

# ANNEXURE K

## Revised BID and associated letters to stakeholders and I&APs



**NINHAM SHAND**  
CONSULTING SERVICES

81 Church Street, Cape Town, 8001  
P O Box 1347, Cape Town, 8000  
Tel: +27 21 481 2400 / Fax: +27 21 424 5588  
E-mail: [enviro@shands.co.za](mailto:enviro@shands.co.za)  
Website: [www.shands.co.za](http://www.shands.co.za)

8 June 2006

Email: [enviro@shands.co.za](mailto:enviro@shands.co.za)

Dear Sir/ Madam

**PROPOSED COAL-FIRED POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE  
WITBANK AREA, MPUMALANGA:  
NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN PROJECT INFORMATION**

After preliminary engagement with stakeholders, and based new information regarding the extent of underground coal seams, Eskom has modified the boundaries of one of the sites which will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed coal fired power station and associated infrastructure in the Witbank area. As an interested party you have been sent a copy of the Background Information Document (BID). This letter and attached map serves to update the information contained in the BID and represents the latest information available on the proposed project.

**Background Information Document: Update**

Three changes have been made to the BID, these are provided below:

1. First page 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph - The description of the area being assessed has now been changed to read:

*"There are two sites being investigated immediately north (site A) and south (site B) of the N12 in the vicinity of the existing Kendal Power Station (Please refer to Figure 1)".*

2. First page 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph- The other proposed new power stations should have been named after the area in which they occur, instead of being named after the closest existing Eskom power station. This is to ensure that their locality is broadly understood as their exact location has not yet been decided. Also only three new stations are being considered currently and not four as previously stated. Grootvlei is an existing power station currently and should not have been included in our previous list. The new sentence reads:

*"The proposed power station is one of three similar coal-fired power stations being considered by Eskom. The other proposed new coal-fired power stations for which studies are being undertaken are located in the Lephalale area and northern Free State region."*

3. In Figure 1, the new location and boundaries of Site B are shown. Please note Site A has not changed. **A copy of the revised map is included with this letter for ease of reference.**

**Public Meetings**


Invitations to the open days and public meetings which will be hosted in Phola and Witbank in early July 2006 will be distributed shortly. The purpose of the meetings is to provide an opportunity for I&APs to familiarise themselves with the proposed project, to provide a forum to raise issues or concerns, and to present the initial findings of the Scoping Phase of the EIA.

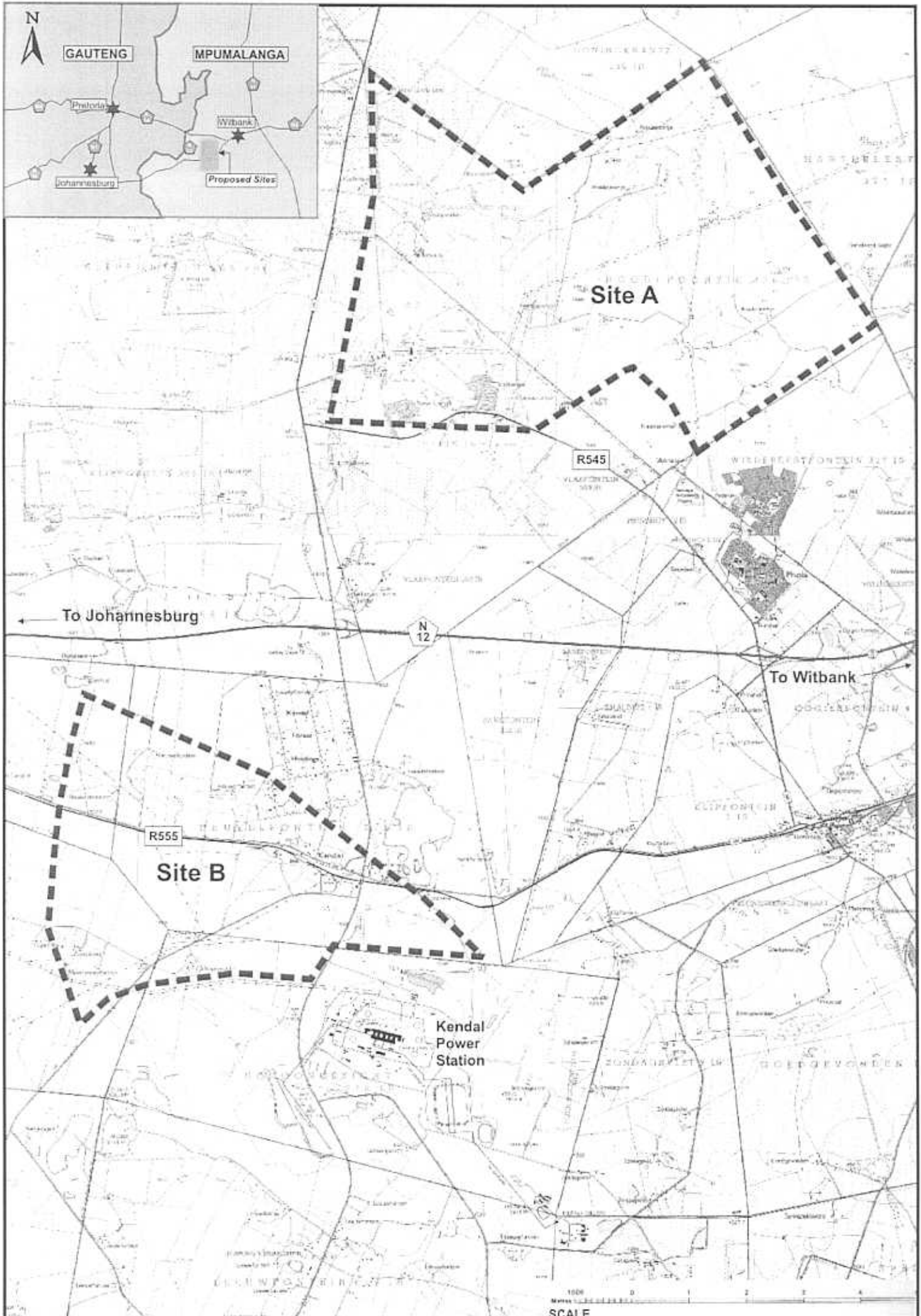
We apologise for any inconvenience which may have been caused in updating the project information. If you know of anyone who may have an interest in or be impacted by these changes, please encourage them to contact us we can answer any queries they may have. Please contact the undersigned should you have any queries or concerns regarding the changes outlined in this letter or if you have comments regarding the project.

Yours sincerely  
NINHAM SHAND

**LINDIWE GAIKA**

Public Participation Co-ordinator

  
**KAREN SHIPPEY** (Pri.Sci.Nat, Cert. Env. Ass. Practitioner)  
Public Participation Task Leader





08 Junie 2006

E-pos: enviro@shands.co.za

Geagte Heer / Dame

**VOORGESTELDE STEENKOOI-AANGEDREWE KRAGSENTRALE EN AANVERWANTE  
INFRASTRUKTUUR IN DIE OMGEWING VAN WITBANK, MPUMALANGA:  
NOTULE VAN VERGADERING MET BELANGHEBBENDES & KENNISGEWING VAN VERANDERING  
AAN PROJEKINLIGTING**

Die Agtergrond Inligtingsdokument, gedateer April 2006, en die vergadering met belanghebbendes op 8 Mei 2006, het betrekking. Aangeheg hierby is die notule van die vergadering met sleutelrolspelers. Na voorlopige gesprekvoering met belanghebbendes, en op grond van nuwe inligting oor die omvang van die ondergrondse steenkoollae, is die grense van Terrein B aangepas. Die doel van hierdie brief en aangehegte kaart is om die Agtergrond Inligtingsdokument wat in April aan u gestuur is op te dateer met die jongste inligting oor die voorgestelde projek.

**Agtergrond Inligtingsdokument: Opdatering**

Die onderstaande drie veranderinge is aan die Agtergrond Inligtingsdokument aangebring:

1. Bladsy 1, 3<sup>de</sup> paragraaf: Die beskrywing van die gebied wat ondersoek word is verander om as volg te lees:

*"Twee terreine word tans in die omgewing van die bestaande Kendal kragentrale ondersoek. Die een (Terrein A) lê direk noord van die N12 die ander (Terrein B) direk suid van die N12 (Verwys na **Figuur 1**)".*

2. Bladsy 1, 3<sup>de</sup> paragraaf: Die benaming van die ander voorgestelde nuwe kragentrales moes eerder verwys het na die gebied waarin hulle voorkom, as na die mees nabygeleë bestaande Eskom kragentrale. Aangesien die spesifieke ligging nog nie bepaal is nie, is dit beter om na die gebied te verwys en sodoende 'n algemene begrip oor hulle moontlike posisie te bekom. Daarby word slegs drie nuwe kragentrales beoog, en nie vier soos voorheen genoem nie. Grootvlei is 'n bestaande kragentrale en moes nie by die vorige lys ingesluit gewees het nie. Die nuwe sin lees dus as volg:

*"Die voorgestelde kragentrale is een van drie soortgelyke steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrales wat tans deur Eskom oorweeg word. Die ander nuwe voorgestelde steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrales wat tans ondersoek word, is in die omgewing van Lephalele en in die Noord-Vrystaatstreek geleë."*

3. Die nuwe ligging en grense van terrein B word in **Figuur 1** aangedui. Neem asb kennis dat daar geen verandering aan Terrein A aangebring word nie. **Om sake te vergemaklik word 'n afskrif van die aangepasde kaart by hierdie korrespondensie.**

**Openbare Vergaderings**

Die uitnodigings na die ope dae en openbare vergaderings wat vroeg in Julie 2006 in Phola en Witbank gehou sal word, word binnekort versprei. Die doel van hierdie vergaderings is om B&GPe die geleentheid te bied om hulself met die projek te vereenselwig, 'n forum te skep waar kwessies en geskilpunte bespreek kan word en om die aanvanklike bevindinge van die Evalueeringsfase van die OIB bekend te maak.

Ons vra om verskoning vir enige ongerief as gevolg van die opdatering van hierdie projekinligting. Indien u bewus is van enige persoon wat 'n belang by die projek mag hê, of deur die verandering geraak mag word, word u versoek om hulle aan te moedig om met ons in verbinding te tree sodat ons hulle vrae kan beantwoord. Tree asb ook met die ondergetekende in verbinding in u enige vraag of probleem met betrokke veranderinge aan die projek het soos in hierdie brief aangedui.

