Eskom

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED RETURN-TO-SERVICE OF THE GROOTVLEI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

For submission to the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture and Land Administration (DALA)

November 2004

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BOHLWEKI

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the Proposed Project

Eskom has identified the need for the return-to-service of the Grootvlei Power Station, near Grootvlei and approximately 18 km south-west of Balfour in Mpumalanga Province. The return-to-service is needed as South Africa's demand for electricity has increased to the extent that the excess generating capacity available at the end of the 1980s has now been significantly reduced. In order to meet future demand, plans to increase the operational generating capacity have been initiated as part of Eskom's Integrated Strategic Electricity Plan (ISEP) whereby Eskom assessed the future electricity demand and determined how best to meet and manage this demand.

In terms of this plan, the return-to-service of three mothballed power stations, namely Camden, Grootvlei and Komati has been identified as the most effective way of initiating the required increase in capacity in the short term. The return-to-service of Camden is currently well in hand, with Grootvlei proposed to be the next power station to be returned to service. This project is currently in the planning phase.

As part of the project planning, and in accordance with the Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989), discussions have been held with the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture and Land Administration (M DALA) and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF). An application for exemption from undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted by Eskom to M DALA, and a public participation process initiated. Based on the outcome of the public participation process, M DALA will consider Eskom's exemption application and issue a Record of Decision, including, if appropriate, any conditions required to be adhered to by Eskom.

Bohlweki Environmental has been appointed by Eskom to undertake this public participation programme for the proposed return-to-service of the Grootvlei Power Station near Balfour in Mpumalanga.

1.2. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report of the public participation process undertaken for the proposed Grootvlei return-to-service project is to:

- Provide a description of the public participation process followed by Bohlweki Environmental between September and October 2004;
- Reflect a list of issues, comments and concerns raised during the consultation process (documented within an Issues Trail);

- Provide key conclusions and recommendations based on inputs received from key stakeholders and interested and affected parties;
- Provide M DALA with copies of project-related information (minutes of the meetings held, advertisements, comment and registration sheets etc.); and
- Provide a comprehensive list of the registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

An inclusive public participation process was undertaken by Bohlweki Environmental, an independent consultant as part of the planning phase for the proposed Grootvlei Power Station return-to-service project (refer to Appendix A for a copy of the Declaration of Independence of the consultant).

2.1 Objectives of the public participation process

The public participation process had the following objectives:

- Identification of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and key stakeholder groupings;
- Informing of I&APs of the proposed project and associated activities by providing an opportunity for information dissemination and sharing;
- Identification of issues, comments and concerns as raised by I&APs;
- Promotion of transparency and an understanding of the project and its consequences;
- To serve as a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs;
- Transfer of information with regards to potential environmental (biophysical and social) impacts and benefits; and
- Assist in identifying potential environmental (biophysical and social) impacts associated with the refurbishment and operation of the power station.

A key aim of the public participation process was to highlight the proposed technologies and/or minor design changes to Grootvlei Power Station, and consider the acceptability of these solutions to I&APs through public consultation and involvement. Such an involvement process does not, however, always result in agreement amongst I&APs. It is, however, important that I&APs are involved in the process to ensure informed decision-making and resolve issues which may otherwise result in opposition against the project.

2.2 The scope of work

Eskom required an inclusive public participation process to be undertaken in order to identify issues and concerns of key stakeholders and I&APs. The public participation process was managed at two levels of intensity, i.e.:

- the potentially directly affected stakeholders, landowners and communities; and
- the broader group of interested and affected parties (I&APs).

As the public participation process is an integral part of Integrated Environmental Management (IEM), the same principles were applied. IEM principles, as listed by DEAT (1998) and which are most relevant to the public participation process, include:

- Meaningful and timeous participation of stakeholders and I&APs;
- Focus on important issues;
- Due consideration of alternatives;
- Accountability for information used for decision-making;
- Inclusivity (i.e. the needs, interests and values of I&APs must be considered in the decision-making process); and
- Encouragement of co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION APPROACH

An outline of the public participation process undertaken during September and October 2004 is provided below.

3.1 Site Inspection and Desk Study

The consultants undertook a site inspection of the study area and the area immediately surrounding the Grootvlei Power Station. This allowed for independent observation of the power station and the surrounding area. Further project-related information was gathered and key I&APs were identified as part of this process.

