## 5 August 2015

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Your Ref: BBHEV 17/2011 (Letter dated 05 July 2011)

Email received 14 July 2011

The Chairperson
Baardskeerdersbos Home Owners' Association
PO Box 1014
Gansbaai
7220

Email: Tolbos@orcawireless.co.za

Tel: 028 381 9206

Dear Ms Swart



#### Tshwane

Lynnw ood Corporate Park Block A, 1st Floor, East Wing 36 Alkantrant Road Lynnw ood 0081 PO Box 35007 Menlo Park 0102

Tel: +27 12 348 5880 Fax: +27 12 348 5878 Web: www.gibb.co.za

# RE: ESKOM EIA CONCERNS FOR THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (DEA Ref. No: 12/12/20/944)

#### **Background:**

Baardskeerdersbos is a unique and unspoilt rural village and as such a gem in the Western Cape. It retains a Cape heritage with small Overberg cottages, orchards, meadows, green pastures, furrows, ponies, sheep and cattle set against a backdrop of sweeping views of mountains and fynbos. This is a heritage which must not be destroyed by the visual impact of huge power lines in or at the outskirts of the village. The beauty of the area will be spoilt forever for future generations.

The farm Baardscheerders Bosch is clearly marked on the attached map Annexure A. The original farm is subdivided in 199 portions with a total size of 1794 hectares. There is a line drawn around the village, but it is for administrative municipal purposes only. The Overstrand municipality delivers certain services to properties inside the village but not to properties outside this line. The village consists of 127 properties with 50 dwellings and 90 permanent residents. The number of residents increases to about 110 during certain holiday periods. The size of properties in the village varies from 719m² to 3,5 hectares and the total area is 47 hectares in extent. Properties inside the village are zoned agricultural and the municipality is presently considering adopting an overlay zone for the village to protect the historical rural character and heritage value of Baardskeerdersbos.

The properties around the village which are part of the main farm Baardscheerders Bosch consist of 72 portions with a total area of 1747 hectares. Eight (8) of these portions are larger than 50 hectares and may be regarded as commercial farming units. The rest are smallholdings of between 1 and 25 hectares where small scale farming activities take place. The map in Annexure B clearly indicates the portions of land. Some of the residents inside the village are farming on some of the surrounding portions. Many of the properties in and around the village belong to people from elsewhere in the country; these properties have been bought for retirement and other purposes and were mainly bought for the country lifestyle the area offers. There are approximately 46 dwellings with 200 residents on these farms and smallholdings. Although Baardskeerdersbos can be regarded as a low density population area, the density is significantly higher than the rest of the Strandveld area and the construction of power lines through Baardskeerdersbos would thus affect many more people.







The fertile Baardskeerdersbos valley and village in the heart of the Overberg is one of the most undisturbed and natural settings in the Cape.

## Comment 1: Baardskeerdersbos Home Owner's Association:

The Baardskeerdersbos Home Owners' Association membership is restricted to landowners in Baardskeerdersbos village. Currently we have 100 members representing 85% of all landowners in Baardskeerdersbos. The main objective of our association is to further and protect the interests of its members. The Baardskeerdersbos Home Owners' Association also endeavours to manage and regulate development in order to retain the rural village character and heritage assets of Baardskeerdersbos.

The Baardskeerdersbos Home Owners' Association is of the opinion that the proposed Bantamsklip Nuclear Power Station and Bacchus Alternative 2 power lines route will have a severe negative impact on several interests of our members in the area. As indicated on the attached map the route clips the edges of the farm Baardscheerders Bosch having the most negative impact. The Bacchus Alternative 3 route is further away from Baardskeerdersbos and will have the least negative impact. We strongly recommend that the routes which cross Baardskeerdersbos farm be planned to avoid the area and village. It is of great concern to our members that the construction of the lines will have a detrimental impact on our area and interests as set out below. The fact that the corridors are up to 5 km in width would result that a substantial part of the farm Baardscheerders Bosch and even the village itself falling within these corridor.

## Response 1:

Your comments regarding the proposed routes of the Transmission Lines are noted and will be forwarded to the EIA team for the Bantamsklip Transmission Lines. Please note that this EIA process is currently inactive. Since the Bantamsklip site for the Nuclear-1 EIA is not the recommended site, the completion of the Bantamsklip Transmission EIA has been postponed until further notice. As indicated in Chapter 5 of the revised Draft EIR version 2, Bantamsklip is no longer considered feasible for Nuclear-1. However, please note that Bantamsklip may be considered as an alternative site for future nuclear power projects as part of the cabinet approved IRP (2010).

