

**MINUTES OF THE Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening Project EIA: PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

<b>Venue</b>	Department of Environmental Affairs, Pretoria	<b>Date</b>	7 March 2017	<b>Time</b>	12:00
<b>Chairperson</b>	Terry Calmeyer		<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	Terry Calmeyer	

PRESENT				APOLOGIES	
Name					
Phillip Bailey	PB	Terry Calmeyer	TC	None	
Grace Mashabela	GM	Anela Sotashe	AS		
Jay-Jay Mpelane	JM				

Item	Description	Action
1.	<b>Welcome</b> TC welcomed everybody to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.	
2.	<b>Purpose of the Meeting</b> The purpose of the meeting is to introduce Eskom's Northern KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) project to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), and obtain clarity on some Regulatory issues.	
3.	<b>Background to the Project</b> TC presented the background and an introduction to the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for the project;</li> <li>• Project Description</li> <li>• Description of the Receiving Environment;</li> <li>• Key issues raised by I&amp;APs;</li> <li>• Specialist studies proposed;</li> <li>• Progress to date; and</li> <li>• The Way Forward</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>Discussion</b>	
4.1	JM stated that each application must have its own separate Scoping Report, Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Management Programme. The EAP cannot submit 4 applications that are supported by one joint set of reports. TC disagreed with this interpretation.	TC
4.2	JM confirmed that more than one (in this case, three) sub-station sites and corridors	

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	for powerlines can be assessed further after Scoping in the specialist studies and Impact Assessment phase of the project.	
4.3	TC requested definitions for “irreplaceable loss of resource” as used in GN 982 Appendix 2 (v), and “aspects” as used in GN 982 Appendix 2 (i) (iii). JM said that he will obtain the definitions from their legal department and advise the EAP.	JM
4.4	JM agreed that it is not necessary to undertake ground or surface water resource or quality specialist studies for the project.	
4.5	TC queried GN 982 Appendix 2 item (h) (v) that says that Scoping Report must include – the impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts.... JM confirmed that this does not have to be included in the Scoping Report, as it will be done by the specialists and be in the EIA report.	
4.6	JM said that if an appeal on a previous similar project in the area has been upheld due to inadequate Public Participation, and the project was subsequently not implemented, then it does not sterilize the affected project from later EIAs.	
4.7	JM said that the Framework EMPs prepared as part of the CSIR’s SIA for Transmission corridors cannot be used for this project. New unique EMPs must be compiled for each application.	
4.8	JM said that a “corridor” approach to the EIA is acceptable, but that he is unable to say at this stage whether the 2km width will be accepted. This will be decided when the Scoping Report is reviewed.	
5.	<p><b>Way Forward</b></p> <p>The EAP submit the application forms and Draft Scoping Report to DEA when they are complete and approved by Eskom. The DEA will then allocate a case officer to review the project. This is not necessarily, but could be JM.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Closure</b></p> <p>TC thanked the DEA officials for setting aside time for the meeting. The meeting ended at 13:35.</p>	