In addition, relevant project-related information was studied by the consultants to familiarise themselves with the proposed project and to be able to pro-actively identify issues and concerns that could be raised by I&APs.

3.2 Identification of Interested and Affected Parties and Stakeholders

Key I&APs were identified at the start of the public participation process by means of the site visit and networking. Identification of I&APs also took place through existing contacts and databases, responses to newspaper advertisements, networking and a proactive process to identify key I&APs within the study area.

'Organised groupings' such as National and Provincial Government Departments, Local Authorities/Municipalities, Farmers Organisations, business groupings, and representatives of communities in the area were identified and included in the database of I&APs, as it was considered necessary for such groupings to play a significant role in the public involvement process. Individual property owners and residents in the vicinity of the power station were also included in the public participation process.

The primary area of focus was on a local scale in order to identify those parties that would potentially be *affected* by the proposed project, or some facet of the project. These typically included the landowners and communities within the immediate area. In addition, key role players and stakeholders from key areas were identified and consulted. Those other parties which were *interested* in the project were largely from farther afield, and were identified and consulted on a broader scale.

The public participation process, therefore, largely focused on landowners, communities and other affected parties within the immediate vicinity of the power station. However, some parties within an approximate 40 km radius were also included in the public participation process through inclusion on the project database, receipt of project-related information and invitations to attend the public open day and public meeting.

The Local Authorities were contacted, and included representatives of the Dipaleseng Municipality (Balfour), including councillors or representatives of, Siyathemba Township, Grootvlei ext 1 and 2, Greylingstad, Willemsdal, Nthorwane Township, and Ratanda Extension Township. As the Gert Sibande District Municipality (Secunda) is the neighbouring local authority, representatives from this Municipality were also informed of the proposed project and project documentation was forwarded to them.

3.3 Database/Register of Interested and Affected Parties

Persons and/or organisations identified as possible interested and/or affected parties, as well as those contacting the public participation consultants were registered on the public participation database, thereby ensuring their inclusion in

a dynamic database and their involvement in the consultation process. All I&AP information (including contact details), together with dates and details of consultations and a record of all issues raised were recorded within a comprehensive database of affected landowners (and occupiers where relevant). The I&AP database which acts as a record of the individuals involved in the process was updated throughout the process (refer to Appendix B for the database, and Appendix C for the registration and comment sheets received during the public participation process).

3.4 Advertisements

3.4.1 Newspaper Advertisements

In compliance with EIA Regulations, the proposed project and the public participation process was advertised in national and regional/local newspapers (i.e. the Rapport and Sunday Times on 3 October 2004, and the Heidelberg Nigel Heraut on 6 October 2004). The objectives of these newspaper advertisements were to:

- Inform I&APs of the proposed project (the return-to-service and refurbishment of the Grootvlei Power Station);
- Inform I&APs of the Open Day and Public Meeting (date, venue and aim); and
- Invite I&APs to become involved in the public participation process for the proposed project by registering as I&APs.

Appendix D provides copies of the newspaper advertisements.

3.4.2 On-Site Notice

An on-site notice was erected at the Grootvlei Power Station at the start of the public participation process. This contained information regarding the proposed return-to-service of Grootvlei Power Station, the public participation process and contact details of the public participation consultants. Notices where also erected in shops and businesses in Balfour and Grootvlei informing the public about where and when the public meeting and open day was held. Appendix E provides a copy of these site notices.

3.5 Background Information Document (BID)

A Background Information Document (BID) was compiled and distributed to all I&APs. The BID included information regarding the locality and extent of the proposed project, Eskom's planning process, a description of the project (including what the return-to-service would entail, the expected changes and anticipated impacts on the local social structure) as well as the public

participation process and the consultants who could be contacted in order for queries to be recorded.

Although this BID contained technical information regarding Grootvlei Power Station and the proposed return-to-service activities, it provided I&APs with relevant information and a basic understanding of the proposed project in order to allow for informed input from the public. A summary of the information contained in the BID was translated into Afrikaans to ensure full understanding of the information provided to all parties.

A comment and registration sheet was included as part of the BID. This provided I&APs an opportunity to raise any issues, comments and concerns regarding the proposed project and to register as I&APs directly with the public participation consultants. Comment and registration sheets were available in English and Afrikaans in order to allow parties to provide their input in the language of their choice. A dedicated e-mail address (grootvlei@bohlweki.co.za) was established to facilitate this communication.

Appendix F provides a copy of the Background Information Document and the comment and registration sheet.