## **Comment 2: Social Impact:**

The Agricultural Research Council of the University of Stellenbosch was appointed by the Overstrand Local Municipality to undertake a study in the Strandveld area with Baardskeerdersbos as one of the focal points for their research. Their findings were recently handed over to the municipality. The studies are Development of a Spatial Planning Database and Analysis of Agriculture and Tourist Potential in the Strandveld region of Overstrand Local Municipality and consist of Parts 1 to 3. In Part 2 (Agricultural Development Plans) a report is made of a survey which was conducted on the socioeconomic conditions in and around Baardskeerdersbos and it contains valuable information which is applicable to this assessment. It can be noted that the DSR report contains very little background information on Baardskeerdersbos; for instance, the table on Profiles of potential towns or settlements contains no information on Baardskeerdersbos at all.

A large number of households in and around the village may be regarded as poor and falling within a low income bracket. Many residents in the village try to earn something extra by keeping a few livestock on the surrounding smallholdings, which are later sold. The harvesting of fynbos on a small

scale is also undertaken. Most residents work in the agriculture sector and tourist-related industries. A large percentage of the rural population has moved into surrounding towns due to lack of work opportunities. Promising inroads into the improvement of education and upliftment of the rural population have been made by the efforts of the Flower Valley Trust and the Baardskeerdersbos Community Development Project.

The growth potential for nature-based tourism activities and related businesses and the wine-making industry are vast. The tourism resource potential (particularly eco tourism) and the importance of the area as an agriculture backbone is highlighted in the study carried out by Stellenbosch University (refer Part 3). The importance of the Strandveld's natural resources like landscape attractions, linearly-supported landscape activities like mountain bike riding, hiking trials etc., water-based landscape activities, wildlife attractions and Strandveld cultural resources are highlighted in this research. The Baardskeerdersbos Art Route offers an interesting and valuable tourism attraction. Some ten artists in and around the village have joined together to form an art route open to visitors on set dates. The route has been functioning for two years and has proven to be a great success.

Baardskeerdersbos is unique also as a village set in nature surrounded by fynbos which makes it valuable as part of the Algulhas Plain. The gravel road DR1205 connecting Gansbaai (via the R43) to Baardskeerdersbos, Elim, Bredasdorp and Cape Agulhas is in the process of being tarred (the tarring of the section between Bredasdorp and Elim has been completed and 8km from Phase 2.)

The Western Cape Province has taken the decision to tar this road mainly on the strength of opening up the area for tourism and thus providing employment. The properties alongside the main road through Baardskeerdersbos are earmarked in the Overstrand Spatial Development Framework for tourist-related businesses. The proposed completion of the tar road from Gansbaai to Bredasdorp will not only inevitably result in the establishment of tourist-related businesses in the main road of Baardskeerdersbos but also in the building of more dwellings on vacant plots and smallholdings in and around the village. The flourishing of tourism enterprises will lead to job creation and the social upliftment of the community in general.

The infrastructure of the proposed Nuclear Power Station and power lines through Baardskeerdersbos valley may have an adverse effect on the number of tourists visiting our area, or on the investment in tourist-related businesses and have the potential to stall growth in this area with an adverse effect on job creation and skills development.

# Response 2:

Your comments are noted. The Tourism Impact Assessment (Appendix E22 of the Revised Draft EIR) focused on the entire tourism region and the main tourism attractions in proximity to the proposed power station position. It also focused specifically on the closest settlements to the Bantamsklip site such as Gansbaai and Pearly Beach and the associated tourism assets such as shark cage diving, whale watching and associated coastal activities, as these are the tourism assets about which most concern were expressed by stakeholders. However, the report also acknowledges the value of the terrestrial nature-based tourism assets. Considering that the Tourism Impact Assessment focuses on the potential regional impacts of the proposed power station, it does not discuss the tourism assets of each town in detail. We therefore acknowledge with thanks the information you have provided on the developing tourism market in and around Baardskeerdersbos.