Die uwe

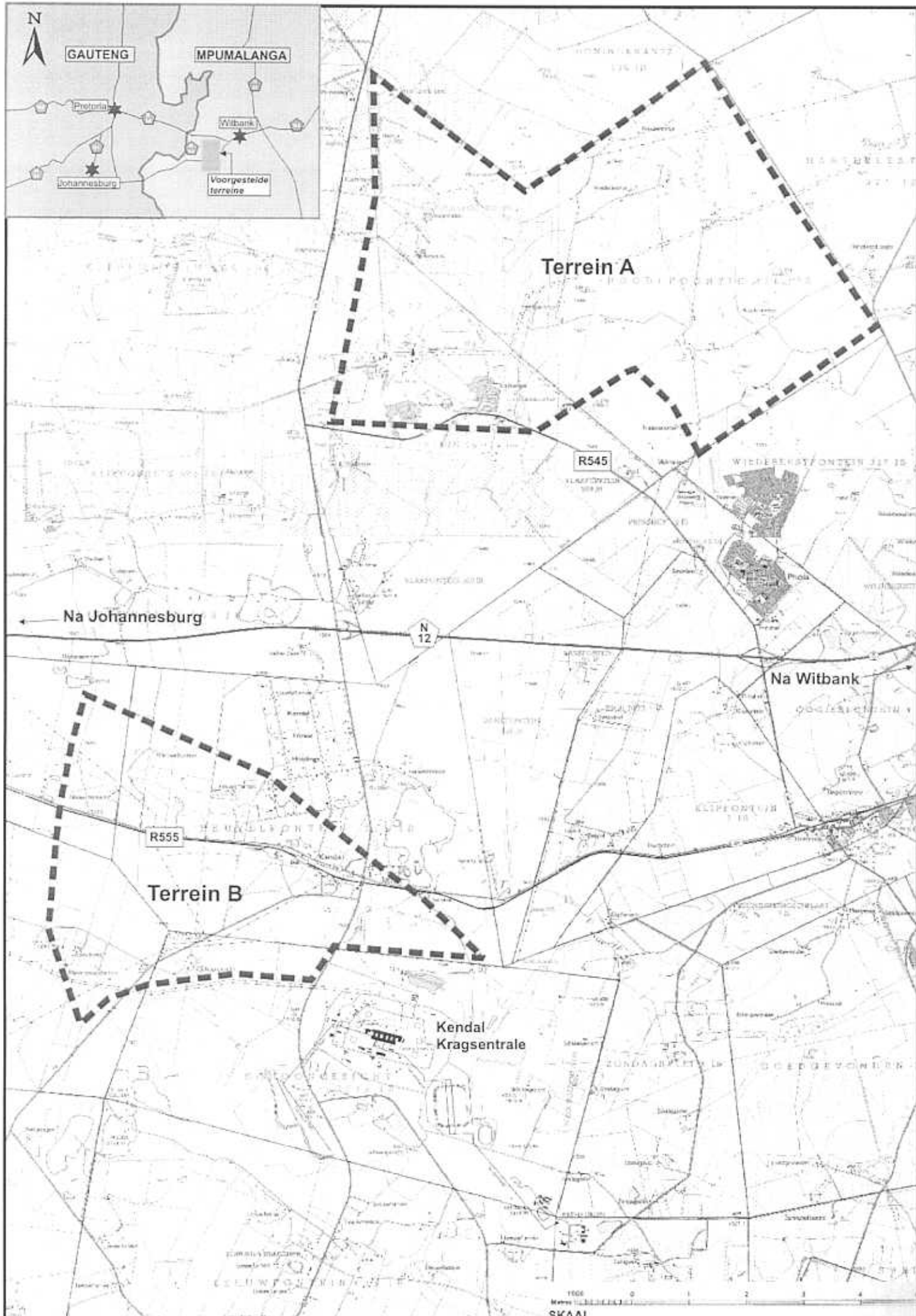
NINHAM SHAND

LINDIWE GAIKA

Fasiliteerder: Openbare Deelname

KAREN SHIPPEY (Ph.D., Sci. Nat., Cert. Env. Ass. Practitioner)

Spanleier: Openbare Deelname



UKUCUTSHUNGULWA KWALOKHO OKWENZEKA ENHLALWENI:  
ISITESI SAMANDLA ESIHLONGOZWAYO SOKWENZA AMALAHLE  
KANYE NENGQALASIZINDA EHAMBISANA NASO ENDAWENI YASE  
WITBANK, EMPUMALANGA

MAY 2006

## ISENDLALELA SOMBHALO WOLWAZI



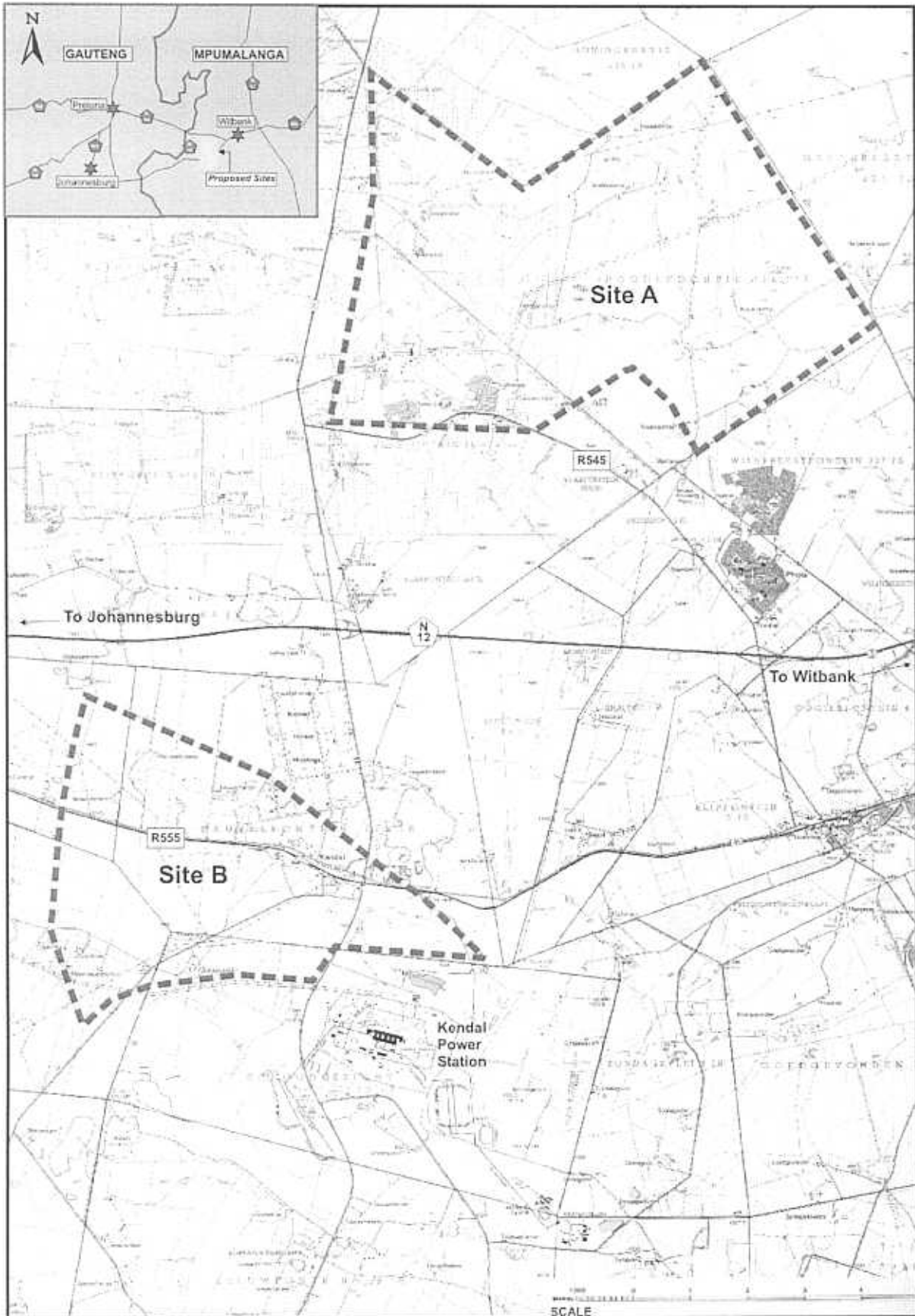
### Isendlelela


Abakwa Eskom basebenzisa inqubo ye Integrated Strategic Electricity Planning (ISEP) ukubona izindlela zesikhathi eside maqondana nokunikeza kanye nokufuneka kwemihlinzeko kagesi eNingizimu Afrika.

Uhlelo lwakamuva lwe ISEP (October 2005) luveze ukuthi kuyoba nesidingo esenyukile sokuhlinzekwa kukagesi ngaphambi konyaka ka 2010, ngalokothi ukwenyuka kokwenziwa kukagesi kwenziwa esikhathini esifushane. I National Energy Regulator of South Africa (INERSA) isiphathimandla esinesibopho sokuhlinzeka ngogesi eNingizimu Afrika<sup>1</sup>. Ohlelweni lwayo olwaziwa nge National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP), INERSA inqume ukuthi, ngalokothi izindlela eziningi ezahlukeneyo nezenziwa busha zokwenziwa kukagesi kumele ziqhubeke nokuphenywa, amalahle kusafanele aqhubeke nokuhlinzeka okukhulu kokubasela umlilo eNingizimu Afrika. Kanjalo futhi, iziteshi zamandla zokwenza amalahle ziyodingeka ukuthi zandise umthamo wokwenza ugesi eminyakeni engamashumi amabili ezayo.

Njengengxenywe yohlelo lokuthumela ugesi omningi, abakwa Eskom bahtlongoza ukwakha isiteshi samandla amalahle endaweni ese Witbank, eMpumalanga. Kunezakhiwo ezimbili ezisaholwa eduze nje kwenyakatho (Isiza A) kanye nangaseningizimu (Isiza B) nathelawayeka womgwaqo u N12 endaweni engase Kendal Power Station (Siza ubheke **Umdwebo 1**). Isiteshi samandla esihlongozwayo singesinye seziteshi zamandla amalahle ezintathu ezifanayo ezicatshangwa ngabakwa Eskom. Ezinye iziteshi zamandla amalahle ezintsha ezisaholwa zisendaweni yase Lephalale kanye nasesifundeni esisenyakatho ne Free State. Abe Ninham Shand Consulting Services baqokwe ngabakwa Eskom ukuthi bacubungule lokho okwenzeka enhlalweni ngemisebenzi ethintene nesiteshi esihlongozwayo samandla sokwenza amalahle kanye nengqalasisinda ehambisana naso endaweni yase Witbank.

<sup>1</sup> I National Energy Regulator of South Africa yasungulwa ngokuya Komthetho Kagesi, ongunombolo 41 wango 1987, njengoba wabuyezwa Yimithetho Kagesi Yokubuyezwa yango 1994 nango 1995.



