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DELTA-EPSILON
TRANSMISSION
INTEGRATION

PROPOSED 6X765KV
TRANSMISSION POWER LINES
FROM DELTA SUBSTATION TO
EPSILON SUBSTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT

**ADDENDUM TO THE
DRAFT SCOPING
REPORT
– PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION**

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS ADDENDUM REPORT

(Delta-Epsilon 6 x 765kV Eskom Transmission Project)

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS ADDENDUM REPORT

(Delta-Epsilon 6 x 765kV Eskom Transmission Project)

This document is prepared as an addendum to the Public Participation Report that was released on 10 March 2008 for Public Review in pursuant to EIA Regulation 28 (f) & (g) and 58 (a). It is an addendum to the ***Delta-Epsilon Transmission Integration proposed 6 x 765kV transmission power lines from Delta substation to Epsilon substation Environmental Impact Assessment Draft Scoping Report Volume III – Public Participation*** – 06 March 2008

1. Introduction

To date the EIA has gone through the first phase of the impact assessment, i.e. the Scoping Phase. The approach and methodology followed to scope the defined study area for the potential impacts (Positive & Negative) of the project is outlined in the report submitted for public comment.

This addendum report deals with the consultation process during the public review period of the Scoping Report.

2. Public Review of the Scoping Report

The review period was from 10 March 2008 to 29 April 2008. Although the comment period was advertised to close on 29 April 2008, it was decided to extend the comment period on request of stakeholders until 30 June 2008. During the review period of the Draft Scoping Report the stakeholders were offered opportunities to raise issues of concern and comments regarding the proposed transmission power lines and the potential impacts identified and raised in the Draft Scoping Report. This document summarises the comments received from the public and the independent reviewer. The process that will be followed for public consultation in the EIA Phase is outlined in the updated Plan of Study for EIA as well as in section 3.2 below.

3. Activities in the Public Review of the Scoping Report

3.1 Comments on the findings of the Independent Reviewer

The proponent (Eskom Transmission) decided to enlist the services of an independent reviewer, to assess the Scoping Report and give a professional peer review of the findings as reflected in the draft report. This is considered to help the appointed EAP identify potential flaws and to submit a report that is compliant to the EIA Regulations.

The following improvements have been made based on the recommendations of the independent reviewer:

Reviewer’s Comment	Margen
<p>Genuine stakeholder consultation: Section 58(4) of Regulation 385 requires that the EIA documentation must include written comments received be included in the report. There was reference in the CRR of written submissions, but these were not included in the information provided. The Addendum Report includes written submissions received during the public comment period</p>	<p>Refer Appendix 1: Written Comments and Responses</p>
<p>There was criticism from landowners that they had not been directly contacted.</p>	<p>It must be stated that identification of potentially affected landowners within the study area continues to be a problem. Landowners falling within the study area but not traversed by any of the proposed corridors feel they are safe from being affected and therefore do not attend meetings. In some cases landowners feel it is a waste of time to attend meetings when alternatives are still being investigated. They want to be approached with the final proposed corridors, and will possibly participate if it directly affects them. Unfortunately at that stage it is usually too late to make a meaningful contribution that will significantly change the route.</p>
<p>It is recommended that a list of affected properties within the corridors be drafted and owners names be listed next to the properties together with confirmation that they have been informed of the project.</p>	<p>It is planned that a landowner consultation map will be produced in the EIA phase of the project to depict the extent of landowner consultation. A list of landowners will go with the map and landowners not identified will be followed up and investigated.</p>

3.2 Additional PPP activities in the EIA phase

In addition to the activities outlined in the plan of study for EIA, the following will apply:

- A newsletter will be circulated regularly to keep the registered stakeholders informed about what is happening, even when it relates to behind the scenes planning.
- The Draft EIR will be advertised in local newspapers used for the DSR.
- Focus group meetings will be held in the study area.
- Landowners’ consultation will be intensified along the corridors that will emerge as the preferred corridors during the review of the EIR.
- Land claim commissioners in the two provinces will be approached to confirm farms under land claim within the corridors
- AGRISA and NTLU and their local branches will be used to convene meetings of landowners or to help the consultants get a slot of presenting the EIR
- Electronic copies of the Draft EIR shall be available on CD, on request as well as published on the ESKOM website.
- Hard copies of the Draft EIR will be placed at advertised public venues.

