

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED 400/132kV
HOUHOEK ESKOM TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION,
INCLUDING THE BACCHUS–PALMIET 400kV LOOP-IN AND LOOP-OUT
TRANSMISSION POWER LINES, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

FOCUS GROUP MEETING: DEA&DP

NOTES OF THE MEETING

05 December 2012

Time: 09:00-11:00

Venue: DEA&DP Offices, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town

PREPARED BY:

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0001**



PREPARED FOR:

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Eskom Holdings SOC Limited

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1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 WELCOME

Ms B Griffiths opened the meeting at 09:30. She welcomed all and thanked them for attending. All attendees introduced themselves. The following members of the project team were present at the meeting. Please refer to Error! Reference source not found. for a list of the project team members present at the meeting.

1.2 ATTENDANCE

Two (2) officials from the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning (DEA&DP) and one (1) official from the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works (DoTPW), attended the focus group meeting.

Please refer to Appendix A for the formal attendance register. The attendees are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Members of Environmental Impact Assessment Project Team

TITLE	INITIAL	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Ms	B (Bronwen)	Griffiths	BKS (Pty) Ltd
Ms	M (Mamokete)	Maimane	BKS (Pty) Ltd
Ms	M (Martina)	Nailana	Eskom
Mrs	R (Rudzani)	Ranwedzi	Eskom
Ms	B (Boitumelo)	Mosiane	Eskom
Mr	S (Sydney)	Mashigo	Eskom
Mrs	L (Lindi)	Haarhoff	Eskom
Mr	A (Amos)	Mboweni	Eskom

Table 2: Government Officials

TITLE	INITIAL	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Mr	E (Evan)	Burger	Western Cape DoTPW
Ms	R (Rondine)	Isaacs	Western Cape DEA&DP
Mrs	W (Washiela)	Anthony	Western Cape DEA&DP

2 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The meeting did not have an agenda to be followed; the meeting rather followed the discussion forum structure.

3 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the meeting is to have a discussion with the Western Cape Environmental and Transportation officials regarding the proposed project. As such Ms Griffiths gave an overview of the project using the map to indicate the potential site alternatives and to discuss known issues to date that have arisen from the preliminary specialist studies carried out as part of the Scoping process.

The overall aim of the meeting was thus to provide the officials with an opportunity to raise comments or issues with regard to the proposed project from the viewpoint of the Western Cape government – specifically with respect to environmental and transportation issues. And thus to ensure that all comments regarding the proposed project are taken into account and addressed properly in the final Scoping Report (fSR).

4 DISCUSSION

	COMMENT	RESPONSE
1	Is Eskom going to apply for the Water Use Licence?	This will be determined later in the process.
2	How many Specialist studies will be undertaken for this project?	Geotechnical, Soil and Agricultural Potential, Wetland, Ecological / Biodiversity, Avifaunal, Social, Visual, and Heritage. There will also be independent peer and legal reviews done on the reports.
3	DEA&DP advises BKS to use a Xhosa translator for the meetings during the EIA phase, as well as to translate correspondence into Xhosa – this is recommended as not all people within the area understand either English or Afrikaans.	Point noted, a Xhosa translator will be considered during the EIA phase. For the scoping phase correspondence was done in both English and Afrikaans as these are the languages found in the local newspaper, The Gazette.
4	Which stakeholders have been consulted so far for this project?	All the relevant Western Cape Provincial Departments (Environmental, Cape Nature, Transport, Heritage, Settlement: Planning), the Local Municipality (Theewaterskloof) including a range of their sections and councillors, and Affected Landowners. A full copy of the list of registered I&APs is available on request.
5	There is a series of guidelines that DEA&DP uses for their EIAs. The latest series was for 2012 February. This guidelines will be forwarded to BKS.	BKS will be in contact with DEA&DP regarding obtaining copies of the guidelines. It was noted that BKS is aware of these guidelines but will need to check whether the team has the most recent versions thereof.
6	Is BKS using an internal specialist for the geotechnical investigation? If so, BKS will need to apply for exemption in terms of Section 11 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).	BKS will certainly apply for the exemption for this specialist and others as required.

	COMMENT	RESPONSE
	Similarly for any other non-independent specialists.	
7	Is Eskom going to apply for the Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO) approvals for the land use (i.e. potential rezoning)? The DoTPW noted that should a LUPO process be triggered that they will comment on that documentation, and will not formally comment on the EIA documentation.	It is uncertain at this time whether a LUPO process will be triggered. The DoTPW is thus requested to make formal comment on the EIA documentation. The project team will begin a process by which the need for a LUPO approval is determined in the near future. Eskom indicated to BKS that a LUPO specific review process (i.e. not the full townplanning process at this time, rather an indication to determine the townplanning constraints) should be undertaken and will be linked into the EIA process as a specialist input. BKS indicated this would be done.
8	Eskom needs to undertake traffic impact assessment and provide access road in the area. Issuing of the authorisation in terms of traffic will not be a problem if the EIA adhered to all requirements.	Comment noted. This will be considered in a formal traffic impact assessment. It was noted that should this be done by an internal traffic specialist to BKS that exemption will be requested as per the geotechnical specialist.
9	How far is Kleinmond and the related Eskom infrastructure from the project site? This was asked in terms of potential Eskom network changes in that area.	The proposed project will not have a direct impact on Kleinmond which is at a remove of approximately 20km south of the existing Houhoek Distribution Substation – the proposed project will not occur any more than 1km south of the existing Substation footprint.
10	The DoTPW indicated that all the site alternatives may be impacted on by future proposed widening of the R43 which is scheduled to be upgraded to a 4 lane (2 lane in each direction) road from its existing 2 lane total status. This will have implications on the servitude width of the road which will increase to between 60 – 90m. This will need to be considered in terms of placement of infrastructure.	Comment noted. The DoTPW will be contacted for further information with respect to this planned widening of the road. The information will be considered in terms of the proposed development.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 10:35.

APPENDIX A: ATTENDANCE REGISTER

APPENDIX B: PRESENTATION