### Comment 3: Flora, Fauna and Avifauna:

The Baardskeerdersbos village and surrounding areas form part of the lowland fynbos ecosystem. This system consists of both sand and limestone fynbos and Strandveld fynbos, both of which have a high occurrence of "rare and regionally endemic plant species ... many of which are very localised" (De Villiers et. al., 2005: 40). For example, the Kraaltolbos (L. Platyspermum) is restricted to low-lying areas on the Agulhas Plain, particularly the area inland of Pearly Beach and to the south-west of Elim (Overberg District Municipality, 2004). Low and Desmet (2007) classify the fynbos inland of Pearly Beach as highly irreplaceable.

The vegetation that occurs on the hill slopes of the area is fairly well preserved and recognised as being of a high value for biodiversity conservation" (Geostratics cc, 2007: 4). It has therefore been recommended that the crests of hills (such as those in the Baardskeerdersbos area) be maintained in order to conserve the aesthetic quality of the area and its importance for conservation (Geostratics cc, 2007). Most limestone fynbos types are slow growing and vulnerable to trampling and should therefore be disturbed as little as possible (De Villiers et al., 2005). As is the case with many areas of Agulhas limestone fynbos, the indigenous vegetation occurring on the hills of Baardskeerdersbos has been prioritised for conservation by the Cape Action Plan for the Environment (CAPE). Routing high-voltage powerlines across these hills would detract from the conservation goals of this Plan.

According to Cape Nature, only a third of the original lowland fynbos remains. Already 41 lowland fynbos species have become extinct, and another 173 species are threatened with extinction. Less than 2% of the original lowland fynbos is conserved in provincial nature reserves and national parks. The rest is on private land; the preservation of lowland fynbos is therefore largely dependent on the actions of property owners and developers. The erection of massive power lines across the hills of Baardskeerdersbos will undoubtedly accelerate this loss of rare species of fynbos. Experts are of the opinion that if this occurs, countless animal species will disappear along with the fynbos and the habitat which it provides. The rare and endangered Geometric Tortoise is but one example.

Furthermore, wetlands (such as the wetland area created by the Boesman River which runs through the Baardskeerdersbos valley) are important water sources and support a diversity of plant, animal and bird life and as such, are critical drivers of biodiversity (Geostratics cc, 2007). In this respect, wetlands facilitate animal movement and plant dispersal for the sustainability of species peculiar to the area. The area around the river is a well-known area for the endemic red listed Blue Crane.

Another important threat presented by massive power lines and one of which Eskom is well aware is the danger they pose to avian life. The threat stems from birds either colliding with the power lines, or through electrocution. Thus, in terms of Cape Nature's environmental impact assessment regulations, the erection of power lines above 33kV is a listed avifauna activity. Habitat loss is recognised as one of the biggest threats facing avifauna in the Western Cape.

The richness and importance of the fynbos in the Baardskeerdersbos area has been recognised by the inclusion of the village and surrounding areas in the official "Fynbos Road", a route which stretches from Stanford to Agulhas. This route is a huge tourist draw card.

The presence of a Nuclear Power Station nearby and power lines across the Baardskeerdersbos hills, or running through its valleys, would undoubtedly mark the pristine nature of the route created by the unspoiled silhouette of the hills.

#### References:

De Villiers, C.C., Driver, A., Clark, B., Euston-Brown, D.I.W., Day, E.G., Job, N., Helme, N.A., Holmes, P.M., Brownlie, S. and Rebelo, A.B. 2005. *Fynbos Forum Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in the Western Cape*. Kirstenbosch: Fynbos Forum and Botanical Society of South Africa.

Eskom, 2009. Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Bantamsklip Nuclear Transmission Integration Project: Application 1. Draft Environmental Scoping Report. Eskom Holdings Ltd.

Geostratics, cc. 2007. Local area context: Klein Paradijs. Draft report. Somerset West.

Low, B and Desmet, P. 2007. *Nuclear 1 Environment Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Programme. Specialist Study for Scoping Report: Botany*. Eskom Holdings Ltd.

Overberg District Municipality, 2004. Overberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework

#### Response 3:

Your comments are noted and will be considered in the EIA process for the Bantamsklip power lines.

# Comment 4: Visual Impact:

Baardskeerdersbos valley is surrounded by mountains to the north and steep hills to the south. The skyline is undisturbed with panoramic views over the valley and surrounding mountains. "Sweeping views", "panoramic vistas" and "endless plains and rolling hills" are the slogans used by the tourist industry to describe the Baardskeerdersbos area. In Chapter 11 p.14 of the DSR it is said that "Historic hamlets on this coastal plain such as Baardskeerdersbos, Wolvengat and Elim survive on heritage tourism based on the beauty of their rural setting" which is absolutely correct. Some of the General Recommendations on p.17 Chapter 11 of the DSR are particularly applicable to the Baardskeerdersbos hamlet and surrounding area.

