

Appendix 8: Background Information Document (BID)

EMKHIWENI SUBSTATION AND 400KV LINE FROM EMKHIWENI SUBSTATION TO SILIMELA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

APRIL 2018

PREPARED FOR: ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC (PTY) LTD



Environmental, Social and OHS Consultants

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1 PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is as follows:

1. It serves to provide an overview of the proposed Emkhiweni Substation and 400kV Line from Emkhiweni Substation to Silimela;
2. It provides an outline of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process that will be undertaken for the project; and
3. It grants the opportunity to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) and allows for comments to be made on the proposed project (refer to attached Reply Form).

The purpose of the EIA is to identify and evaluate potential impacts, to recommend measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts and to enhance positive impacts.

2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 Project Background

Nemai Consulting was appointed by Eskom in 2009 to undertake the EIA as part of the 2006 EIA Regulations for the following projects:

1. Construction of the Rockdale B Substation (now referred to as Emkhiweni Substation), with 2x500MVA 400/132kV transformers; and
2. Construction of the Rockdale B to Wolwekraal 400kV line (now referred to as the Emkhiweni Substation to Silimela 400kV line).

The projects were authorised in May 2011 (Emkhiweni Substation) and July 2011 (Emkhiweni-Silimela 400kV line). Eskom has decided to proceed with the construction of Emkhiweni-Silimela 400kV line (which is approximately 80kms) however the previous Record of Decision (RoD) has lapsed. Therefore Nemai Consulting are undertaking a new application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) as part of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended (07 April 2017). Eskom was not able to proceed with construction within the ROD timeframes as a result of the lack of funding for the project.

The proposed project is associated with the transmission network and its associated substations in the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces.

2.2 Project Location

The proposed activity entails the construction of a 400kV power line from the Middelburg area in the south to the Marble Hall/Wolwekraal area in the north. The proposed line originates at the Wolwekraal Substation, which is situated approximately 13km to the southeast of Marble Hall (Limpopo Province)

on the Farm Loskop Noord No. 12 JS and runs south-eastwards. The line terminates at the proposed Emkhiweni Substation within Mpumalanga. Refer to **Figures 1** and **2** for locality maps. The proposed development falls within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (LM), Elias Motsoaledi LM and Ephraim Mogale LM.

