



ATTENTION: INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY

By: Registered Mail

Your reference:

Our reference: 10817

Date: 22 June 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A 66KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (2.5KM) AND NEW SUBSTATION ON FARM 305/16 EAST OF THE BITOU RIVER, WESTERN CAPE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

An Environmental Authorisation (EA) was obtained on the 30th of April 2010 for the construction of a 66kV Powerline from the existing Robberg Substation to a new Bitou Substation site, east of the Bitou River (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/691) . This Application was undertaken in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA) 2006. The following activities were approved:

- The construction of new 66kV Powerline from the existing Robberg Substation to a new Substation site (Site Alternative C) on Farm 305/16 east of the Bitou River to accommodate the new 66kV Line.
- The location of the Powerline between the existing Robberg Substation (1km north of the N2 near New Horizons) and the proposed new Bitou Substation site on Farm 305/16 adjacent to the R340 and N2, east of the Bitou River, with a total length of approximately 5 km with servitude of 22m in width measured 11meters on either side from the centerline of the powerline.
- The existing Robberg Substation to be upgraded and to include the establishment of a bus bar to supply the existing 66kV transformer bay for the Robberg Substation and a new isolator bay to cater for the incoming line from Bitou.
- The existing 66kV transformer bay will be equipped with a breaker and isolator.
- This upgrade will be in accordance with standard Eskom Procedures.
- The upgrade would remain within the existing boundaries of the Robberg Substation.

Subsequently, the EA (DEA Ref: 12/12/20/691) was appealed by Mr. Stoloff of Scopefull 77 (Pty) Limited. The Appeal was based on the argument that portions of the approved Eskom project (Route 4B and Substation Site C) were located within 100m of the High Water Mark (HWM) of the Keurbooms Estuary, which triggered certain listed activities contained in Government Notice 386 of the EIA Regulations (2006) that had not been included in the EIA process undertaken by the independent EIA consultant at the time.

SiVEST Environmental was subsequently appointed to provide scientific perspective on the location of the proposed Powerline and new Substation in relation to the HWM, confirming that the proposed development triggered various listed activities, as highlighted in the Appeal, in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2006. The Appeal was upheld. The Appeal by Mr. Stoloff of Scopefull 77 (Pty) Limited has since been withdrawn subject to the completion of a Basic

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Assessment process, to include listed activities pertaining to the construction within the watercourse and the HWM in terms of the EIA Regulations of 2010. Specifically for the Powerline structures of the **portion of Route 4B** (approximately 2.5km long) that falls within 100m of the HWM of the Keurbooms Estuary and for the construction of a **new Substation on Farm 305/16**, east of the Bitou River.

The National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has confirmed that the Applicant (Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd.) must apply for environmental approval for the Route 4B (approximately 2.5km long) that falls within 100m of the HWM of the Keurbooms Estuary and for the construction of a new Substation on Farm 305/16.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. is therefore proposing to construct a 66kV overhead Powerline (2.5km) and new Substation on Farm 305/16 east of the Bitou River, Western Cape. The proposed project will entail the following activities:

Construction of a new 20MVA 66/22kV Substation on Farm 305/16 with:

- 1 x 66kV feeder having a 66kV motorised isolator only for the Robberg feeder
- Space for 2nd 66kV feeder bay for the Kurland feeder
- 1 x 66kV busbar
- 1 x 20MVA Transformer 1 bay
- Space for 2nd 20MVA Transformer bay
- 4 x 11kV Feeder bays using indoor switchgear
- Protection and Metering for the above equipment
- New substation building.
- Adequate Platform for the site.
- Adequate road leading to the site.
- Construction of a new 66kV Overhead Powerline (2.5km) with a servitude width of 22m from the centerline of the Powerline (11meters on either side).
- The pylon structures to be used to construct the Powerline will galvanized steel monopole self-supporting structures.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

The proposed development requires compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2010, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998, as amended. The proposed activity requires a Basic Assessment as listed **Activities 11, 16, 18, 24** under Government Notice No R. 544 as well as listed **Activities 12 and 16** of Government Notice No R. 546 of the EIA 2010 Regulations are triggered.

This project also requires a General Authorisation Application (National Department of Water Affairs) and an Application for a License for Protected Trees (National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Notice is hereby given of the Public Participation Process in terms of the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2010.

- A copy of the Background Information Document (BID), Draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme, which includes full details of the development, as well as locality maps and site layout plans, are available for public review at the Plettenberg Bay Public Library (Melvilles Shopping Centre Main Street). Tel: 044 501 3130.
- The reports are also available for viewing and downloading from SiVEST's website located at www.sivest.co.za/Downloads.aspx (Select Robberg Bitou BA).
- If you would like to register as an interested and affected party, please do so in writing, giving your name and contact details as well as an indication of your interest in this matter and of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that you may have in relation to this license application to the contact person below.

Rachelle Stofberg

SiVEST Environmental

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- Please quote the SiVEST and DEA reference number (provided above) in all correspondence. The BID provides a response page to facilitate your correspondence.
- Registering as an I&AP will entitle you to further project information, to be kept informed of project progress and provide you with an opportunity to comment on the Draft and Final Basic Assessment Reports and Environmental Management Programme and supporting documentation.
- Responses (by fax, post or email) from any interested party should be received by SiVEST within **40 calendar days** of publication of this notification (**i.e. by no later than 01 August 2012**).
- Please advise us of any other relevant party that you believe should be notified, or forward this information to them.
- A Final BAR will be compiled which will incorporate all the comments received before its submission to the DEA.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Stofberg
Environmental Consultant
SiVEST Environmental Division