3.3 PPP Activities in the Public Domain during the review period

The following activities were undertaken during the Review Period:

- Issues, comments and responses gathered during the scoping phase were integrated into the Draft Scoping Report that was made available to the public for review (10 March 2008 to 29 April 2008).
- This lengthy timeframe was as a result of public and school holidays.
- The objective of the review was to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the findings of the study team and to verify whether their issues and comments were properly captured and considered in the study.
- A detailed record of issues and comments raised is included under the Comment and Response Report (see Appendix 2).
- The Minutes of Meetings held during the public review period are included under the Record of Consultation Report (see Appendix 3).
- Please note that the attendance registers for mentioned meetings are only included in the report submitted to the Authorities due to the attendance registers containing confidential information regarding landowners.
- In cases where the responses were not given immediately at the meetings, these have been included in the Comment and Response Report (CRR).

The table below summarizes the activities undertaken during the Review Period:

Date	Activity	Participant/Target	Product
07 March 2008	Announcing the Availability of the DSR through print media	Local newspapers in different towns in the study area. The general public in the study area was targeted by using local newspapers. Landowners owning farms in the study area but residing elsewhere were targeted using national newspapers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lentswe – Khuma area • Potchefstroom Herald – Potch area • C/ville Herald – Ventersdorp area • R/burg Herald – R/burg area • Kwevoel – T/zimbi area • Mogol Post – Lephalale area • Citizen and Daily Sun – Cities and country wide. <p style="text-align: center;">See Appendix 4</p>
Middle March 2008	Posting; faxing & emailing letters Informing registered stakeholders/I&APs about the availability of DSR	PPP Team and registered I&APs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice letters for the availability of DSR • Exec Sum of the DSR • Reply sheet. <p style="text-align: center;">See Appendix 5</p>
27 March 2008	Focus group meeting in Mogwase	Consultants Team and representatives of Traditional Authorities (TA) in the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations sent out to TA that were consulted during the early stages of scoping. • PPP Section of the DSR issued at the meeting and the findings were explained. • Executive Summary of the whole report was discussed. • Attendance register signed. • Minutes of the meeting. See Appendix 3. • Responses in CRR. See Appendix 2

01 April 2008	Telephonic discussion with Mr. Boeta Du Toit (Chairperson of NW branch of AGRISA)	PPP Officer/ Targeting the representatives of farming community or landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded suggestion that consultation with DFU/FA be continued during the EIA Phase after deciding on the potentially preferred corridors
01 April 2008	Telephonic and email request for assistance with Northern Transvaal Landbou Unie (Ms Helm) for help in identifying potentially affected unions and inform them about DSR. See Appendix 1	PPP Officer Targeting landowners' representatives and unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written requests emailed (02/04/08) to Ms Helm and Gerhard van Wyk. See Appendix 1 Ms. Helm acknowledged receipt of maps & indicated that she send out the map. See Appendix 1
14 to 19 April 2008	Public meetings were held in the study area as indicated in the advertisements that were placed in the newspapers. See Appendix 4.	Consultants Team; Eskom representatives; landowners and other I&APs attended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance registers signed Presentation on Scoping Report Recording of further issues and comments on the findings. (Appendix 3 gives record of the consultation process followed during the review period and also all comments and issues picked up) Identification of farms by landowners in the study area using the maps
<p>Consultation process was continued with Focus Groups in the study area until the end of June 2008 as indicated below.</p>			

4. Further Consultation during the Review Period

The study area is very large and covers a length of about 460km between Lephalale and Potchefstroom. It has been difficult to identify and consult with all stakeholders within the study area. Some landowners requested for more time to comment on the report as they received information quite late in the comment period. An extension was granted until 30 June 2008. The following stakeholders were consulted beyond 29 April 2008.

- 19 April 2008, held at Sentrum

This meeting was held as a result of landowners that attended meetings at Dwaalboom and at Makoppa who felt that a meeting in their area will help to give those landowners that stay elsewhere and come to their farms on weekends an opportunity to hear about the project and raise concerns and issues. Some landowners indicated that they heard from their neighbours about this meeting and thus came unprepared and therefore requested for a second meeting in Sentrum.

- 23 April 2008, held at Malachite Lodge outside Groot Marico

The meeting was held at the request of the Electricity Committee of **Groot Marico Bosveld Farmers' Union**. Members of this committee took the study team through the area to show them some areas of sensitivity and at a

meeting thereafter gave a slide presentation that showed the Groot Marico area and a discussion regarding an alternative route also took place.

The PIP Team noticed that there was very little participation coming from landowners in the areas where new corridors were being investigated within the study area. This lack of participation was also due to limited public participation in that particular area. A field Public Involvement Officer (PIO) (Mr. Gé Stander) was then sent out to sensitize the landowners in these areas about the potential one or two corridors of 765kV lines through their areas. This resulted in a few more meetings being held with landowners as indicated below:

- 07 May 2008, held at Veesaal in Northam

The study team was given a slot in a monthly Farmers' Association meeting and a brief presentation was given as well as discussions around relevant maps.