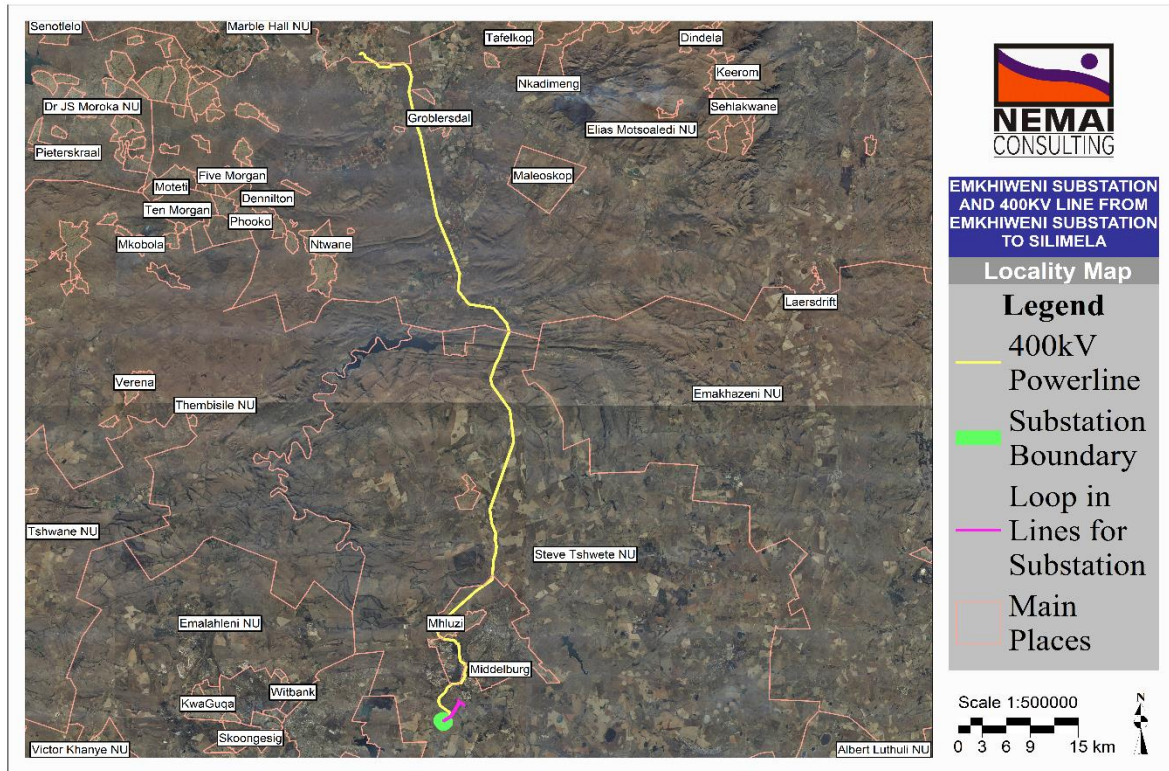


Figure 1: Locality map

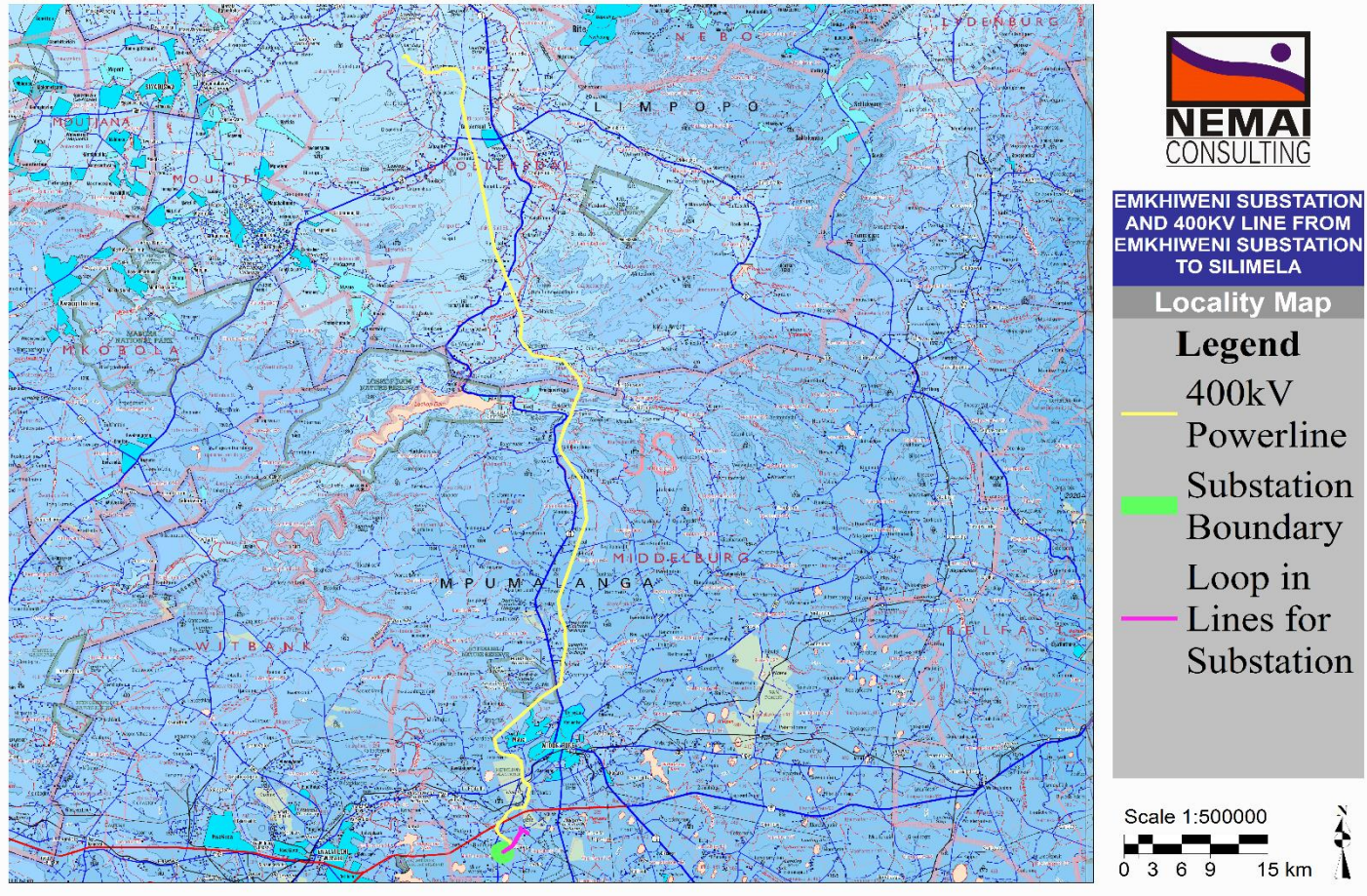


Figure 2: 1:250 000 Topographical map

3 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Scoping and EIA Process

Eskom Holdings SOC (Pty) Ltd has appointed Nema Consulting as the Independent Environmental Consultant to conduct the Scoping and EIA Process for the proposed Emkhiweni Substation and 400kV Line from Emkhiweni Substation to Silimela.

The proposed project requires environmental authorisation in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended) that were promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) from the Competent Authority, i.e. the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Activities listed in Government Notice (GN) No. R. 983, GN No. R. 984 and GN No. R. 985 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended (07 April 2017) are associated with the proposed development, which therefore triggers a Scoping and EIA Process.