	<b>WITBANK AREA POWER STATION</b>		SCALE	Figure 1
	Locality Plan		As shown	

Inhloso Yesendlalela Sombhalo Wolwazi uku:

- Hlinzeka ngesendlalela kanye nencazelo yohlelo oluhlongozwayo;
- Chaza ngenqubo yokucutshungulwa lokho okwenzeka enhlalweni, ikakhulu maqondana namathuba okungenela komphakathi (siza ubheke **Emdwebeni 2**); kanye
- Nokumema laba Abanothando kanye Nabathintekayo ukuthi babhalise njengebangenele enqubweni kanye nokuveza noma ngabe yiziphi izinto noma izikhalo abangaba nazo maqondana nohlelo.

## Uhlelo oluhlongozwayo

Uhlelo oluhlongozwayo luqukethe lokhu okulandelayo:

- Ukwakhiwa kwesizinda esingu 3 600 kuya ku 4 200 megawatt (MW), wesiteshiu samandla sokwenza amalahle endaweni esentshonalanga ne Witbank.
- Ukwakhiwa kanye nokusetshenzwa kwenqalasisizinda ehambisana naso, okufana nengceke elinamandla aphezulu kagesi<sup>2</sup>, ukuhlanzwa kwamanzi kanye nezinto zokuhlizeka, izinhlelo zokusetshenzwa komlotha, ukuhanjiswa kwamalahle, izinto zokulondolozwa kanye nokusetshenziswa, ukulungiswa kwemigwaqo njalo-njalo.

Ubukhulu besiza esidingelwa lesi siteshi samandla kanye nengqalasisizinda ehambisana naso icishe ibe ngama hektha ayi 1 500, yize izakhiwo qobo lwazo ziyothatha ingxenye encane nje kuphela. Kucatshangwa imisebenzi ethize efanele inhlobo ngesiteshi samandla esihlongozwayo, isibonelo, ukupholisa ngqo ukukapaka kokushisa kanye nombobho wentuthu yegesi ukunciphisa ukungcoliswa komoya.

## Okudingwa ngumthetho kanye nenqubo yokucutshungulwa kwalokho okwenzeka enhlalweni (EIA)

Umthetho 1182, owashaywa ngokuya Komthetho Wokulondolozwa Kwenhlobo Yendawo (ECA) (Umthetho ongunombolo 73 ka 1989), ukhomba imisebenzi ethize, engaba *"nomphumela omkhulu wokulimala kwendawo yenhlobo"*. Lemisebenzi ehleliwe idinga ukugunyazwa kwendawo yenhlobo okuvela kubaphathi abafanele bendawo yenhlobo.

Maqondana nohlelo, no *"kwakhiwa, ukwakha kanye nokwenza ngcono izakhiwo zokwenziwa kukagesi othengiswayo onomkhinqizo okungenani ka 10 megawatts kanye nengqalasisizinda yokuhlizeka ngeningi"* eminye yaleyo misebenzi esohlwini.

Uhlelo oluhlongozwayo lungaba nezinye izinyathelo ezahlukene eziningi ezingabuye zithathwe njengemisebenzi ehleliwe ngokuya Komthetho 1182 nokube ke sekudinga ukugunyazwa. Lokhu kumbandakanya:

- *"ukwakhiwa, ukwakha nama ukwenza ngcono:*
  - *Maqondana nanoma yini eyingozi noma nengozi futhi ibe ilawulwa umthetho kazwelonke*
  - *imigwaqo, imizila kalayini, imizila yezindiza kanye nezakhiwo ezihambisana nayo*

<sup>2</sup> Yazi ukuthi olayini bokuthumela abadingeka ukuxhumanisa isiteshi esisha samandla nolayini bokuxhumana kuzwelonke yingqikithi yenqubo eyehlukile yokucutshungulwa kwalokho okwenzeka enhlalweni (EIA). 3. Ongunombolo 45 wango 1965



- o izakhiwo ezihambisana nokuxhumana, kumbandakanya amaphizela, imibhoshongo kanye nezindishi ezibuyisa ukukhanya
- o izinhlelo zokwakha noma zokusebenzisa amanzi angaphansi komhlaba noma angaphezulu ngezinhloso zokuhluzeka ngobuningi
- o izitshalo zokuhlenga amaphayiphi okuchitha kanyenengqalasizinda ehambisana nayo"
- "ukugququlwa kokusebenzisa umhlaba usuka eku:
  - o Ekusetshenziselweni ukulima noma ukusetshenziswa kwendawo ngokungacophelele noma ukunqunywa okulinganayo kokusebenzisa noma yimuphi umhlaba"
- "ukulahlwa kwemfucuza njengoba kuchazwe Esigabeni 20 Somthetho"
- "izinqubo ezihleliwe ezifakwe ohlwini Lohlelo Lwesibili Emthethweni Wokuvikela Ukungcoliswa Kokusesibhakabhakeni (i-Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act)"

Kanjalo futhi, isiteshi samandla sokwenza amalahle kanye nengqalasizinda ehambisana naso idinga ukugunyazwa kwendawo yenhlelo okubela kubaphathi abafanele bendawo yenhlelo ngokudlula enqubweni yokucutshungulwa kwalokho okwenzeka enhlalweni (EIA) okubalulwe Emthethweni 1183 we ECA. Lenqubo yokucutshungulwa kwalokho okwenzeka enhlalweni kwenziwe kwaba yiqoqo

Inqubo yokucutshungulwa kwalokho okwenzeka enhlalweni (EIA) yakhiwe Isigaba Sombiko Welungelo Lokwenza kanye Nesigaba Sombiko Ngalokho Okwenzeka Enhlalweni (EIR). Inhloso Yesigaba Sombiko Welungelo Lokwenza ukukhomba kanye nokuchaza okuhle kanye nokubi okungenzeka enhlalweni, kabili ekuhlalisaneni kwabantu kanye nemvelo, okuhambisana nohlelo oluhlongozwayo. Ukungenelela komphakathi kwakha ingxenye ephelelisiweyo yazo zozimbili Izigaba Selungelo Lokwenza kanye neSokucubungula Lokho okwenzeka enhlalweni.

Inhloso Yesigaba sokucubungula lokho okwenzeka enhlalweni (EIR) wukuphenya kabanzi kanye nokuhlola lezo zinto ezenzekayo ezivezwe Embikweni Welungelo Lokwenza. Kuze kube yimanje, lezizincwaningo ezibalulekile ezilandelayo zibonwe njengezidingekayo:

**Ithebula 1: Izincwaningo eziveziwe ezifundelwe ezidingwa ngesikhathi sokucubungula lokho okwenzeka enhlalweni (EIA)**

Ucwaningo olufundelwe	Owenzwa umsebenzi awufundele
Ukuhlola izinga lokwenzeka emoyeni	Abakwa AirShed Planning Professionals
Ukuba khona komsindo	Abakwa Jongens Keef Associates
Okwenzeka emehlweni/ekuboneni	Abe Strategic Environmental Focus
Okwenzeka ezitshalweni nasezilwaneni ezikulowo mhlaba	Abe Makecha Development Association
Okwenzeka ezinhlelweni zamanzi	Abe Ecosun
Okwenzeka emanzini angaphansi komhlaba	Abe Groundwater Consulting Services

Ucwango olufundelwe	Owenza umsebenzi awufundele
Ukucutshungulwa Kobungozi	Abe litha Riskom
Okwenzekayo okuphathelene nokwamandulo	Abe Northern Flagship Institution
Okwenzekayo okungaba kwezolimo	Abe University of the Free State
Okwenzeka ezithuthini	Abe Ninham Shand
Uphenyo ngomumo wamatshe nomhlaba	Abe Ninham Shand
Okwenzeka emnathweni wenhlalo	Abe Urban-Econ
Izinto ezivela lapho kuhlelwa	Abe Maluleke, Luthuli and Associates

Kube nokulungiselela futhi ukuthi kubuyekwezwe yanke inqubo kwenziwe ngababonisi abasemthethweni, okungabakwa Mark Wood Environmental Consultants.

## Ucabango ngezinye izindlela

Lolu hlelo lwenziwe ngophenyo oluningi nolwenziwe ngabakwa Eskom, ngokulandela inqubo ye ISEP ezingeni likazwelonke kanye nenqubo yokuqoka isiza. Izindawo ezinhlanu ezicatshangwayo ocwaningeni lwabakwa Eskom lokuqoka indawo zabekwa phezulu kanti izindawo ezimbili zakhethelwa ukuthi zihlolwe futhi. Ngalendlela, iziza ezimbili ezinconywe ngabakwa Eskom ukuthi kuqhutshekwe nazo enqubweni ezimele ye EIA zaye zakhonjwa. **Umdwebo 1** ukhombisa wonke umumo waleziziza okukhulunywa ngazo, okwamanje ezaziwa ngo "A" kanye no "B". Leziziza zichazwa ngalendlela elandelayo:

- **Isiza A** – Isiza sise noma phakathi nendawo eyabe iyi Wilge Power Station phambilini eduze nempumalanga yobude bomngcele osondelene nensimo yamaladle. Umhlaba okwamanje usetshenziselwa ukulima kanye nokweluka kwemfuyo.
- **Isiza B** – Isiza siphakathi kwe Kendal Power Station kanye ne N12 highway, eningizimu nensimu enkulu yamaladle. Umhlaba okwamanje usetshenziselwa ukukhiqiza izilimo.

Inqubo ye EIA iyombandakanya ukubuyekwezwa kocwango lokuqoka isiza. Lokhu kubuyekwezwa kuyokwenziwa ngabe Mark Wood Consultants, ababonisi abasemthethweni emkhakheni wezamazandla. Umbiko wabakwa Eskom wokuqoka isiza kanye nombiko wokubuyekwezwa iyokwakha ingxenye Yombiko Welungelo Lokwenza. Ukugunyazwa Kombiko Welungelo Lokwenza yiziphathimandla zendawo yenhlalo uyobe ke ukukhomba ukwamukelwa kwesidingo kanye nokuvumeleka kokuba khona kohlelo.

Izindlela eziningi zezinga lohlelo ziyochazwa Embikweni Wesiphakamiso Selungelo Lokwenza.



## Ukungenelela Komphakathi

Isikhathi samasonto amane sokubeka imibono sihlizwelele lokho nalokho kuphikisa komphakathi. Izigaba ezilandelayo ziyokwakha ingxenye yokungenelela komphakathi we EIA:

### Isigaba 1

Inhloso enkulu yalesigaba ukwethula amazwi abonisa isidingo sohlelo oluhlongozwayo kanye nokwengula izinto kanye nemibono umphakathi onothando kanye nababambe iqhaza elikhulu abangase babe nayo. Isigaba 1 sakhawe yilezizinyathelo ezilandelayo.