- 08 May 2008, Amandebult Mine

Different mining house in the Rustenburg /Pilanesberg /Thabazimbi area were represented at this meeting. The findings of the DSR were discussed, map work conducted and recommendations that other mining houses be consulted were made. *This will be done as the consultation process is on-going.*

- 14 May 2008, held in Khayakhulu

The meeting was arranged in response to the request and suggestion by the GMBFA that an alternative corridor be investigated. The GMBFU recommended that **Kgosi Zibi** be consulted and this request be conveyed so that it should not be construed as though they are just pushing the line away from the commercial, farming or game farming area to the tribal land. Mr. Moses Mahlangu addressed the Amahlubi Traditional Council on the possibility of new corridor being introduced in their area. The council reiterated what they said in the previous meetings in that they do not oppose the line through their properties as long proper negotiations are going to be followed with regard to compensation and the relocation of affected people.

- 21 May 2008, Koedoeskop Jongboere Vereniging

The study team was given a slot in a monthly Farmers' Association meeting. Mr. Moses Mahlangu gave a brief presentation and map discussion was conducted.

- 23 May 2008, Madikwe Traditional District Leaders

The PPP Team realized that although the North West Traditional leaders (Traditional Councils) had been consulted throughout the study period, traditional councils north of Groot Marico have not been attending the meetings. This became clear when Kgosi Solomon Mocketse of Koffiekraal wrote a letter of complaint about him not being consulted (see Appendix 3). Kgosi

Moketse's name was also mentioned by GMBFA. Five different traditional councils were represented. The members of the different councils were unanimous in accepting the power lines through their areas as they saw this as part of development that will ultimately resolve the electricity problem in South Africa. There was a request that compensation for the existing lines must be investigated as the councils felt that the servitudes for the existing lines were never paid for.

- 23 May 2008, held on the farm Varkfontein at Morong Safaris Lodge

The meeting was arranged with the help of Mr. Phillip Ellis, a local landowner that met with the PIO, Mr. Gé Stander on 13 May 2008. Mr. Ellis organized the neighboring landowners to attend the meeting. Mr. Dunsmore gave a presentation and Mr. Songo explained the planning and technical background to Eskom planning of the transmission network. On request of these meetings, the comment period was extended.

- 30 May 2008, held on the farm Witvogelfontein

Ms Beater gave a background and technical presentation on the project. During the discussion phase landowners expressed dissatisfaction about the consultation process followed. They requested an extension on the comment period, because they were informed at the end of the comment period on the project and the availability of the DSR. Landowners also wanted clarification on issues like servitude compensation, the impact on the Waterberg Biosphere, the introduction of new corridors in their area and concerns that the study area had been increased in size. It was then decided that a follow-up meeting will be held.

- 17 June 2008, held on the farm Rietfontein

This meeting was held as a follow-up to the meeting at farm Witvogelfontein. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Dawie De Waal. Ms Beater and Mr. Dunsmore clarified several issues including the issue of the study area size/boundaries and it was agreed that the comment period would close on 30 June 2008.

Recordings of the above meetings are included in the Record of Consultation Report (see Appendix 3). In cases where the responses had not been given in at the meeting, such responses are included in the CRR (see Appendix 2).

- 08 July 2008, held at Raditau Game Lodge

The meeting was facilitated by Karin Bowler. *The objective of the meeting was to reach an agreement between Eskom and the Makoppa Environmental Action Group (MEAG) on how to take forward a working relationship.'*

5. General comments and issues raised during the review period

Comments and issues raised during the review period are listed in the table below.

Issue	Remarks
Job opportunities and reliability of supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This issue came from Traditional Authorities and urban communities
Servitude compensation and size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial landowners and Traditional Authorities are concerned about being properly paid for the servitude running through their properties. The size of these servitudes combined with existing servitudes encourages farmers to want to sell their farms to ESKOM.
Devaluation of properties due to the presence of power lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowners fear that the value of their properties will go down as a result of construction of power lines.
The impact of power lines on the Eco-tourism business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is feared that the visual impact of the power lines will have a negative influence on eco-tourism businesses. How is ESKOM going to determine compensation for the loss of business?
The impact on farming activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EMF is said to affect the health and safety of both people and animals. The anchors of the pylons are hazardous to the plowing and harvesting activities.
Consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowners are generally not satisfied with the level of consultation.
Access to farms and access gates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During construction and maintenance the working crew is said to be poaching on game and livestock. ESKOM personnel are accused of accessing properties without informing landowners; leaving gates open thereby allowing animals to escapes and mix.
Natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders in the Nature conservation sector are concerned about the impact of the power lines on National Parks and Biospheres.
Modern Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a strong request for the use of modern technology like underground cabling and Double Circuit lines. It is requested that ESKOM build fewer lines and make use of HVDC lines.
Line placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is suggested that lines are placed next to existing infrastructures.