The scenic views, country and serene lifestyle are the most important factors attracting people to this area; these factors also determine real estate prices in this area.

As already mentioned in this report the Bantamsklip-Bacchus Alt. 2 route will have a severe negative impact on Baardskeerdersbos. The fact that the corridors are up to 5 km in width would result in a substantial part of the farm Baardscheerders Bosch and even the village itself falling within these corridors potentially having the most negative impact The Bantamsklip-Bacchus line Alt. 2 also crosses the farm Baardscheerders Bosch and the lines will be visible from some of the properties in the village and will have a definite negative impact not only on the properties being crossed but also on the surrounding smallholdings.

It is however a great concern to us that no mention is made in the Visual Impact Assessment Study report Annexure Q of the DSR of the negative impact the Bantamsklip-Bacchus Alt. 2 route will have on Baardskeerdersbos. The report mentions on page 29 the negative impact which the line will have on Tesselaarsdal. Surely what has been said about Tesselaarsdal is especially applicable to Baardskeerdersbos. It is requested that the sensitivity of the visual impacts the proposed lines will have on Baardskeerdersbos village and valley be examined in more detail during the EIA phase.

## Response 4:

Your comments are noted and will be considered in the EIA process for the Bantamsklip power lines, if and when it is resumed.

# **Comment 5: Land Capability**

As indicated above, the Agricultural Research Council of the University of Stellenbosch was appointed by the Overstrand Local Municipality to perform a study in the Strandveld area with Baardskeerdersbos as an important focal point for their studies and research. Their findings were recently handed over to the municipality. The studies are the Development of a Spatial Planning Database and Analysis of Agriculture and Tourist Potential in the Strandveld region of Overstrand Local Municipality and consist of Part 1 – Soil Survey Report, Part 2 – Agricultural Development Plans and Part 3 – Agri-Rural Tourism Potential.

On face value the impact that the proposed transmission line alternatives will have on traditional agricultural enterprises is low. However farmers are increasingly looking to rural eco-tourism to diversify their business and to earn a profitable income. The research work mentioned above addresses this and also the farming potential for the future in the area. It may be worthwhile to have look at the most important findings of the above studies.

The main farming activities currently are dairies, fynbos export, livestock, olives, vineyards and Agri-Tourism.

It would be correct to conclude that the percentage of land currently used for agriculture that would be lost due to the transmission lines would be minimal. Should the lines however cross the farm Baardscheerders Bosch the loss and market value of the land involved will be much higher. See attached map Annexure A where the outer border line of the farm is clearly indicated. The farm Baardscheerders Bosch no. 213 consists of 199 portions of land with separate title deeds for each one. One hundred and twenty-seven (127) of these portions are within the "urban edge" of the village and although they are still zoned agricultural they can mainly be used for residential purposes.

There are 72 properties outside the village border but which are still part of the farm Baardscheerders Bosch. Only eight (8) of these portions are larger than 50 hectares and may be counted as commercial farming units. The rest are smallholdings of 1 to 25 hectare in size, on some of which small scale farming activities take place. Many of these properties are vacant land where no farming activities take place. Many of the owners are from elsewhere in the country and bought the property for retirement and other purposes, but mainly for the country lifestyle the area offers in this beautiful rural environment. Although many of these properties will be zoned agriculture-smallholding in terms of the new proposed zoning scheme of the Overstrand Local Municipality, they may be regarded as rural-residential with very little agricultural possibilities. The impact of transmission lines on very small "residential" properties will have a considerably more negative consequence and the construction of lines crossing the farm Baardscheerders Bosch should be avoided.

#### References

Bennie Schloms, Jan Lamprechts and Freddie Els. Development of a Spatial Planning Database and Analysis of Agriculture and Tourist Potential in the Strandveld region of the Overstrand Local Municipality.2009. Part 1 – Soil Survey Report. The Agriculture Research Council. Stellenbosch University.

Odette Beukes, Johan Carstens, Annisa de Vos, Marlise Joubert, Lucienne Mansvelt, Emmy Reinten, Johan van Heerden, Danie van Schalkwyk, Johan van Zyl, Terry Walsh and John Wooldridge. Development of a Spatial Planning Database and Analysis of Agriculture and Tourist Potential in the Strandveld region of the Overstrand Local Municipality.2009. Part 2 – Agricultural Development Plans. The Agriculture Research Council. Stellenbosch University.