- Ukwaziswa kwabanini bomhlaba abathintekayo kanye nababambe iqhaza elikhulu
- Ukukhangiswa kohlelo kumaphephandaba endawo, esifunda nawakuzwelonke, kumenywa ukubhalisa komphakathi onothando kanye nababambe iqhaza elikhulu kanye nokwengula imibono yasekuqaleni;
- Ukwenza ukuthi Lesendla-lela Sombhalo Wolwazi utholakale emphakathini onothando kanye nababambe iqhaza elikhulu abakhonjiwe; kanye
- Ukuqala ukubonisana nababambe iqhaza elikhulu (okusho. Abanikazi bomhlaba abathintekayo, iziphathimandla zasendaweni njll.).

### Isigaba 2

Inhloso enkulu Yesigaba 2 ukwethula isiphakamiso Sombiko Welungelo Lokwenza emphakathini onothando nababambe iqhaza elikhulu, ukukhombisa ukuthi ngabe imibono yabo kuze kube yimanye ifakwe kanjani embikweni kanye nokwengula noma yini enye ekhonondisayo kanye/noma isithasiselo. Isigaba 2 sakhawe yilezizinyathelo ezilandelayo:

- Ukufakwa kwemibono yomphakathi eyatholwa Embikweni Welungelo Lokwenza, njengezinto ezilandelayo;
- Ukubekwa Kwesiphakamiso Sombiko Welungelo Lokwenza ku website yohlelo lwabakwa Eskom kanye nasemitapweni yezincwadi zemiphakathi/ emahhavisini kamasipala/ noma kwezinye izindawo ezikahle eziqokiwe kanye na;
- Nokubanjwa kwemihlangano yomphakathi ukwethula Isiphakamiso Sombiko Welungelo Lokwenza. Izaziso ngamaphephandaba ziyoshicilelwa ukwazisa ngemihlangano. Yonke imiphakathini onothando nababambe iqhaza elikhulu ababhalisiwe bayokwaziswa ngemihlangano kanye nangokubekwa kombiko futhi bayothunyelelwa amakhophi Eqaqa Lombiko ngeposi;

### Isigaba 3

Isigaba kuhloswe ngaso ukwethula isiphakamiso Sombiko Wakwenzeka Enhlalweni wethulwa emphakathi onothando kanye nababambe iqhaza elikhulu. Lesigaba simumethe:

- Ukubekwa kwesiphakamiso sokucutshungulwa kwalokho okwenzeka enhlalweni (EIR) emitapweni yezincwadi zemiphakathi/ emahhavisini

kamasipala/ ezindaweni ezikahle eziqokiwe kanye naku website yohlelo lwabakwa Eskom;

- Ukubanjwa kwemihlangano yomphakathi ukwethula Isiphakamiso sokucutshungulwa kwalokho okwenzeka enhlalweni. Bonke abanothando nabathintekayo ababhalisiwe bayokwaziswa ngemihlangano kanye nangokubekwa kombiko futhi bayothunyelelwa amakhophi Eqoqo Lombiko ngeposi;
- Ukuqedela Umbiko Ngokwenzeka Enhlalweni ngokuthi kufakwe zonke iziphakamiso zomphakathi ezatholwa ezindabeni esezibuyekeziwe; kanye
- Nokwazisa abanothando nabathintekayo ababhalisiwe ngomphumela wenqubo Yokucubungulwa lokho okwenzeka enhlalweni.

#### Isigaba 4

Lesi yisikhathi sezinsuku ezingama 30 sokudlulisa isikhalo, ngalesi sikhathi abanothando nabathintekayo banethuba lokudlulisa isikhalo Ngesinqumo Esithathiwe phecelezi iRecord of Decision (ROD) esikhishwe yisiphathimandla sendawo yenhlalo. Isikhathi sokudlulisa isikhalo siqala nje uma sekukhishwe Isinqumo Esithathiwe - iROD.

Wena ubonwe njengomuntu onothando nobambe iqhaza ngenxa yothando onalo ohtelweni, ngokuzibandakanya kwakho ezincwaningeni zenhlo phambilini, noma ngenxa yokuphendula kwakho ezikhangisweni zamaphephandaba. Uma ufisa ukuphakamisa noma yini ekuthintayo emayelana nohlelo oluhlongozwayo, siza ugcalise Ifomu Lezimpendulo elihlanganiswe lapha bese ulibuyisela ku Ninham Shand ngokulifeksa noma usebenzise imvilophi yokuposa esifakelwe isitembu ehlinzekwe lapha.

Uma ufisa ukuthola ulwazi olwengeziwe kanye nokumenyelwa imihlangano siza uzibhalise wena emphakathini onothando nababambe iqhaza elikhulu, ngokuthi uxhumane nalabantu abalandelayo.

**Lindiwe Gaika**  
Ucingo: (021) 481 2508  
lindiwe.gaika@shands.co.za

**NOMA Karen Shippey**  
Ucingo: (021) 481 2502  
karen.shippey@shands.co.za

Ifeksi: (021) 424 5588

Ikheli Lokuposa: Ninham Shand,  
P.O Box 1347  
Cape Town  
8000



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED COAL-FIRED POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WITBANK AREA, MPUMALANGA

MAY 2006

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



#### Background

Eskom applies an Integrated Strategic Electricity Planning (ISEP) process to identify long-term options regarding both the supply and demand sides of electricity provision in South Africa.

The latest ISEP plan (October 2005) has identified the need for increased electricity supply by the year 2010, while peaking generation is being attended to in the shorter term. The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) is the regulatory authority responsible for the electricity supply industry in South Africa<sup>1</sup>. In its National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP), the NERSA has determined that, while various alternative and renewable electricity generation options should be continually investigated, coal should still provide the main fuel source in South Africa. Accordingly, coal-fired power stations will be required for generation capacity expansion during the next 20 years.

As part of the increased electricity supply plan, Eskom is considering a coal-fired power station in the Witbank area in Mpumalanga. There are two sites being investigated immediately north (Site A) and south (Site B) of the N12 in the vicinity of the existing Kendal Power Station (Please refer to **Figure 1**). The proposed power station is one of three similar coal-fired power stations being considered by Eskom. The other proposed new coal-fired power stations for which studies are being undertaken are located in the Lephalale area and the northern Free State region.

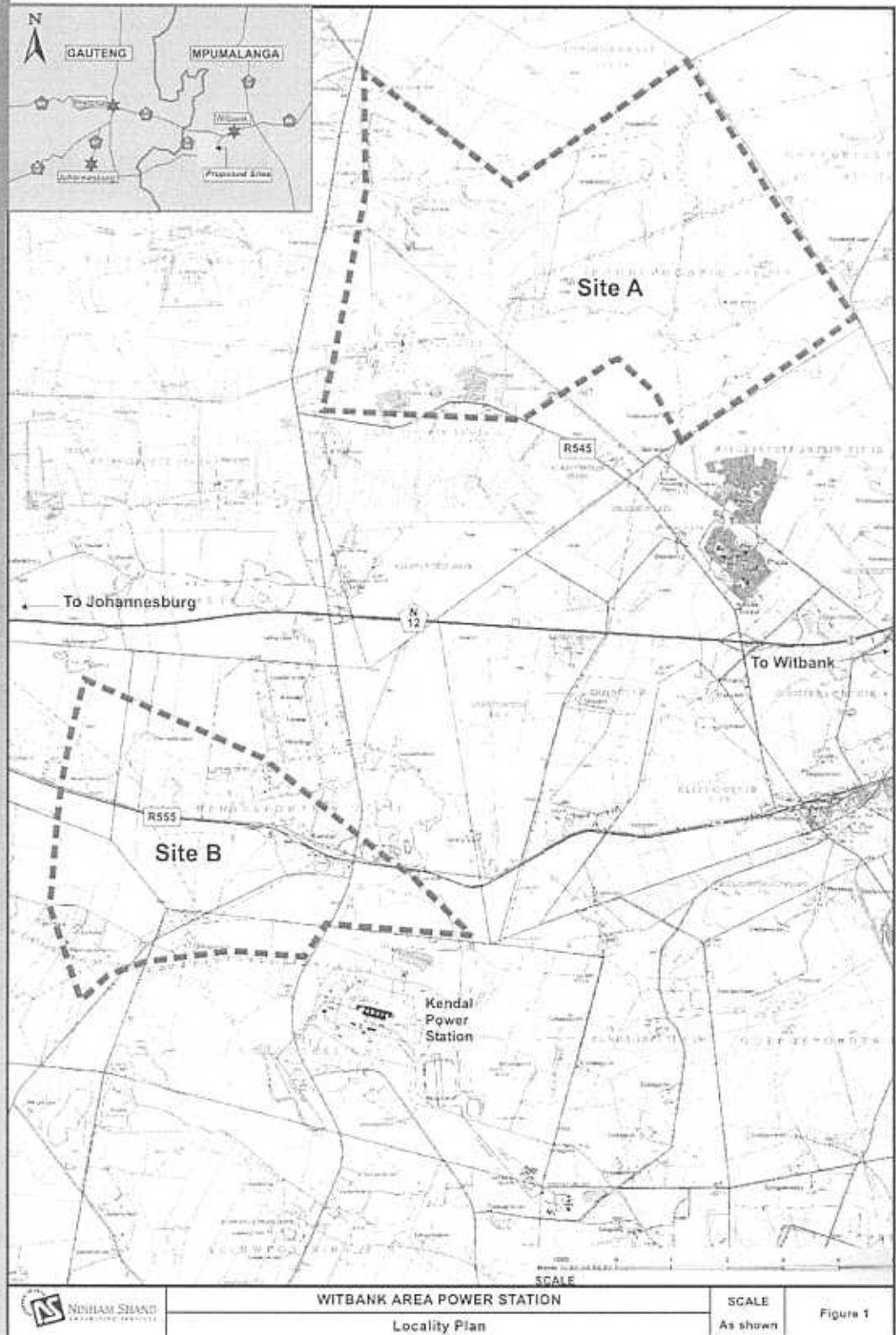
Ninham Shand Consulting Services has been appointed by Eskom to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the activities relating to the proposed coal-fired power station and associated infrastructure in the Witbank area.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to:

- Provide a background to and description of the proposed project;
- Describe the EIA process, particularly in terms of the opportunities for public participation (please refer to **Figure 2**); and
- Invite Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to register as participants in the process and to raise any issues or concerns they may have regarding the project.

<sup>1</sup> The National Energy Regulator of South Africa was established in terms of the Electricity Act, No. 41 of 1987, as amended by the Electricity Amendment Acts of 1994 and 1995.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



Revision 31 May 2006

### The proposed project

The proposed project comprises the following:

- The construction of a 3 600 to 4 200 megawatt (MW) greenfield, coal-fired power station in the area to the west of Witbank.
- The construction and operation of associated infrastructure, such as a high-voltage yard<sup>2</sup>, water treatment and supply facilities, ash management systems, coal transportation, storage and handling facilities, service roads etc.