3.6 Consultation with I&APs

3.6.1 Telephonic consultation

At the start of the public participation process telephonic consultation with identified I&APs took place to:

- obtain and verify these I&APs' contact details and representation of organisations;
- inform them of the proposed return-to-service of the Grootvlei Power Station;
- inform them of and invite them to the public open day and public meeting; and
- gather initial comments regarding the proposed project.

The majority of I&APs responded positively to the information provided. Appendix G provides copies of the written correspondence with and from I&APs.

3.6.2 Public Open Day and Public Meeting

A public open day and public meeting was held on 12 October 2004 at the Eskom Hall, Grootvlei. These sessions were advertised in the Rapport, Sunday Times and Heidelberg Nigel Herault. Registered I&APs were notified and invited to the open day and public meeting via personal telephone calls, fax, post and/or

e-mail. The aim of the open day and public meeting was to inform a wider range of I&APs of the proposed project and to receive inputs regarding the project.

The consultants responsible for the public participation process, as well as representatives of Eskom were present at the open day to record and/or answer any comments, queries and concerns. Project information was on display in the form of posters, maps and brochures to assist with the transfer of information.

The purpose of the Public Open Day was to provide an appropriate forum to enable I&APs to obtain and share information and to raise issues or concerns related to the proposed project. The intention was that I&APs were afforded the opportunity of interacting on a one-on-one basis with technical and planning representatives of Eskom and the public participation team. I&APs were encouraged to complete an attendance register and a short questionnaire to assist I&APs in raising concerns and general views on the project.

A formal public meeting was held at the close of the open session, and the key objectives of this public meeting were to:

- Explain the need for the return-to-service of the Grootvlei Power Station;
- Discuss the process undertaken so far and the way ahead;
- Discuss questions, queries and comments regarding the proposed project; and
- Formally note issues, comments and concerns raised by I&APs.

Minutes of the public meeting were compiled and distributed to the I&APs that attended the meeting. Appendix H provides a copy of the posters displayed at the public open day, as well as the agenda and minutes of the public meeting.

3.6.3 Individual discussions (meetings) with landowners

Landowners in the vicinity of the Grootvlei Power Station were invited to attend a Focus Group Meeting on the 11 October 2004 at the Grootvlei "Boeresaal" to obtain clarity with regards to the proposed process. The aim of this meeting was to obtain and share information and provide the farmers/landowners in the area with the opportunity to raise any issues and concerns regarding the proposed project. Minutes of the meeting were compiled and forwarded to the I&APs for their consideration. Appendix I provides copies of the minutes.

3.6.4 Focus group meetings

During October 2004 focus group meetings were held with the following groupings:

- Representatives of the Grootvlei Farmers Union;
- Representatives of the Dipaleseng Local Municipality;
- Headmaster of the Grootvlei Primary School;
- Headmaster of the Tshepeha Combined School;
- Councillors of Balfour and the Grootvlei area; and
- The councillor of the Siyathemba Township and a representative of the Dipaleseng Municipality (Personal Assistant to the mayor).

The main aims of these meetings were to:

- Disseminate more detailed information regarding the proposed project to key stakeholders;
- Supply them with more information regarding the public participation process;
- Answer any questions regarding the proposed project and process;
- Revisit and verify I&AP issues and concerns identified during previous consultation sessions (e.g. telephonic consultation; comments raised on the registration/comment form);
- Note any detailed and specific issues and concerns; and
- Receive input regarding the public participation process and the proposed development.

Minutes of the meetings were compiled and forwarded to the I&APs for their consideration. Appendix I provides copies of the minutes.

4. ISSUES TRAIL

A summary of the issues/comments raised by stakeholders, landowners and I&APs during the course of the public participation process and through the correspondence with these parties is reflected in the table overleaf.