The Scoping Report will contain details of the assessment conducted and include all comments from IAPs. A draft copy of the Scoping Report will be made available for public review, prior to finalisation and submission to DEA. Only **registered** IAPs will continue to be notified of the Scoping and EIA process.

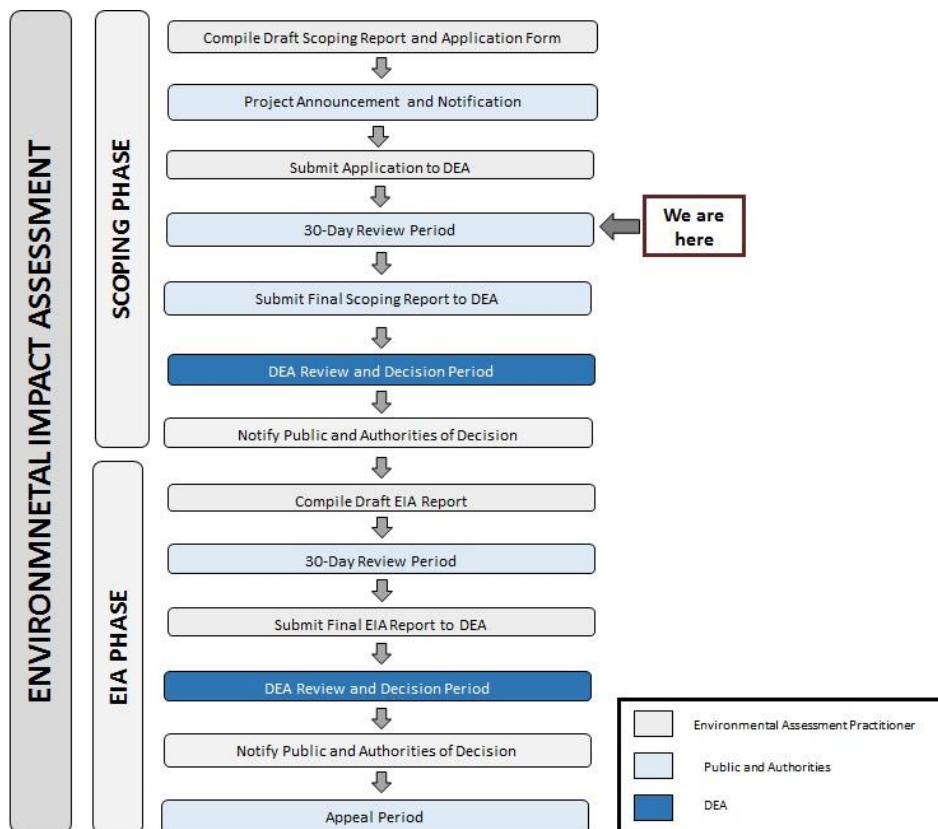


Figure 3: Scoping and EIA Process

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Public Participation Process will be conducted in terms of Chapter 6 of GN No. 982 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended (07 April 2017) of the NEMA.

The Public Participation Process will involve the following:

1. Site notices will be erected at prominent points in and around the study area;
2. BIDs will be distributed to potential IAPs;
3. Notices regarding the project will be e-mailed or faxed to the councillors in the area and possible stakeholders (including authorities and state departments); and
4. Notices will be placed in regional and local newspapers.

IAPs are encouraged to participate in the process in order for concerns to be addressed and included in the Scoping Report. This notice serves to notify all IAPs of the proposed development. IAPs are to review and comment on the draft documents which will be lodged at the following places for review from **16 April 2018 to 17 May 2018:**

Table 1: Location of the Draft Scoping Report for Public Review

No.	Location	Address	Telephone No.
1.	Eastdene Public Library	Verdoorn St, Middelburg, 1050	013 249 7275
2.	Groblersdal Public Library	2 Grobler Street, Legolaneng, Groblersdal, Limpopo	013 262 3056

Please complete the Reply Form at the end of the document and submit it to the consultant below at Nemai Consulting:



Contact Person: Kristy Robertson
Tel: (011) 781 1730
Fax: (011) 781 1731
Email: kristyr@nemai.co.za
Postal Address: PO Box 1673, Sunninghill, 2157

All comments (issues and concerns) will be incorporated into a Comments and Responses Report which will be included in the Final Scoping Report to be submitted to DEA.

REPLY FORM:**Proposed Emkhiweni Substation and 400kV Line from Emkhiweni Substation to
Silimela**(Complete and return to: **Kristy Robertson** by no later than the **17 May 2018**)

Date:		
Name of Organisation:		
Name of Interested and Affected Party (IAP):		
Address:	Postal:	Physical:
Tel No:		
Fax No:		
E-mail:		
Registration as an IAP:	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
Comments:		