The extent of the site required for such a power station and associated infrastructure is approximately 1 500 ha, although the structures themselves would only occupy a small portion thereof. The most environmentally appropriate technology is being considered for the proposed power station, e.g. direct dry cooling for heat dissipation and flue gas desulphurisation to minimize air pollution.

### Legal requirements and EIA process

Regulation 1182, promulgated in terms of the Environment Conservation Act (ECA) (No 73 of 1989), identifies certain activities, which "could have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment". These scheduled activities require environmental authorisation from the competent environmental authority.

With reference to the schedule, the "construction, erection and upgrading of facilities for commercial electricity generation with an output of at least 10 megawatts and infrastructure for bulk supply" are such listed activities.

The proposed project may entail various other actions that would also be construed as scheduled activities in terms of Regulation 1182 and thus require authorisation. These include the:

- "construction, erection or upgrading:
  - with regard to any substance which is dangerous or hazardous and is controlled by national legislation
  - roads, railways, airfields and associated structures
  - structures associated with communication networks, including masts, towers and reflector dishes
  - schemes for the abstraction or utilisation of ground or surface water for bulk supply purposes
  - sewerage treatment plants and associated infrastructure"
- "change of land use from:
  - agricultural or zoned undetermined use or an equivalent zoning to any other land use"
- "disposal of waste as defined in Section 20 of the Act"
- "scheduled processes listed in the Second Schedule of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act<sup>3</sup>"

Accordingly, the proposed coal-fired power station and associated infrastructure require authorisation from the competent environmental authority via the EIA process outlined in Regulation 1183 of the ECA. This EIA process is summarised in **Figure 2**.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the transmission lines required to link the new power station to the national grid are the subject of a separate EIA process.

<sup>3</sup> No. 45 of 1965



# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

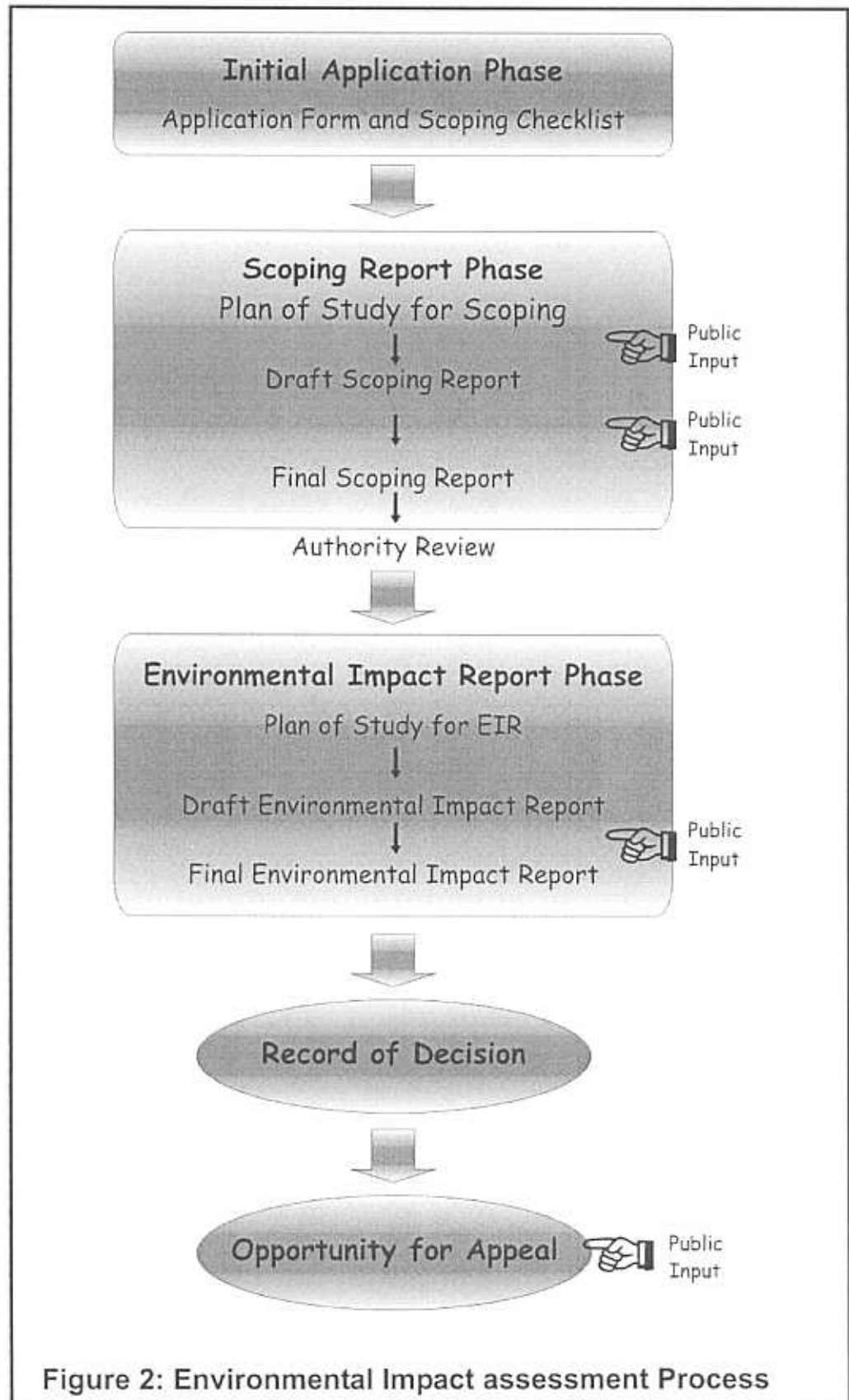


Figure 2: Environmental Impact assessment Process

The EIA process consists of a Scoping Report Phase and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Phase. The purpose of the Scoping Report Phase is to identify and describe potential positive and negative environmental impacts, both social and biophysical, associated with the proposed project. Public participation forms an integral component of both the Scoping and EIR Phases.

The purpose of the EIR Phase is to comprehensively investigate and assess those impacts identified in the Scoping Report. To date, the following specialist studies have been identified as being necessary:

**Table 1: Identified specialist studies required during the EIA**

Specialist study	Specialist undertaking the work
Air quality impacts	AirShed Planning Professionals
Noise impacts	Jongens Keet Associates
Visual impacts	Strategic Environmental Focus
Impacts on terrestrial fauna and flora	Makecha Development Association
Aquatic ecosystem impacts	Ecosun
Groundwater impacts	Groundwater Consulting Services
Risk assessment	Ilitha Riskom
Archaeological impacts	Northern Flagship Institution
Impacts on agricultural potential	University of the Free State
Traffic impacts	Ninham Shand
Geotechnical investigations	Ninham Shand
Socio-economic impacts	Urban-Econ
Planning implications	Maluleke, Luthuli and Associates

Provision has also been made for a review of the entire process by a recognized review consultancy, Mark Wood Environmental Consultants.

### Consideration of Alternatives

This project has been informed by various investigations that have been undertaken by Eskom, viz. the ISEP at the national level and a site selection process. Five candidate sites identified in Eskom's site selection study were ranked and the two feasible sites were selected for further investigation. In this way, the two sites recommended by Eskom to be carried forward into an independent EIA process were identified. **Figure 1** shows the general position of the two sites in question, presently termed "A" and "B". These sites are described as follows:

- **Site A** – The site is on or within the general area of the previous Wilge Power Station near the eastern perimeter of the adjacent coal field. The land is currently used for crop production and grazing.
- **Site B** – The site is between the Kendal Power Station and the N12 highway, south of the main coal field. The land is currently is used for crop production.

This EIA process will include a review of the site selection study. This review will be undertaken by Mark Wood Consultants, a recognised strategic and review consultant in the energy sector. Eskom's site selection report and the review report will form part of the Scoping Report. The approval of the Scoping Report by the environmental authorities would therefore indicate acceptance of the need for and justification of the project.

The various project level alternatives will be described in the Draft Scoping Report.

## Public Participation

A four week comment period is provided for each of the iterations with the public. The following phases will comprise the public participation component of the EIA:

### Phase 1

The primary purpose of this phase is to present the motivation for the proposed project and elicit issues and comments that I&APs (the public and key stakeholders) may have. Phase 1 comprises the following steps.

- Notification of affected landowners and key stakeholders
- Advertising the project in local, regional and national newspapers, inviting registration of I&APs and eliciting initial comment;
- Making this BID available to identified I&APs; and
- Undertaking initial consultation with key stakeholders (viz. affected landowners, local authorities etc.).

### Phase 2

The primary purpose of Phase 2 is to present the draft Scoping Report to I&APs, to show how their comments to date have been incorporated into the report and to elicit any additional issues of concern and/ or comment. Phase 2 comprises the following steps:

- Incorporating public comment received into the Draft Scoping Report, as an Issues Trail;
- Lodging the Draft Scoping Report on the Eskom project website and in public libraries/ municipal offices/ or other appropriate venues; and
- Holding public meetings to present the Draft Scoping Report. Newspaper notices will be used to publicise meetings. All registered I&APs will be notified of the meetings and lodging of the report and be provided with copies of the Executive Summary by mail.

### Phase 3

Phase 3 is aimed at presenting the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to I&APs. This phase comprises:

- Lodging the draft EIR in public libraries/ municipal offices/ identified appropriate venues and on the Eskom project website;
- Holding public meetings to present the Draft EIR. All registered I&APs will be notified of the meetings and lodging of the report and be provided with copies of the Executive Summary by mail;

- Finalising the EIR by incorporating all public comment received into an updated Issues Trail; and
- Notifying registered I&APs of the outcome of the EIA process.

**Phase 4**

This is the 30 day appeal period, during which I&APs have the opportunity to appeal against the Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the environmental authority. The appeal period commences as soon as the ROD is issued.

You have been identified as an I&AP due to your possible interest in the project, through your involvement in previous environmental studies, or as a result of your response to the press adverts. Should you wish to raise any issues of concern regarding the proposed project, please complete the attached Response Form and return it to Ninham Shand by fax or by using the postage paid envelope provided.

If you wish to receive further information and invitations to meetings please register yourself as an I&AP, by contacting the following people.