ISSUES TRAIL: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY I&APs DURING THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS		
1	Concern as to whether contractors will also look after the environment.	Gert Viljoen (Grootvlei Pharmacy)	Contractors must adhere to all the environmental specifications associated with the project. An environmental control officer will be appointed to monitor the construction and related activities on site to ensure that the contractors are taking the environment into account and are complying with the requirements of the environmental management plan.
	AIR POLLUTION		
2	Concern about air pollution.	Klasie Janse van Nieuwenhuizen (Resident Grootvlei) Philip Rosslee (Dipaleseng Municipality) Isaac Moshoadiba (Dipaleseng Municipality)	For more than 20 years Eskom has been monitoring the concentrations of NO_x and SO_2 on the Mpumalanga highveld where most of the coal-fired power stations are located. This "ambient air quality monitoring network" provides strategic information on long-term trends in air quality from various sources on a national and regional scale. The ambient air quality results indicate that the annual concentrations are within the guidelines set by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism for NO_x and SO_2. Eskom has on-going research projects regarding NO_x and SO_2 concentrations. These studies have shown no evidence of acid rain.
3	Air pollution associated with the power station.	Albertus Joubert (Grootvlei Primary)	To ensure a reduction in particulate air emissions from the stacks to meet standards

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
			as required by current environmental legislation, particulate abatement equipment will be installed with the return-to-service of the power station. Each of the 2 stacks will be fitted with emission monitors, which shall be maintained in good working condition. As is the case for other power stations in South Africa, regular reports on stack emissions will be sent to the Chief Air Pollution Control Officer (CAPCO) at the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism as per the registration certificate requirements.
4	Concerned about acid rain on his farm.	Koos van Jaarsveld (Farmer) Theuns Botha (Farmer)	Refer to responses 2 and 3 above.
5	Would there be any "soot" build up at the power station and what the environmental issues would be with burning coal.	Joe van Tonder (Resident)	At the power station there is no "soot" build up. All ash is collected in hoppers and is disposed of in the ash dams via a wet-ashing system. Combustion at the power station is complete as the temperatures are very high. Soot build up is a result of incomplete combustion. The station plans to monitor combustion efficiency by monitoring the amount of unburnt carbon present in the flue gas and controlling the air to fuel ratio to ensure complete combustion over the boiler's operating range while on load. The potential environmental issues associated with burning coal relate to air and water pollution and ash management. Refer to responses 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 for the mitigation of these potential

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
			issues.
6	Issue of air monitoring.	Koos van Jaarsveld (Farmer) Mr Richard Dames (Heidelberg/Nigel Heraut)	A monitoring station will be erected a short distance from Grootvlei Power Station to monitor ambient levels of fine particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.
	WATER POLLUTION		
7	Issue of water pollution from the power station.	Koos van Jaarsveld (Farmer)	The return to service for the Grootvlei power station will involve the implementation of improved water management practices at the water treatment plant, ash dams and coal stockpile area. Additional plant will be installed to treat cooling water blowdown to reduce effluent volume and improve effluent quality. As part of Grootvlei's commitment to strive towards a Zero Liquid Effluent Discharge (ZLED) policy, the station's water management system will be optimised. All industrial effluent and polluted stormwater from the station terrace (including the coal stockpile drains area) is currently pumped to pollution control dams situated outside the security fence to the south-east of the station. Stormwater run-off will be diverted around polluted areas and the effluent collection system by means of a series of berms and canals to the surrounding area. Mitigation measures such as bunding around all transformers, and at the fuel oil and diesel plant will be implemented to prevent oil pollution of the groundwater.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
8	How will the ashing system be improved?	Meshack Sithebe (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality)	Ash will be disposed of at the existing ash dams. The ash will be pumped to the ash dams in a slurry form and the water will be returned for reuse. Currently the three systems (ashing and ash water return, water treatment effluent system and process water systems) can be operated independently, thus meeting the requirements of the Water Act. To minimise air borne dust a 'rotational ashing' system will be adopted
9	Where would ash from the coal be dumped?	T.D Neluvhalani (Ntsathunimandis)	Existing ash dams would be utilised with the return-to-service. The ash dams will be appropriately managed to ensure no contamination of groundwater and dust blow to the surrounding areas.
10	Assurance that the water will not be polluted due to the use of ash dams.	Theunis Botha (Farmer Panfontein)	Refer to responses 7, 8 and 9 above.
11	Ash dams and sewage plants pollute the crop soil adjacent to the power plant.	Theunis Botha (Farmer Panfontein)	Refer to responses 7, 8 and 9 above. Note also that a new sewage plant is in operation.
12	DWAF needs to licence water uses in terms of the National Water Act.	Manis Keet (DWAF)	Water licenses would be obtained from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) which will state certain conditions with which Eskom will be required to comply.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
13	Concerned about water provision in Grootvlei, Eskom and Balfour.	Philip Rosslee (Dipaleseng Municipality) Richard Dames (Heidelberg/Nigel Heraut)	Water for the power station would be taken from the Vaal Dam. No water will be abstracted from boreholes. The boreholes are used for groundwater pollution monitoring only.
14	DWAF needs to be consulted in the process.	Manis Keet (DWAF)	Representatives from DWAF visited Grootvlei Power Station during July 2004. The Water Use License was discussed as well as the intention of undertaking a public participation process.
	FUEL AND TRANSPORTATION OF COAL		
15	Interested in the coal supply to Eskom Grootvlei Power Station.	Mchitheki Zim (Shama Trading cc) Albertus Joubert (Grootvlei Primary) Johan van Rooyen (Farmer) Bheki Ndingane (Nicuphisi)	The long-term coal supply to Grootvlei power station has not been finalised at this stage of the project. The most cost-effective source is still being investigated. In the short-term (about 2 years) coal is likely to be transported from existing mines in the region by means of trucks. Existing conveyor belt systems and/or rail will be used as and when appropriate.
16	Interested in whether gas would be used as fuel, or only coal.	Philip Rosslee (Dipaleseng Municipality)	At this stage it is envisaged that only coal would be used as a fuel source at the Grootvlei Power Station.
17	How would coal be transported to Grootvlei Power Station?	Philip Rosslee (Dipaleseng Municipality)	Road would be used to transport the coal to the power station especially during the early stages of the return-to-service. The sources of the coal would determine which roads would be used for

