

**Notes Public Participation Meeting 1**  
**Eskom 2X500KV Power line between Zimbabwe (Triangle substation) and**  
**SA (Nzhelele substation), Musina District Limpopo Province.**

**Sand River Resort**

**12 May 2014**

1. Welcome

Introducing Baagi Environmental Consultants (Sean Hutcheons; Lenie Venter) and representatives from Eskom (Henry Nawa; Phutti Makweya).

2. Introduction to and aim of the project – erection of power lines between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Presentation by Henry Nawa (HN), Eskom.

- Zimbabwe SA Corridors.
- Explanation of nature of bulk electricity supply.
- Part of Integrated Resource plan – Gazetted 2011.
- Power line originates in Mozambique, continues to Zimbabwe and then to South Africa, Musina.
- Nzhelele substation at Bokmakierie farm, land has been purchased.
- Zesa build power lines from Triangle S/S (Zimbabwe) up to boarder then Eskom from boarder to Nzhelele substation.
- BAAGI Environmental consultancy appointed by Eskom as independent body to conduct environmental impact assessment.

3. Sean Hutcheons (SH) (Baagi representative) explains aim of EIA and the process:

- Environmental
- Social
- Financial
- ✓ Full impact study needed for this study to give department all the information they need to make a decision.
- ✓ Gives background on Baagi Environmental Consultancy.
- ✓ Explains how the public participation process work and how and when contact can be made to register complaints or obtain information.
- ✓ Explains the context/ size of the planned power lines.
- ✓ Questions from floor:

- i. Mr Nell Snr: What is the effect of such lines on Nature?
  - SH: None as known thus far, that is the reason for the specialist studies to identify problems, if any.
- ii. Johan Muller: What is the negative effects of this projects, wants to be informed of any possible negative effects of these power lines.
  - Sean explains what the role of the specialists is and that the main purpose of the specialist studies is to identify and report any negative effects. This information is made public through the EIA reports.
- iii. Mr E Libert: Servitudes already at Mopanie?
  - SH: One of the alternatives that are being looked at is to follow the same line.
- ✓ Process flow is demonstrated/ explained to the participants. Department makes decision based on the reports and feedback from the public participation process
- ✓ Show what specialists are being used for study.
- ✓ Question from floor: Do public get insight into results?
  - Yes all information are accumulated in report which is made available to the public.
- ✓ Maps:
 

If farm is not clear on maps, contact Baagi Environmental Consultants and a map showing farm clearly will be send to owner of farm. Sean explains the maps and the size of servitude (3km) and studies to be conducted and technical aspects of constructing the power line and placement of pylons.
- ✓ Time line:
 

Scoping report available in about six weeks, report be send to people at the meeting and made available at public places such as library. Meeting is held to explain report, rework after meeting send out. Process repeats until all problems addressed. Impact studies start there after, Impact report will be available near end of year. Specialist will be brought into meeting if required by public. Process of review and appeal.

#### 4. Question time

Christo Markram: The three alternatives, where are their boundary and where do they cross into Zimbabwe?

- SH: Waiting for response from Zimbabwe before the three alternatives final course can be determined.

Johan Muller: How will lines over property (small holding) influence their available soil for planting? Their land is very small not even 3km by 3 km.

- SH: It is the Agricultural economists and soil scientists job to identify such possible problems and present possible solutions.

Will the government care about the problems of the small holding farmer?

- SH: Can not give a definite answer at this stage, Eskom will communicate with the property owner and present and discuss possible solutions/ alternatives.
- Phutti explains that Eskom do not need the whole three 3 km in which the EIA study is being conducted but actually in the end need only 110 m. However the line needs top be safe and can not zigzag extensively. Eskom will sit with the land owner to find a solution.

Who is going to be happy that the cables transverse their property, who is going to be happy that this unsightly cable is going to transverse its property?

- SH: Where infrastructure is needed it is a common problem during infrastructure development and will be addressed as efficiently as possible on a case by case basis. If the department does its job correctly problems will be solved as best as possible.

CH Nel: What/ Who is the power for that stops at Mopanie primary school?

Where does the power go to from Mopanie?

- HN: The power will be distributed in the northern grid, ensure more stability for use by everyone in the northern grid. Increase the power supply into the northern grid, is a back up should loose power from Madupi power station.

Are there any current lines from there at the moment?

- HN: Yes there are currently no lines. No distributions as planned. They are building a substation at Bokmakierie farm for distribution to this area. Nzhelele substation will have big lines coming in from Madupi power station in Ellirsas. They go to Potgietersrus, from Baruto

substation they go on to Bokmakierie substation for distribution into this area.

Johan Muller: Why need power from Zimbabwe, don't we have our own?

- HN: We have our own but need to address shortage of power in the northern grid.
- SH: Under this agreement between Zimbabwe and SA Eskom is just doing their job as required by this agreement.

Mr. Nel: So currently there is no infrastructure and in future more farms will be influenced by this development?

- SH: Yes currently there is no big lines from Madupi, it still needs to be developed.

Zieg Brugman , small holding owner, wants to know about the possibility if Eskom can swap their current properties with other similar ones as they do not want to sell their properties.

What power do small holding owners have to stop the project?

- Phuttie: Mentions that there is the possibility of monetary compensation but that owners need to follow the process and that the public or specialist can identify alternatives.

Small holding farmers feel they are powerless to influence the process and that Eskom has already decided what they are going to do? They have no means of stopping the process.

- SH explains that the best possible alternatives will be identified and that this process tries to identify all possible solutions. Some of the properties will only have lines going across their property and not necessary have a pylon on the property as line span 400 to 500m between pylons. There unfortunately are going to be some people that will have a power line in their backyard. However, all effort is being made to find the best solution that is why trying to get everybody's input.

How far from a home can a power line be?

- Phuttie explains that according safety law power lines are not allowed to be within 10m of a house. If close to a home the possibility of moving the house needs to be discussed.

Cecil Nel, farm Hertzog: The current middle proposal transverse four of his properties. What will the influence of the power lines across his farm be on the value of the farm, it is going to be like a spider web across his farm. He can say now that he is not happy with the proposal? What are they going to do about it?

- SH: An Agricultural specialist will look at the impact on property value and provide a report. It is unfortunately a risk, but it is an infra structure development and through this process Eskom tries to address all problems and work with the property owners.

Johan: What is the possibility of having reports in Afrikaans ?

- SH: Report are done in English as the department of environmental affairs require the report in English. Summary of reports are made available in Afrikaans, however, Baagi's manager needs to determine what is to be done to address the request.
- HN: Reports can be translated in full into Afrikaans.

General comment from floor: Johan addressed the floor and mentioned that he would like them to involve Afriforum to assist them in the process.

- Sean explains that Afriforum has already been informed of the project, as well as other agricultural organisations in the vicinity.

Jack Claff: Mentions that he also knows about other committees that can be asked to become involved in the process.

SH: explains that it all organisations is welcome to become involved and that it is his job to ensure that all information is accumulated and addressed.

Meeting ends at 19:20

Attendance: 9 persons signed the register.