**Lindiwe Gaika**  
Tel: (021) 481 2508  
lindiwe.gaika@shands.co.za

**OR Karen Shippey**  
Tel: (021) 481 2502  
karen.shippey@shands.co.za

**Fax:** (021) 424 5588

**Postal Address:** Ninham Shand,  
P.O Box 1347  
Cape Town  
8000



**TSHEKATSHEKO YA KHUETŠO YA PROJEKE GO TIKOLOGO:  
SETEŠE SE UKANGWAGO SA GO FEHLA MOHLAGASE KA MALAHLA LE  
METHEOKGOPARA YE E AMAGO LE SONA KA TIKOLONG YA WITBANK,  
MPUMALANGA**

MAY 2006

**SENGWALWA SA TSHEDIMOŠO YA PROJEKE**



**Tshedimošo**

Eskom e šamiša lenaneo la Integrated Strategic Electricity Planning (ISEP) go lemoga dikgetho tsa nako e telele mabapi le nyakego ya kabo ya mohlagase mo Afrika Borwa.

Leano la bjale le ISEP (October 2005) le tšweleditše gore ka ngwaga wa 2010 nyakego ya kabo mohlagase e tla be e akešegile, mola go fehla kelo ya godimo ya mohlagase go fiwa šedi mo nakong e kopana. National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) ke lekgotlataolo le le rwelego maikarabelo a intasteri ya kabo ya mohlagase mo Afrika Borwa<sup>1</sup>. Ka go National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP) ya yona, NERSA e phethile ka gore, le ge re swanetše go tšwela pele go go lebelela mekgwa ye mengwe ye e mpshafatšegago ya go fehla mohlagase, malahla a swanetše go tšwela pele go fana ka mothopomogolo wa dibešwa mo Afrika Borwa. Ka go realo, diteše tša go fehla mohlagase ka malahla di tla nyakega go oketša kabo ya mohlagase mo mengwageng e 20 ye e itago.

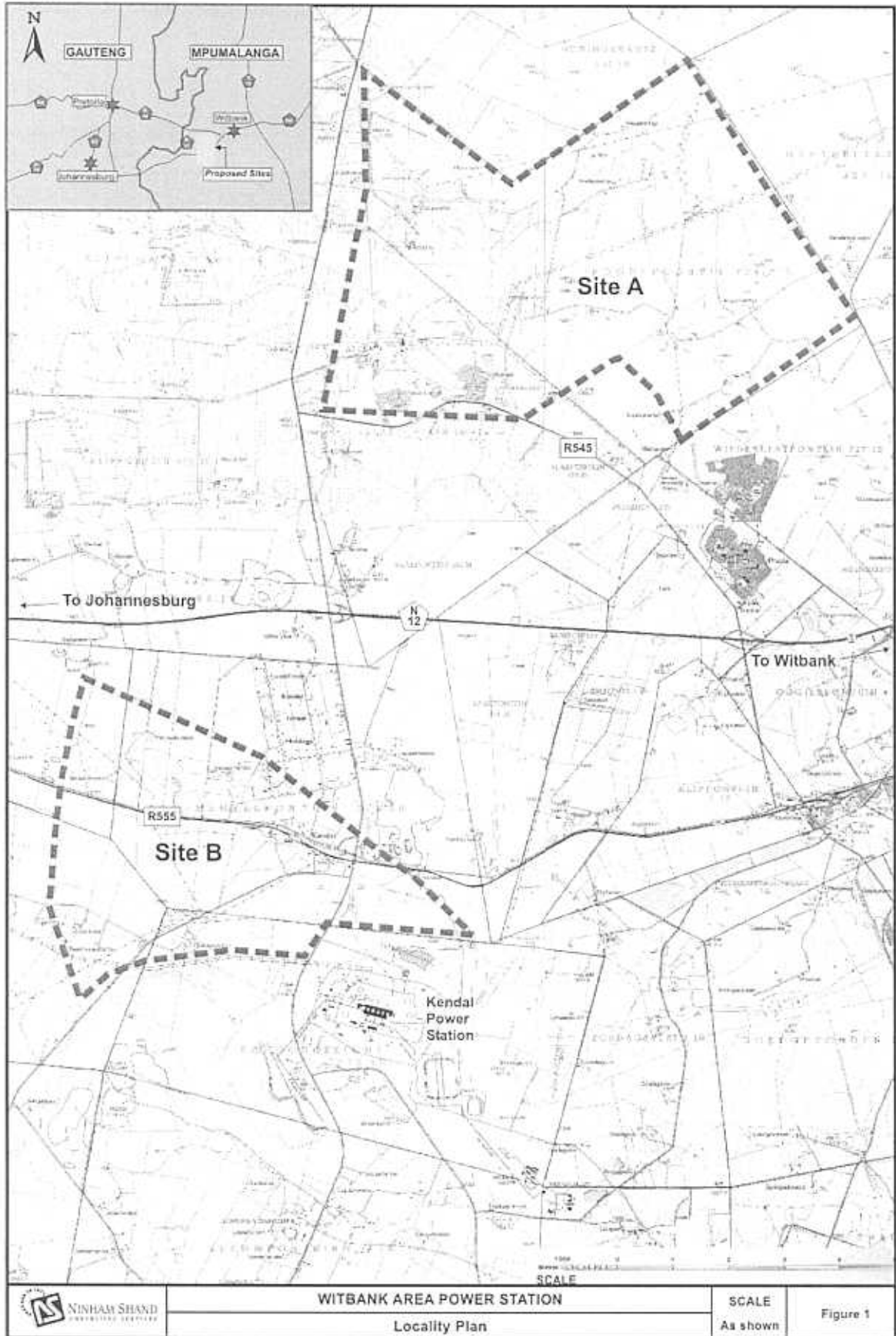
Bjalo ka karolo leano la koketšo ya kabo ya mohlagase, Eskom e akanya go hloma seteše sa go fehla mohlagase ka malahla ka tikologong ya Witbank - Mpumalanga. Go mafelo a mabedi ao a nyakišiwago ka lebowa (Lefelo A) le borwa (Lefelo B) go bapa le N12 kgauswi le Seteše sa bjale sa Mohlagase sa Kendal (Hle lebelela **Seswantsho 1**). Seteše sa mohlagase se se ukangwago ke se sengwe sa tše tharo tša go fehla mohlagase ka malahla tše Eskom e akanyago go di hlama. Diteše tše dingwe tše di swa tša go fehla mohlagase ka malahla tše di ukangwago tše re šetšego re le gare ka go di nyakišiša di ka tikologong ya Lephalale le ka tikolong ya lebowa la Free State.

Ninham Shand Consulting Services e thwetšwe ke Eskom go dira lenaneo la Tshekatsheko ya ka moo mešomo ya seteše sa go fehla mohlagase ka malahla le metheokgoparara ye e amanago le sona ka tikologong ya Witbank e tla Huetšago Tikologo ka gona [Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)].

Maikemišetšo ka Sengwalwa se sa Tshedimošo ya projeke [Background Information Document (BID)] ke:

- Go fana ka tshedimošo le tihaloso ya projeke ye e ukangwago;

<sup>1</sup> National Energy Regulator of South Africa e theilwe go ya ka Electricity Act, No. 41 of 1987, bja'ka ge e memetletswe ke Electricity Amendment Acts of 1994 and 1995.



- Go hlalosa lenaneo la tshakatsheko ya khuetšo ya projeke go tikologo (EIA process), kudukudu go ya ka dikgoba tša go kgatha tema ga setšhaba (hle lebelela **Seswantšho 2**); le
- Go laletša Maphakga a Amegago le a nago le Kgahlego [Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)] go ingwadiša bja'ka bakgathatema lenaneong le go tšweletša dintlha le dingongorego tše ba ka bago ba na le tšona mabapi le projeke.

## Projeke yeo e ukangwago

Projeke ye e ukangwago e na le tše latelago:

- Kago ya seteše sa go fehla mohlagase ka malahla (GREENFIELD???) sa 3 600 go iša go 4 200 megawatt (MW) lefelong le leng ka bodikela bja.
- Kago le tšhepedišo ya metheokgoparara ye e e amanago le sona, bjalo ka high-voltage yard<sup>2</sup>, lefelo la tlhwekišo le kabo ya meetse, mananao a taolo ya molora, dinolofatši tša go rwala, go lota le go swara malahla, ditsela tša ditirelo, bj.bj.

Bogolo bja lefelo leo le nyakegago go aga seteše se bjalo sa mohlagase le metheokgoparara ye e amanago le sona e ka ba dihekthara tše 1 500 ha, le ge e le gore meago ka boyona e tla tšea karolo e nnyane ya lona. Go sekasekwa tšhomišo ya teknoloji ya sebjalebjale, ye e sa amego tikologo gampe, seteseng se se ukangwago sa mohlagase, mohl. 'direct dry cooling for heat dissipation and flue gas desulphurisation' go fokotša tshilafatšo ya maya

## Dinyakwa tša Somolao le lenaneo la EIA

Molawana 1182, wo o fetišitšwego go ya ka Molao wa Toto ya Tikologo [Environment Conservation Act (ECA) (No 73 of 1989)], o lemoga mešomo ye e rileng, tšeo "di ka bago le khuetšo e mpe go tikologo". Ditiro tše di hloka tumelelo ya lekgotlataolo la merero ya tikologo le le nang la bokgoni.

Malebana le temana ye e bolelago ka "kago, tlhamo le kaonafatšo ya dinolofatši tša go fehla ga mohlagase wa kgwebo wa tšweletšo ye e sego ka fase ga 10 megawatts le metheokgoparara ya kabo ka bantši" mešomo ya gona ke yeo:

Projeke yeo e ukangwago e ka akaretša mešomo ye mengwe yeo e ka tšewago go ba mešomo ye e laolwago ke molao (scheduled activities) go ya ka Molawana 1182 gomme ka go realo e nyaka tumelelo. Yona e akaretša:

- "kago, tlhamo le kaonafatšo:
  - o mabapi le selo se sengwe le se sengwe se kotsi seo se laolwago ke molao wa bosetšhaba
  - o mebila, diporo, mafelo a go kotama difofane le ditheo tše dingwe tše di amanago le wana
  - o ditheo tše di amanago le marangrang a dikgokagano, go akaretšwa di-mast, difora le di- reflector dish
  - o dikema tsa go gogwa goba go šomišwa ga meetse a ka fase ga mabu bakeng sa merero ya kabo ya meetse a mantši
  - o diplante tsa tlhwekiso ya meetse a ditšhila le ditheo tše di amanago le tšona"
- "go fetolwa ga tšhomišo ya lefase go tloga go:

<sup>2</sup> Lemoga gore di-transmission line tseo di hlokegago go kgokaganya setese se seswa sa mohlagase go marangrang a bosetšhaba (national grid) di ahlaahlwa ka go lenaneo le le fapanago la EIA.