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
			transportation. Conveyer belts and/or rail could also be used to deliver coal to the power station in the long-term. This would depend on where the suppliers of coal are situated.
18	Is Eskom investigating additional sources of energy?	Richard Dames (Heidelberg/Nigel Heraut)	Alternative technologies such as clean coal technologies, gas, nuclear, pumped storage schemes, imported hydro, wind and solar are being investigated by Eskom, all of which could form part of South Africa's future energy mix.
19	Could natural gas be an option, and are there sufficient resources available?	Richard Dames (Heidelberg/Nigel Heraut)	As yet, insufficient gas reserves have been identified in South Africa. South Africa has small quantities of gas in Mossel Bay. Gas has also been discovered along the South African West Coast, but has not been quantified yet. There is also Kudu gas in Namibia and a gas reserve in Mozambique. Another option is to import natural gas in liquid form.
20	Interested in the maintenance and upgrading of the railway lines.	Johan Els (Hozani J&A Rail Contractor)	Comment noted. The transportation of coal by rail depends on coal qualities, source(s), prices and volumes. Such information is not yet known. Apart from the tracks on site and a private spur, the railway infrastructure is owned by Spoornet, and hence maintenance and upgrading (if any) would be their responsibility.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	IMPACT ON LOCAL ROADS		
21	The effect of coal transportation on our Municipal roads.	Isaac Moshoadiba (Dipaleseng Municipality) Albertus Joubert (Grootvlei Primary) Johan van Rooyen (Farmer) Ahmed Amod (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality)	Eskom is acutely aware of the impact on the road infrastructure of the transportation of coal to its power stations. Eskom's core business is electricity generation and not road maintenance, and hence Eskom is not authorised or mandated to undertake activities associated with the maintenance of the road infrastructure. Eskom is, however, working closely with the road authorities. To this effect, a process driven by the Mpumalanga MEC of Roads & Transport, and involving the National Department of Transport, as well as other role players in the road transport industry, has been initiated. Eskom has been assured that the road infrastructure issue is receiving the necessary attention at the appropriate levels in government.
22	Interested with regard to the roads where coal is to be transported to Grootvlei power station.	Dieter Hoffmann (Department Roads and Transport – Mpumalanga)	In addition to response 21 above, the roads used will depend on coal qualities, source(s), prices and volumes. Such information is not yet known.
23	Concerned about the transport of coal to the power station, and the use of the current roads.	Klasie Janse van Nieuwenhuizen (Resident Grootvlei)	Refer to response 21 and 22 above.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	IMPACT ON SURROUNDING PROPERTIES		
24	To farm in peace and quiet next to Eskom and to maintain good neighbourly relations with Eskom.	Koos Botha (Farmer Panfontein)	Eskom strives to be a good Corporate Citizen and maintain good relations with its neighbours. Grootvlei will invite local residents to contact the environmental officer should they have any concerns pertaining to noise, groundwater or dust pollution once the new environmental officer is appointed. In the interim, they are welcome to approach the office of the Power Station Manager directly should any matters arise which they believe needs further action by Eskom or any of its contractors or subsidiaries. It is standard Eskom practice to record and investigate any concern raised by a member of the public.
25	Concerned about the thoroughfare of people from the Eskom property over my property.	Theunis Botha (Farmer Panfontein) Gert Viljoen (Grootvlei Pharmacy)	All contractors working on site will be required to work according to contractual guidelines or risk being removed from the vendor list for failing to adhere to the conditions of their contract. No recruitment will be done at the entrance to the power station to discourage uncontrolled labour movement in the vicinity of the power station.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
26	The fences are in a very bad condition.	Koos Botha (Farmer Panfontein)	Comment noted.
27	Eskom workers will over night on the adjacent farms.	Koos Botha (Farmer Panfontein)	Comment noted. Refer to response 25 above regarding the thoroughfare concern.
28	Will additional soil/property be taken for the use of ash dams?	Koos Botha (Farmer Panfontein)	No additional property will be used for ash disposal – the existing facilities are adequate.
	EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SKILLS		
29	Interested in terms of the possible job opportunities that would be available at Grootvlei Power Station.	Joe Molefe (Tats Electrical) Rita Smith (Estate Agent) Anvar Gani (Low Price Wholesalers) Bheki Ndingane (Nkuphisi Business Ventures) Ahmed Rashid (Local supplier) Gert Viljoen (Grootvlei Pharmacy)	It is estimated that there will be 400 – 500 temporary jobs created during the refurbishment of the power station. Activities for refurbishment are planned to begin in the latter half of 2004, and are to continue for approximately 5 years. It is intended that, where possible, the skilled and unskilled labour force for this phase will be drawn from residents in the surrounding area.
30	Interested in providing security and asset management to the power station.	Daan Davis (Industrial fingerprinting)	Comment noted.
31	Interested in what would happen to Mr. Loots.	Meshack Sithebe (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality)	Mr Loots is currently leading the Simunye Business Unit as the station mothballing process caretaker and still has some work to do at Grootvlei and Komati.
32	The return-to-service will result in more people returning to Grootvlei and this will have a positive impact on the community. More children will require more schools and more teachers, which will create more jobs.	James Mokoena (Tshepeha Combined) Lestopher Neluvhalani (Tshepeha Combined)	It would not only be the full-time Eskom employees that will make use of the schools in the area, but also the contractors who will come to Grootvlei for a few years. The role of the local schools is considered to be important in preparing the youth for training.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
33	Job creation for local people such that they are able to service their municipal accounts.	Isaac Moshoadiba (Dipaleseng Municipality) Meshack Sithebe (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality) Ahmed Amod (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality)	Eskom makes use of contractors to do some of their work and these contractors are responsible for recruiting their own workers. But Eskom will encourage all the contractors to make use of the local people. All contractors must be on the Eskom vendor list in order to get work from Eskom.
	IMPACT ON LOCAL BUSINESS		
34	What is the strategy for local suppliers and how the locals can benefit from this project?	Jacques Vorster (Private) Bheki Ndingane (Nicuphisi)	In terms of the procurement hierarchy, local supplies will be given preference, then suppliers in the greater Mpumalanga area. The local suppliers are required, however, to meet Eskom's requirements in terms of supplying goods/services on a competitive basis and within the right cost, quality and timeframes.
35	Interested in property development – hostel facilities, workshop facilities and brick making facilities.	Willem Niemann (Kwano Business Solutions)	Comment noted. It is encouraging to hear that local entrepreneurs are recognising that the proposed project offers opportunities to them.
36	Interested in supplying accommodation to the power station.	Mavis Matlou (Matsale projects)	Comment noted. It is encouraging to hear that local entrepreneurs are recognising that the proposed project offers opportunities to them.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS		
37	What role do BEE (Black Economic Empowerment) companies play in this return-to-service?	T.D Neluvhalani (Ntsathunimandis)	From a project perspective, Grootvlei's return-to-service will comply with all BEE policies that exist within Eskom. Eskom has set targets for expenditure for services from BEE companies (50% of discretionary expenditure must be spent on BEE and Black Women Owned (BWO) companies).
38	Gender target employment policy.	Bheki Ndingane (Nicuphisi)	Eskom does have policies in terms of gender equity. At the end of 2003, 28% of Eskom employees in supervisory, managerial and higher level positions were female.
39	Economics of returning a mothballed power station to service versus the capital required for the implementation of solar power or wind power stations.	Richard Dames (Heraut)	Financial studies for the return-to-service of Grootvlei Power Station formed part of the feasibility study and the revised business plan (undertaken 3 to 5 years in advance) to determine economically what the best options are. It is anticipated that the power station will operate for another 20 years. The studies showed that the return-to-service of the three mothballed power stations (i.e. Camden, Grootvlei and Komati) is by far the cheapest option for South Africa. The cost for the return to service of the 3 Simunye power stations is approximately R12 billion, and for developing a new power station of similar total capacity is approximately R40 billion. The cost of generating electricity