6. Comment on the Public Meetings

The following were used to encourage the public to attend the public meetings:

- Originally eleven Public Meetings over six days were advertised for the review of the Scoping Report.
- The EIA Team attended more meetings than planned because others emerged during this time.
- Flyers were sent to post boxes in towns where the meetings were to be held.
- Key individuals in municipalities were contacted and reminded telephonically about the meetings.
- SMS messages were sent out to the registered stakeholders identified to be residing in the area in which the meeting was to be held.

Even with all this effort, the general public attended some of the meetings in small numbers. It is important that the general public is encouraged to participate in the planning of a project to be developed in their environment, and therefore they must be

given reasonable opportunity to do so. It is also important that I&APs must bear some responsibility for participation.

The effort put into disseminating information in trying to get the public to attend the meetings, and the actual attendance at these meetings do not correspond. The public meeting in Khuma was well attended because the method of convening the meeting was mainly by loud speaker. The input from this Khuma community does not contribute much in the EIA process for the 765kV Transmission power lines as mainly job opportunities related issues and Eskom Distribution problems were raised.

7. Comment on Landowner Consultation

The study area North of the N4 is composed largely of eco-tourism, game farming, mining and tribal land.

The study area south of the N4 is mainly large-scale crop farming and mining, with fewer eco-tourism ventures.

The following comments can be made regarding landowner consultation:

- Traditional leaders as landowners have largely been consulted adequately though those near Groot Marico were identified and consulted for the first time during the review period. In the main, the traditional leaders are concerned about the electrification of their villages, job opportunities and compensation (This is handled outside the EIA process). The North West Heritage Parks Board is assisting some Traditional Authorities and Community Property Associations in developing a heritage park. They have been met and further issues noted.
- Several mining houses were met with and issues of concern raised including concerns about power lines crossing their properties where mining operations are taking place, hence it will be important that after deciding on the preferred corridors, meetings with the mines are held again. Attendees at the meeting mentioned a few more mines that need to be consulted as they were not represented at the meeting and were said to own properties in the study area.
- Game farmers are dominant in the north of the N4. Extensive consultations have been undertaken with this sector of landowners and valuable information has been received and this resulted in them being more organized as environmental action groups. It is believed that consultation with the action groups will proceed well in the EIA Phase.
- Landowners in the area of Koster/Ventersdorp/Potchefstroom did not come out in good numbers. At the Farmers Association meeting in Makokskraal (16 April 2008) it was recommended by the landowners that they only be consulted after the preferred potential corridors have been decided on.

8. On-going consultation

Due to the size and complexity of the study area, the PPP Team will continue with discussions with some of the key stakeholder groups, especially the landowners in the areas where there are new corridors within the study area.

9. Conclusion

The PPP team is confident that reasonable efforts were made to inform the public in this large study area and give them opportunities to participate in the process. The consultation process is considered to have managed to give the public, especially the landowners, reasonable opportunity to raise issues of concern which they might have regarding the proposed 765kV transmission power lines. Mainly the concerns have been about compensation, job creation and the impact that this project will have on eco-tourism, hunting pristine areas.

General interest in participating in the study may be summarised as follows:

- The Traditional Authorities do not see the proposed power lines as a threat to their environment and the socio-economic activities in their area. Unfortunately transmission power line projects do not create as many job opportunities, as they expected. The Traditional Authorities understand that the proposed 765kV are meant to evacuate electricity generated in the Waterberg area and Botswana to the rest of the country.
- The lack of interest from the municipality officials is a concern as their input is valuable. IDP and Environmental Management sections of the municipalities will be engaged more in the EIA Phase.
- Landowners' participation has been through their associations, unions and environmental action groups. The formation of such groups is encouraged as it helps to draw more landowners, including those that come to their farms over weekends.
- It is because of a successful landowners' participation that the idea of industrial corridor is given serious consideration, the advantages and disadvantages of HVDC and double circuit systems are now being investigated.
- Landowners raised concerns about the economic impacts of the power lines and this is going to be investigated in the EIA Phase by an economic specialist.