- o *temo goba a tshomisa ye e e sa hlalowsago go ya go tšhomišo ya mohuta ofe goba ofe ya lefase"*
- *"go lahlwa ga ditlakala bjalo ka ge go hlalowsa ka go Karolo 20 ya Molao"*
- *"mananeo a laallwago ke molao a ngwadilwego ka go Second Schedule of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act<sup>3</sup>"*

Ka go realo, seteše se se ukangwago sa go fehla mohlagase ka malahla le metheakgoparara ye e amanago le sona di hloka tumelelo ya semolao go tšwa go tšwa go lekgatlataolo la tikologolo le nago le bokgoni ka lenaneo la EIA leo le hlalowsago ka go Regulation 1183 ya ECA. Lenaneo la EIA le ngotlofadišwe go **Seswantšho 2.**

Lenaneo la tekolo ya khuetšo ya projeke go tikologo (EIA process) le na le Scoping Report Phase le Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Phase. Maikemišetšo ka Scoping Report Phase ke go lemoga le go hlalosa dikhuetšo tše botse le tše mpe tše di amanywago le projeke yeo e ukangwago, go merero ya leago le tikologo. Go kgatha tema ga setšhaba ke karolo e bohlokwa ya Scoping le EIR Phase.

Maikemišetšo ka EIR Phase ke go nyakišisa le go lekola ka bottlalo dikhuetšo tše di lemogilwego ka go Scoping Report. Go fiha mo lebakeng le, go lemogilwe dinyakišišo tše tseneletšego tše latelago bjalo ka tše di leng bohlokwa:

**Table 1: Dinyakišišo tše tseneletšego tše go lemogilwego gore di swanetše go dirwa ka nako ya EIA**

Dinyakišišo tše tseneletšego	Setsebi se se fla dirago mošomo
Khuetšo go khwařthi ya moya	AirShed Planning Professionals
Khuetšo go lesata	Jangens Keet Associates
Khuetšo go ponagalo	Strategic Environmental Focus
Khuetšo go dimela le dipheđi tsa lefase	Makecha Development Association
Khuetšo go dipheđi tsa ka meetseng	Ecosun
Khuetšo go meetse a ka fase ga mabu	Groundwater Consulting Services
Tekolo ya dikotsi	liitha Riskom
Khuetšo go akhialoji (dihuto tša marope)	Northern Flagship Institution
Khuetšo go merero ya temo	University of the Free State
Khuetšo go sephethephethe	Ninham Shand
Geotechnical investigations	Ninham Shand
Khuetšo tša leafo le boihedišo	Urban-Econ
Khuetšo go dithulaganyo tša leago	Maluleke, Luthuli and Associates

Go dirilwe le dithulaganyo tša gore lenaneo le ka moka le hlahlobje ke khamphani ye le tsebegago ya go lekola, Mark Wood Environmental Consultants.

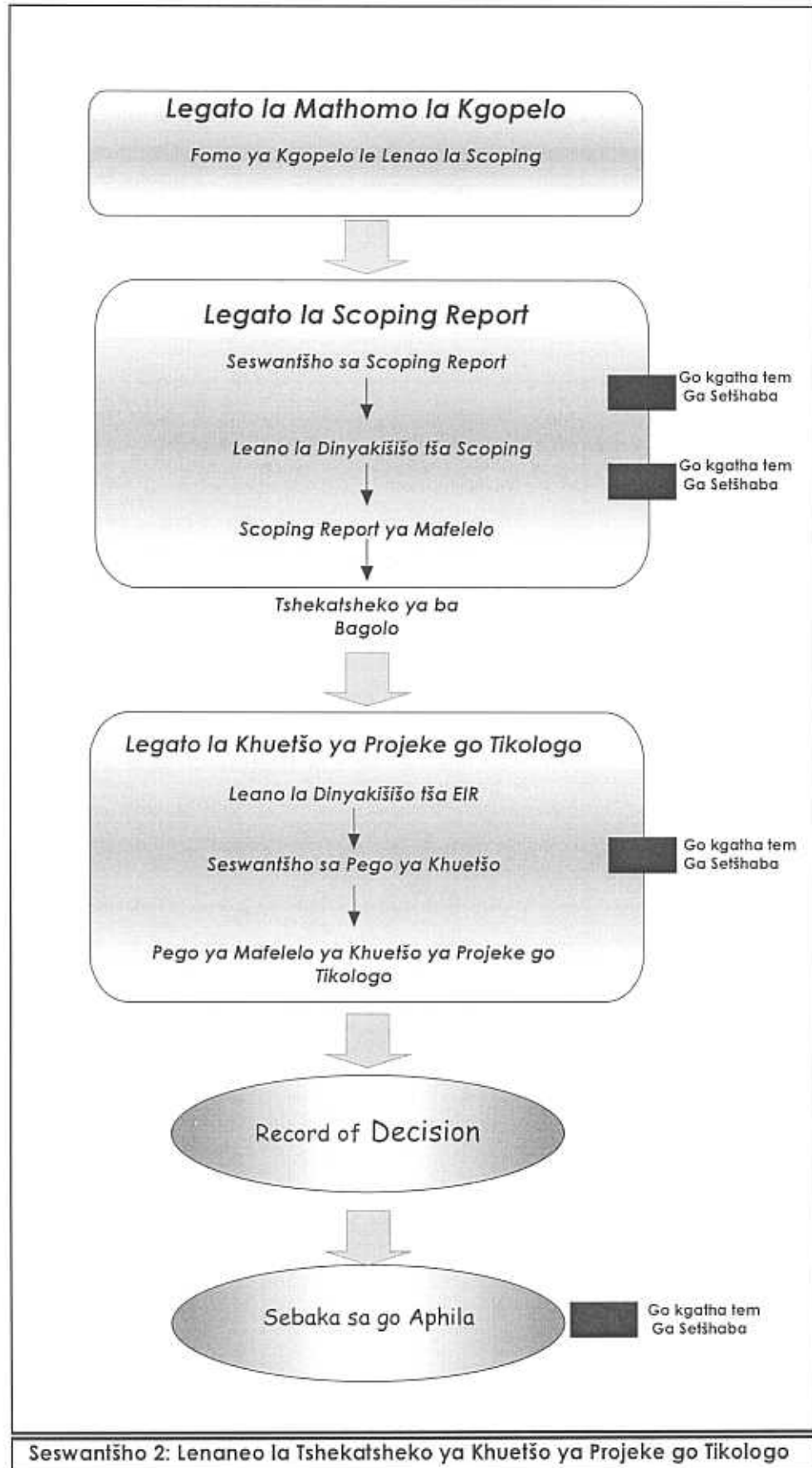
### Tekolo ya mafelo a go fapana

Projeke ye e hueditšwe ke dinyakišišo tša go fapafapana tše di dirilwego ke Eskom, elego, ISEP lebeleng ya bošetšhaba le lenaneo la go kgetha lefelo la projeke. Dinyakišišo tša Eskom tša go hlaola mafelo a mahtano a projeke di a

<sup>3</sup> No. 45 of 1965



# SENGWALWA SA TSHEDIMOŠO YA PROJEKE



Seswantšho 2: Lenaneo la Tshekatsheko ya Khuetšo ya Projeke go Tikologo

beilwe ka maemo gomme a mabedi a kgethwa gore a nyakišišwe go ya pele. Ka tsela ye, mafelo a mabedi a digetšwego ke Eskom gore a nyakišišwe go ya pele ka lenaneo le ikemetšego la EIA a hlaotšwe. **Seswantšho 1** se bontšha kakaretso ya boalo bja mafelo a mabedi ao go bolelwago ka wona, ao mo lebakeng le a bitšwago "A" le "B". Mafelo a a hlalosa ka mokgwa wa o latelago:

- **Lefelo A** – Lefelo le ka gare goba kgauswi le moo go beng go le Wilge Power Station kgauswi le mallwane wa ka bohlabela wa moepo wa kgauswi wa malahla. Mo lebakeng le lefelo leo le šomišwa bjalo ka mašemo le phulo.
- **Lefelo B** – Lefelo le le gareng ga Kendal Power Station le mmila wa lephefo wa N12, ka borwa bja moepo-mogolo wa mahala. Mo lebakeng le lefelo leo le šomišwa bjalo ka mašemo.

Lenaneo la EIA le tla akaretša tshekatsheko ya dinyakišišo tša go hlaola lefelo la projeke. Yona e tla dirwa ke Mark Wood Consultants, khamphani ye e tsebegago ya dithulaganyo le tshekatsheko lekaleng la enetši. Pego ya Eskom ka ga pego ya tshekatsheko e ka ba karolo ya Scoping Report. Ka go realo, go fetišwa ga Scoping Report ke makgotlataalo a tikologo e tla ba sešupo sa kamogelo ya nyakego ya perojeke.

Dilebele tša go fapafapana tša dikgetho tše dingwe tša projeke di tla hlalosa ka go Seswantšho sa Scoping Report.

## Go kgatha tema ga Setšhaba

Setšhaba se fiwa dibeke tše nne go ntšha maikutlo mo legatong le lengwe le le lengwe. Magato a letelago ka karolo ya kamego ya setšhaba ya lenaneo la EIA:

### Legato 1

Maikemišetšomagolo ka legato le ke go ala mabaka a fahlalago projeke yeo e ukangwago go fa setšhaba le bao ba nago le seabe (I&APs) sebaka sa go tšweletša dingongorego tše ba ka bago ba na le tšona le go swayaswayela. Legato 1 le na le dikgato tše latelago.

- Tsebišo ya beng ba mabu ba amegago le ba bangwe ba nago le seabe se bohlokwa
- Go kwalakwatšha projeke ka dikuranteng tša selegae, tša selete le tša bositšhaba, tšalešo ya boingwadišo bja maphakga a nang le kgahlego le a a amegago (I&APs) le go kwa maikutlo a bona a mathomo;
- Go netefatšha gore maphakga a nang le kgahlego le seabe (I&APs) a hwetšha BID ye; le
- Go go tšweletšha ditherišano tša mathomo le ba nang le seabo ba bagolo (elego bengmabu ba amegago, dipušo tša selegae, bj.bj.)

### Legato 2

Nepokgolo ka Legato 2 ke go iša Seswantšho sa Scoping Report go maphakga a nang le seabe le ao a amegago (I&APs), go bontšha ka moo ditshwayotshwayo tša wona di akareditšwego ka pegong go fihla mo lebakeng le le go ba hlohleletša go tšweletšha dintlha tša tlaleletšo tše sa ba fetišego gabotse gammogo le ditshwayotshwayo. Legato 2 le na le dikgato tše latelago:

- Go akaretšha ditshwayotshwayo tša setšhaba tše di amogetšwego ka go Seswantšho sa Scoping Report, bjalo ka 'Issues Trail';

- Go tsenya seswantšho sa Scoping Report websaeteng ya diprojeke tša Eskom le di-laaboraring tša setšhaba / diofising tša bommasepala / goba mafelo a mangwe a maleba; le
- Go swara dikopano tša setšhaba go ala Seswantšho sa Scoping Report. Go tla šomišwa ditsebišo tša dikuranta go kwalakwatša dikopano. Maphakga a ingwadišitšego ka moka a nang le kgahlego le ao a amegago (I&Aps) a tla tsebišwa ka ga dikopano le go alwa ga pego le go romelwa khopi ya 'Executive Summary' ka poso.