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
			from wind or solar power would be approximately four times more than that from the three mothballed power stations.
	IMPACT ON HOUSING FACILITIES		
40	Concerned about the shortage of accommodation (housing)	Isaac Moshoadiba (Dipaleseng Municipality)	Refer to the responses 35 and 36 above and response 41 below.
41	Concerned about housing facilities.	Klasie Janse van Nieuwenhuizen (Resident Grootvlei) Albertus Joubert (Grootvlei Primary) Rosa Buys (Councillor) Attie Niemann (Kwano Business Solutions)	Eskom's policy is to encourage employees to own their own homes. Local property developers, entrepreneurs and the Municipality are encouraged to proactively read the increasing demand for housing and respond to this business opportunity.
	SAFETY AND SECURITY		
42	Concerned about crime that will increase in the area.	Klasie Janse van Nieuwenhuizen (Resident Grootvlei)	The power station manager and the security department discuss any related issues with the local police authorities on a regular basis. Should an increase in crime be observed, the matter can be taken up at this forum.
	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION		
43	Why hold a Public Meeting in the Eskom Hall, Grootvlei. Why does the Siyathemba community and surrounding areas seem to be excluded.	Esau Makhoba (Speaker of Dipaleseng Municipality)	The Eskom Hall was chosen because it is centrally located and is close to the Power Station (which is the focus for the discussions). The meetings were advertised in local and national newspapers and that *all* I&APs are encouraged to attend the open day and public meeting.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
ESKOM'S PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY			
44	Would Eskom be able to offer graduates some practical training to provide hands-on experience?	Sbongile Nhlapo (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality)	There would be learnership programmes initiated by Eskom for persons with appropriate skills. Graduates would be sought, and they could benefit from training opportunities presented by Eskom.
45	How contracts would be provided/placed to the public by Eskom, and what the details of Eskom's equity structure are.	T.D Neluvhalani (Ntsathunimandis)	Majority of the contracts to be placed would only be determined once the contracting strategy for the project has been determined. The procurement strategy will also form part of these strategies. Eskom's policies state that if an Eskom business unit can supply the service they first source these services from within the local business units, or other Eskom divisions. Thereafter, services would be sought from BEE/BWO companies or companies that are on the Eskom vendor list. It is important for companies/contractor to register on the Eskom vendor database and to indicate what services they can provide. Assessments will be undertaken to determine if the companies are capable of delivering these services. Companies need to go through an evaluation process before actual contracts can be awarded to them. Eskom does not as a rule place adverts to request tenders and therefore the vendor database plays an important role in the public securing Eskom contracts.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
46	Have contracts already been given out?	Jacques Vorster (Private)	In terms of the contracts the only major contractor that is currently on site is an Eskom subsidiary contractor Rotek. In terms of engineering support other contractors have also been involved.
47	Sections/functions that Eskom would outsource, enquiring if this would include Human Resource Management.	Meshack Sithebe (Dipaleseng Municipality Council)	Eskom's core responsibility is the generation and transmission of electricity. Other functions/activities (for example transport, housing, catering, transport) would be outsourced. Management of the Eskom employees would an Eskom function. However some Human Resource activities, for example certain training, could also be outsourced.
48	How would Eskom assist the Dipaleseng Municipality youth with career guidance?	Esau Makhoba (Dipaleseng Municipality Council)	Eskom has a career guidance and recruiting section for this Return-to-Service Project headed by Mr Joseph Mashaba.
	OTHER ISSUES/COMMENTS		
49	The community will have to negotiate with three different companies, the contractor, the transport company and the mining company once established.	Johan van Rooyen (Farmer) Rosa Buys (Councillor)	Comment noted.
50	Why was there a drop in electricity demand in the 1990's?	Richard Dames (Heraut)	The drop in demand for electricity in the late 1990's was a result in the downturn in the economy.
51	The greatest user of electricity in South Africa?	Richard Dames (Heraut)	Industries are the greatest users of electricity in South Africa, e.g. the mining industry. Domestic use only constitutes 20% of the total electricity use in South Africa.

	Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
52	Would Springfield Colliery reopen again?	Mohlaleng Lebotha (PA to Mayor of Dipaleseng Municipality)	It is unlikely that the Springfield Colliery would reopen, however coal supply investigations are not yet complete.
	ISSUES REGARDING GROOTVLEI POWER STATION		
53	Will the borders for the Grootvlei Power Station stay the same or will they be extended.	Theuns Botha (Farmer)	The borders for the Eskom Grootvlei Power Station will remain the same.
54	Is Grootvlei Power Station privately owned or is it Eskom-owned property?	T.D Neluvhalani (Ntsathunimandis)	Grootvlei Power Station is owned by Eskom. The Grootvlei village itself has been handed over to the Dipaleseng Municipality.
55	Would Grootvlei be providing electricity to a specific area?	Richard Dames (Heraut)	Eskom power stations feed into the national transmission network which supplies the whole of South Africa, and not a specific geographical area alone.
56	Future life span of the Grootvlei Power Station.	Richard Dames (Heraut)	After re-commissioning, the commercial lifetime of the power station is expected to be at least 20 years.
57	Size of the Grootvlei Power Station compared to the other Eskom power stations in South Africa.	Richard Dames (Heraut)	Grootvlei Power station is relatively small compared to the rest of the Eskom coal fired power stations in South Africa. Grootvlei is 6 units each of 200MW while the rest of the newer power stations are generally 6 units each of 600MW.
58	Why was Grootvlei Power Station decommissioned?	Albertus Joubert (Grootvlei Primary)	The power station ceased operations approximately 15 years ago (between 1988 and 1990) when the lower than expected growth in demand for electricity at that time resulted in surplus generating capacity within the electricity network. The economics, unit