Hannes van der Merwe. Development of a Spatial Planning Database and Analysis of Agriculture and Tourist Potential in the Strandveld region of the Overstrand Local Municipality.2009. Part 3 – Agri-Rural Tourism Potential. The Agriculture Research Council. Stellenbosch University.

# Response 5:

Your comments are noted and will be considered in the EIA process for the Bantamsklip power lines, if and when it is resumed.

## **Comment 6: Heritage:**

The Overstrand Heritage Landscape Group has been appointed by the Overstrand Municipality to conduct a heritage survey to identify buildings, streetscapes, landscape features and heritage areas that contribute to the heritage significance and character of the Overstrand so that these features can be preserved and enhanced for future generations. What follows is an extract of the first draft of the survey of Baardskeerdersbos:

# Baardskeerdersbos HeritageSsurvey

The Heritage survey on the Baardskeerdersbos area was completed and adopted by the Overstrand Municipality. An Overstrand Heritage Committee was appointed to oversee the Overstrand area including Baardskeerdersbos

# Description

"Baardskeerdersbos is located alongside the Boskloof River, a tributary of the Boesmans River, which has several springs. The abundance of water and good grazing in the valley would have made it a good place for temporary Khoe stock settlements. In the Overberg area at this time there were a number of loan farms given to wealthy Cape families such as the Cloetes of Groot Constantia, Van Bredas and Van Reenens, who subsequently bought up more of the farms and linked then together to form extensive grazing areas for horses, cattle and Merino sheep (Walton, 1989:142). Baardskeerdersbos was initially granted as a loan farm to Jan Cloete, a heemraad of Drakenstein, between 1725 and 1730 but was not linked to other farms. It changed hands several times and was probably first permanently occupied by Philip Fourie and his descendants from 1778. The natural resources available in the area would have informed the location of the dwellings marked on the 1831 quitrent survey (which do not remain intact). This gave rise to the location of the current town which

was populated by the descendants of Fourie's son and son-in-law in the nineteenth century. The village layout is not in a grid pattern, unlike many drostdy towns (VASSA, 2005:24), demonstrating the organic nature of its development as a series of family smallholdings during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup>. The urban form of the village is characterised by cottages lining the street edges, relative absence of hard boundary treatments such as high walls, variable plot sizes and orientations, and stands of poplar and gum trees. There is a furrow lei water system, probably dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, using water that comes from the spring in the kloof above Baardskeerdersbos, and which remains in use today (Benade, 2006: 289). These water resources are now under pressure from the expansion of the settlement during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Most of the historical dwellings are late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century white-plastered mud-brick rectangular buildings of modest dimensions, with poplar beams, pitched roofs (originally thatch, now iron or asbestos), usually a single window on each side of the front door, loft doors, an external stone chimney stock, and sometimes a simple veranda. Rounded end gables were common but are no longer characteristic of Baardskeerdersbos once iron roofs were used with square end gables (interview Barney Otto 07.07.2008). The gable styles seem consistent with the examples from other loan farm settlements in the Bredasdorp vicinity (Walton, 1989:144-145). Walton notes that most of the Overberg stock farmers especially in the Strandveld used ferricrete (koffieklip) and sandstone that were roughly squared and laid in courses (Walton, 1989:141). However, although they often have a stone base, the Baardskeerdersbos houses tend to be built from mud bricks above the plastered koffieklip foundation layer.

# Significance

Baardskeerdersbos is a rural settlement of historical significance, illustrating the expansion of a town from a modest family settlement on a VOC loan farm, based on subsistence farming and the exploitation of coastal resources. It has architectural significance as a late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> farming settlement, with much of its modest vernacular architecture intact. It also has still intact the organic town layout of the original farming settlement, without street names or numbers (although that is changing now). It has visual and environmental significance relating to its sympathetic location within the surrounding farming environment. Baardskeerdersbos is characterised by its setting in the rural landscape, and its topographical containment. It is a rare example of a village that has undergone relatively little development during the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century, where a *lei water* system is still in use, and where street addresses have not traditionally been used. Street names and numbers are currently being assigned."

The DSR clearly emphasizes the importance of historic hamlets on this coastal plain such as Baardskeerdersbos and others and notes that these hamlets survive on heritage tourism which is based on the beauty of their rural setting. We are however of the opinion that the specialist author of the report does not take cognisance of the devastating visual intrusive impact the Bantamsklip-Bacchus Alt. 2 will have on Baardskeerdersbos. The line is clearly visible from each and every property in the village.

