanderkloof, Petrusville, Phillipstown and De Aar.

The Local Municipalities potentially affected by the proposed routes include: Emthanjeni, Kopanong, Letsemeng, Mangaung, Renosterberg, Thembelihle and Tokologo.

The farmers and water user associations potentially affected are Boshof-Suid Boerevereniging, Dealesville Boerevereniging, Vanderkloof Boerevereniging, Oranje Riet Water User Association, Petrusberg Landbou, Hopetown Boerevereniging, Petrusville Boerevereniging, Phillipstown Boerevereniging, De Aar Boerevereniging and Bo Karoo Boere Unie.

**Gaan u deur die voorgestelde Transmissie Kraglyn geaffekteer word?**

Die hoof nedersettings en dorpe wat naby aan die onderskeie alternatiewe korridors geleë is, sluit in: Dealesville, Petrusberg, Koffiefontein, Oppermans, Luckhoff, Orania, Vanderkloof, Petrusville, Phillipstown en De Aar.

Die Plaaslike Munisipaliteite wat moontlik deur die voorgestelde roetes geraak word sluit: Emthanjeni, Kopanong, Letsemeng, Mangaung, Renosterberg, Thembelihle en Tokologo in.

Die Boere- en Watergebruikersverenigings wat moontlik geraak word sluit die Boshof-Suid Boerevereniging, Dealesville Boerevereniging, Vanderkloof Boerevereniging, Oranje Riet Water User Association, Petrusberg Landbou, Hopetown Boerevereniging, Petrusville Boerevereniging, Phillipstown Boerevereniging, De Aar Boerevereniging en Bo Karoo Boere Unie in.

The proposed transmission power line mostly traverses privately owned farms. The Public Participation Team will coordinate meetings with chairpersons of potentially affected farmers associations. Members of these farmers associations are encouraged to contact their respective chairpersons for proposed meeting dates. Should you not belong to a farmers association, please contact the Public Participation Office directly.

Die voorgestelde Transmissie Kraglyn kruis meestal plase in privaat besit. Die Publieke Deelname Span sal vergaderings koördineer met die voorsitters van van boereverenigings wat moontlik geraak kan word. Lede van hierdie organisasies word aangemoedig om hul onderskeie verenigings te kontak vir die voorgestelde vergadering datums. Indien u nie aan 'n vereniging behoort nie, skakel die Publieke Deelname Kantoor asseblief direk.



## Invitation to Participate

Public participation is a legal requirement of an EIA process. Anyone who is interested or affected by the proposed project has a right to participate.

Please make use of the following opportunities:

- *Study the information* made available in this Background Information Document, in letters, at meetings, on the website, and in the Draft Scoping and Environmental Impact Reports.
- *Attend the workshops* to obtain further project information, interact on a one-to-one basis with the Project Team, and/or raise issues and concerns.
- *Attend Focus Group Meetings*, which will be held with various stakeholder groups to discuss the proposed project. Should you wish to participate in a meeting in your area, please contact the Public Participation Office.
- *Contact the Public Participation Office* to obtain further project information, and/or raise issues and concerns.
- *Register* as an Interested and Affected Party in order to receive future project information and/or formally record issues and concerns.
- *Complete the comment sheet* and return either by hand, mail, fax or e-mail. Visit Eskom's website ([www.eskom.co.za/eia](http://www.eskom.co.za/eia)) to register, view information and/or submit comment.

## Uitnodiging om deel te neem

Publieke deelname is 'n wetlike vereiste van die OIS-proses. Enige een wat geïnteresseerd is in, of geïmpak word deur die beplande projek, het die reg om deel te neem. Maak asseblief gebruik van die volgende geleenthede om deel te neem:

- *Bestudeer die inligting* wat in hierdie Agtergrond-inligtingsdokument, by vergaderings, op die webwerf en in die Konsep Omvangsbepaling Verslag en Omgewingsimpak Verslag beskikbaar gemaak word.
- *Woon die werksinkels* by ten einde verdere projek inligting te bekom, vir interaksie met die projekspan, en/of om kwessies en belange te opper.
- *Woon 'n Fokusgroep Vergadering* by wat met verskeie Sleutel Belangegroepes gehou sal word om die voorgestelde projek te bespreek. Indien u sou belangstel om so 'n vergadering by te woon kontak die Publieke Deelname Kantoor.
- *Kontak die Publieke Deelname Kantoor* om verdere projek inligting te bekom en/of kwessies en belange te opper.
- *Registreer* as 'n geïnteresseerde of geïmpakteerde party om toekomstige projek inligting te bekom en/of kwessies en belange formeel te opper.
- *Voltooi die kommentaarblad* en stuur dit per pos, faks of e-pos, of handig dit. Besoek Eskom se webwerf ([www.eskom.co.za/eia](http://www.eskom.co.za/eia)) om te registreer, inligting te bekom of kommentaar te lewer.

### **Your Participation in the EIA process**

Your issues and comments will help to focus the EIA process and enhance the quality of the decision taken by the authorities. Issues raised will be captured in the project database and presented in a Comments and Response Report. The Comments and Response Report will be distributed with the Scoping and Environmental Impact Reports to ensure that DEAT has full knowledge of these issues and can check that the issues have been addressed in the reports.

### **U deelname in die OIS-proses**

U kwessies en kommentaar sal help om die OIS-proses te fokus en die hoë gehalte van die Rekord van Besluit vanaf die owerhede te verseker. Kwessies wat geopper word, word in die projekdatabasis aangeteken en voorgelê in 'n Kommentaar- en Terugvoerverslag. Die Kommentaar en Terugvoerverslag word saam met die OV en OIV versprei om te verseker dat DEAT kennis dra van hierdie kwessies en kan kontroleer of dit in die verslae aangespreek word.

**Public Participation Offices:  
Contact Details**

**Publieke Deelname Kantoor:**

**Kontak Besonderhede**

**Ms Bongzi Shinga or/of Me Suzette Hattingh  
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**Or/Of**

**Local Public Participation Officer/  
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Mr/Mnr Jan Combrinck (in Luckhoff)  
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