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
		sizes, fuel supplies and cost profiles of the stations were compared. Therefore, Eskom decommissioned a number of older power stations (including Ingagane at Newcastle and Kragbron at Vereeninging), and placed other power stations (including Grootvlei Power Station) in cold reserve storage and later into deep reserve storage ("mothballed") (i.e. these were "switched off" and reserved for future use, when required).

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the public participation process, the following key conclusions can be drawn:

- There is no evidence of attitude formation (i.e. a negative opinion regarding the project by the community) or action against the proposed project, and the majority of I&APs viewed the matter in a positive light;
- The return-to-service of the Grootvlei Power Station will have positive socio-economic benefits to the local community, as noted by the majority of I&APs consulted;
- The majority of issues raised revolved around local job creation, Black Economic Empowerment, a transparent tendering process, Eskom's social responsibility, and current road conditions. Unrealistic expectations could exist in this regard.
- Local labour should be used as far as possible, as indications are that employment of workers from outside the project area could give rise to discontentment and possibly anger amongst local residents. It could even result in "active mobilisation against the project", as job creation is a key issue and a prominent need in the Grootvlei - Balfour area;
- Few concerns regarding possible environmental impacts as a result of the project were raised. Those concerns raised mainly revolved around air and water pollution, and the general conservation of the environment.

The following recommendations are made:

- The matter of "capacity building"' and Eskom's role and responsibility in this regard would need to be addressed as there are great expectations that Eskom could fulfil such a role in the local community.
- Eskom assist local service providers to register as Eskom Vendors to provide them with opportunities.
- Wherever practicable and feasible, local individuals, emerging contractors and other Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) should be involved in the return-to-service of the Grootvlei Power Station. Their involvement could be co-ordinated by labour desks to be established in potential beneficiary communities. A broad-based approach should be followed to identify and involve relevant community organisations in this regard. These organisations, in turn could assist the main contractor in identifying people whose skills may correspond with the various job specifications. If such skills do not exist, training should be provided where feasible. This could also enable local people to acquire jobs elsewhere on completion of the project.

- Eskom to embark on a communication programme. This process could take the form of:
  * General information dissemination to the public about project progress, findings and decisions (especially in terms of the fuel source and transportation of the coal, as many questions were raised in this regard);
  * Strategic communication where specific target audiences need to be reached via specially packaged information, which would reflect their particular needs, attitudes and profile and which would eliminate unrealistic expectations.
  * Special purpose communication actions including requests to attend representative community forums/structures with the local community.