In paragraph 5.1.1 (p. 28) of Appendix P of the DSR, under Conclusions and Recommendations, the following is stated regarding the Bacchus Alt 2 line: "It does not impact on our knowledge of the archaeology of the area; it does not pass over significant villages or hamlets (with the exception of Tesselaarsdal) and will have the least intrusive visual impact. During the mitigation studies as part of the EIA process, it may be possible to move the lines in Alternative 2 to avoid Tesselaarsdal. There is a section of the line which passes approximately 5 km south of the mission of Genadendal and the

village of Greyton, and this should be examined closely to ensure that the pylons and lines are not visible from these communities." Our request is then that the visual intrusion the lines will have on Baardskeerdersbos like in the case of other communities and areas should be thoroughly investigated and that the possibility of moving Alt. 2 within the 5 km corridor in order to avoid Baardskeerdersbos completely be considered to ensure that the lines are also not visible to the community.

# Response 6:

Your comments are noted and will be considered in the EIA process for the Bantamsklip power lines, if and when it is resumed.

# ASPECTS REGARDING BAARDSKEERDERSBOS WHICH NEED TO BE CONSIDERED AND INVESTIGATED DURING THE EIA PHASE (comments 7-19)

## Comment 7:

This historical hamlet on the coastal plain survives on heritage tourism which is based on the beauty of their rural setting.

The DR1205 route through Baardskeerdersbos will when completed be an important scenic route. Visual impact of transmissions lines will be highly intrusive through the closed valley of Baardskeerdersbos.

The heritage importance and significance of the village and its surroundings should be carefully considered.

A greater number of permanent households, dwellings and farmsteads will be affected by the construction of lines in Baardskeerdersbos and surrounding smallholdings than in adjacent areas.

A more direct physical impact assessment is necessary during the EIA phase to determine the negative visual and social impacts the lines will have on Baardskeerdersbos.

The scenic views, country and serene lifestyle are the most important factors which attract people to this area and which also determine real estate prices in the area. The visual intrusion of power lines will negatively influence tourist inflow and future investments in this area.

The Baardskeerdersbos village and surrounding areas form part of the lowland fynbos ecosystem. Furthermore, wetlands (such as the wetland area created by the Boesman River which runs through the Baardskeerdersbos valley) are important water sources and support a diversity of plant, animal and bird life and as such, are critical drivers of biodiversity. The ABI and Bantamsklip-Bacchus Alt. 2 cross the wetlands and Boesman River.

Baardskeerdersbos consists of 199 properties with separate title deeds (127 portions fall within the village and 72 surround the village). Most of the smallholdings are less than 5 hectare. This means that a relatively larger number of land owners would be negatively affected and the negative impact on neighbouring properties will also be much higher. Compensation of owners will be much higher due to current high market valuation of property in the area involved.

Baardskeerdersbos is a well-known agricultural area and has tremendous rural Agri-Tourism potential.

Should it be determined during the EIA phase that the line through Baardskeerdersbos is the most viable option, we recommend that the line should be installed underground.

The proposed Bantamsklip-Bacchus Alt. 2 line will have the most negative impact, while the proposed Bantamsklip-Bacchus Alt. 3 will have the least negative impact on the Baardskeerdersbos community.

# Response 7:

Your comments are noted and will be considered in the EIA process for the Bantamsklip power lines if and when it is resumed.

### **Comment 8: Conclusion**

No evidence is found of any impact study done on Baardskeerdersbos town, community, immediate surroundings etcetera, and as such the RDSR is found to be flawed. In summary, the proposed Bantamsklip nuclear power station, transmission lines & infrastructure will have tremendous negative impacts on the area.

## Response 8:

Your comments are noted and will be considered in the EIA process for the Bantamsklip power lines (if and when it resumes) and, to the extent that the proposed power station and power lines will result in cumulative impacts, in the EIA process for Nuclear-1. Furthermore, as indicated in Chapter 5 of the revised Draft EIR version 2, Bantamsklip is no longer considered feasible for Nuclear-1. However, please note that Bantamsklip may be considered as an alternative site for future nuclear power projects as part of the cabinet approved IRP (2010).

Yours faithfully for GIBB (Pty) Ltd

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The Nuclear-1 EIA Team