### Legato 3

Maikemišetšo ka Legato 3 ke go fa maphakga a nang le kgahlego le ao a amegago (I&Aps) seswantšho sa pego ya Tshekatsheko ya Khuetso ya Projeke go Tikologo [Environmental Impact Report (EIR)]. Legato le le na le:

- Go bea seswantšho sa EIR di-laaboraring tša setšhaba / diofising tša bommasepala / mafelong a mangwe a maleba le websaeteng ya diprojeke tša Eskom;
- Go swara dikopano tša setšhaba go ala Seswantšho sa EIR. Maphakga a ingwadišitšego ka moka a nang le kgahlego le ao a amegagago (I&Aps) a tla tsebišwa ka ga dikopano le go alwa ga pego le go romelwa khopi ya 'Executive Summary' ka poso;
- Go ruma EIR ka go akaretša ditshwayotshwayo ka moka tše di amogelšwego go tšwa go setšhaba ka go 'Issues Trail' ye e mpshafadišwego; le
- Go tsebiša I&Aps tše di ngwadišitšwego dipoelo tša EIA.

### Legato 4

Ye ke nako ya aphili ya matšatši a 30, moo maphakga a nang le seabe le ao a amegago a nago le sebaka sa go aphila kgahlanong le 'Record of Decision' (ROD) ye e ntšhitšwego ke legqollataalo ya merero ya. Nako ya aphile e ka bjako morago ga go lokollwa ga ROD.

O lemogilwe bjalo ka I&AP ka lebaka la kgahlego ye o ka bago o na le yona mo projekeng, ka lebaka la kamego ya gago dinyakišišong tša pele tša tikologo goba ka lebaka la ge o arabetše dipapatšo tše di bego di pharilwe ka dikuranteng. Go e nyaka go tšweletša dintlha goba dingongorego mabapi le projeke yeo e ukangwago, hle tlatša Response Form ye e momagantšwego le sengwalwa se gomme o e romele go Ninham Shand ka fekese goba o šomiše omfoloto ye e e lefeletšwego ye e filwego.

Ge o nyaka go amogela tshedimošo le ditalešo tše dingwe tša dikopano hle ingwadiše bjalo ka I&AP, ka go ikopanya le batho ba latelago.

**Lindiwe Gaika**  
Tel: (021) 481 2508  
lindiwe.gaika@shands.co.za

**GOBA Karen Shippey**  
Tel: (021) 481 2502  
karen.shippey@shands.co.za

Fax: (021) 424 5588

Postal Address: Ninham Shand,  
P.O Box 1347  
Cape Town  
8000



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## VOORGESTELDE STEENKOOL-AANGEDREWE KRAGSENTRALE EN AANVERWANTE INFRASTRUKTUUR IN DIE OMGEWING VANWITBANK, MPUMALANGA

MEI 2006

### AGTERGROND INLIGTINGSDOKUMENT



#### Agtergrond

Eskom maak gebruik van 'n Geïntegreerde Elektrisiteitsbeplanningsproses (oftewel ISEP na aanleiding van die Engelse benaming: *Integrated Strategic Electricity Planning*) om die langtermyn-opsies vir beide die voorsiening van en aanvraag na elektrisiteit in Suid-Afrika te identifiseer.

Die mees onlangse ISEP-plan (Oktober 2005) identifiseer die behoefte aan 'n verhoogte aanvraag na elektrisiteit teen die jaar 2010, terwyl piekaanvrae op die korttermyn aandag geniet. Die Nasionale Energiereguleerder (NERSA) van Suid-Afrika is die regulerende owerheid wat verantwoordelik is vir die elektrisiteitsvoorsieningsnywerheid in Suid-Afrika<sup>1</sup>. As deel van sy Nasionale Geïntegreerde Hulpbronplan (oftewel NIRP na aanleiding van die Engelse benaming: *National Integrated Resource Plan*), is die NERSA van mening dat steenkool nog steeds die vernaamste bron van brandstof in Suid-Afrika is, terwyl verskeie alternatiewe en hernubare opsies vir die opwekking van elektrisiteit deurlopend ondersoek moet word. Om hierdie rede sal steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrales nog vir die volgende 20 jaar aangewend word om die elektrisiteitskapasiteit te verhoog.

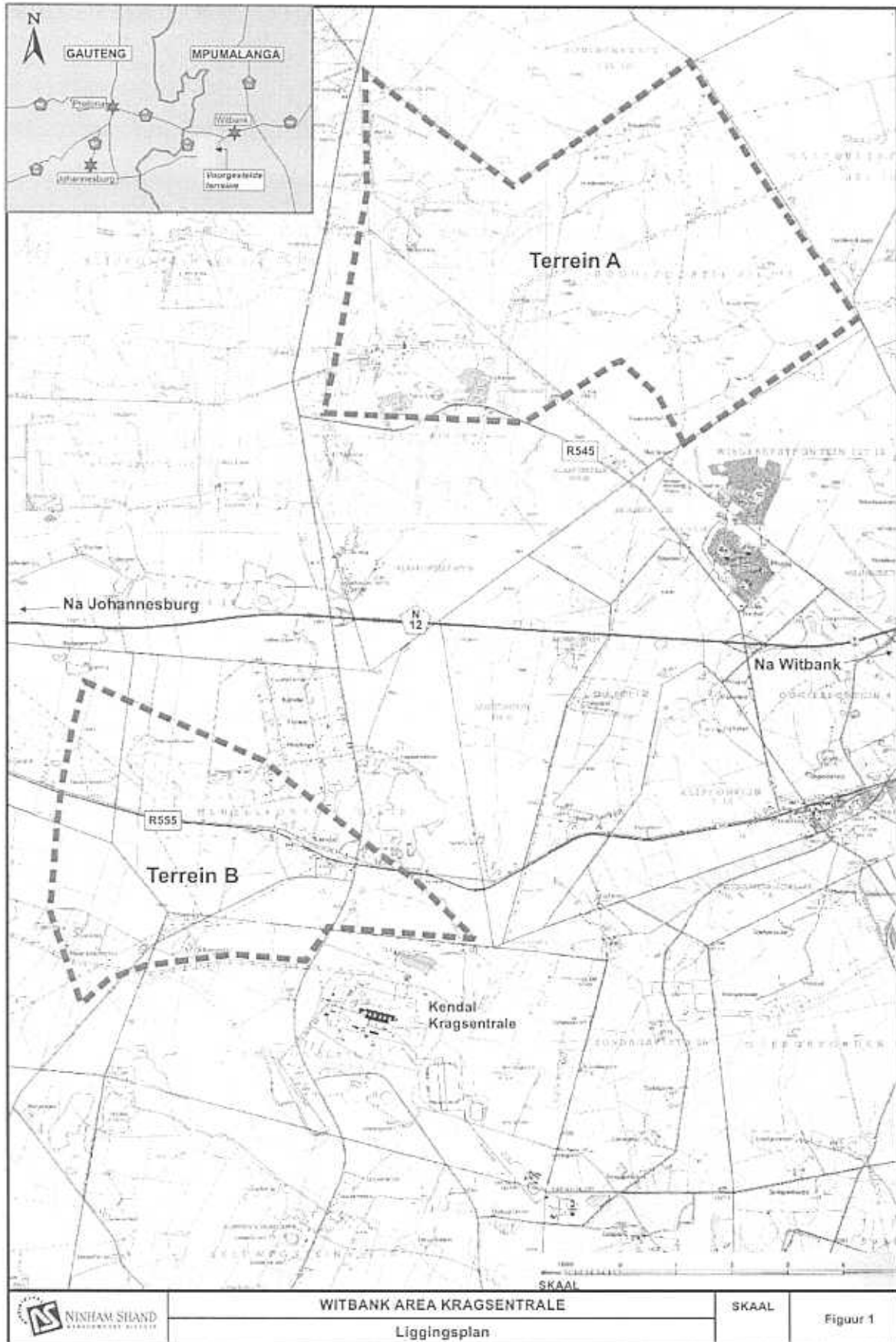
As deel van 'n plan om elektrisiteitsvoorsiening te verhoog, beplan Eskom om 'n steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrale in die omgewing van Witbank in Mpumalanga op te rig. Twee terreine word tans in die omgewing van die bestaande Kendal kragentrale ondersoek. Die een (Terrein A) lê direk noord van die N12 en die ander (Terrein B) direk suid van die N12. Die voorgestelde kragentrale is een van drie soortgelyke steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrales wat tans deur Eskom oorweeg word. Die ander nuwe voorgestelde steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrales wat tans ondersoek word, is in die omgewing van Lephalale en in die Noord-Vrystaatstreek geleë.

Ninham Shand Konsultantdienste is deur Eskom aangestel om die Omgewingsinvloedbepalingsproses (OIB) vir daardie aktiwiteite deel vorm van die voorgestelde steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrale in die omgewing van Witbank, te onderneem.

Die doel van hierdie Agtergrond Inligtingsdokument is om:

- Agtergrond tot en 'n beskrywing van die voorgestelde projek te gee;
- Die OIB-proses te omskryf, veral met betrekking tot die geleenthede vir openbare deelname (verwys na **Figuur 2**); en
- Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GPe) uit te nooi om as deelnemers tot die proses te registreer en enige kwessies en besware wat hulle met die projek mag hê, te opper.

<sup>1</sup> Die Nasionale Energiereguleerder van Suid-Afrika is gestig in terme van die Wet op Elektrisiteitsvoorsiening, Wet Nr 41 van 1987, soos gewysig deur die Wysigingswette op Elektrisiteit van 1994 en 1995.



## Die voorgestelde projek

Die voorgestelde projek bestaan uit die volgende aspekte:

- Die konstruksie van 'n 3 600 tot 4 200 megawatt (MW) nuwe steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrale in die omgewing ten weste van Witbank.
- Die konstruksie en bedryf van aanverwante infrastruktuur, soos 'n hoëspannings-werf<sup>2</sup>; watersuiwerings- en -voorsieningstelsels; beheerstelsels vir as; fasiliteite vir die vervoer, berging en hantering van steenkool; diensteplaasies ens.

'n Terrein van ongeveer 1 500 ha word vir die kragentrale en aanverwante infrastruktuur benodig, alhoewel die strukture self slegs 'n klein gedeelte daarvan sal beslaan. Die mees omgewings-toepaslike tegnologie word vir die kragentrale voorgeskryf, soos direkte droë-afkoeling vir hitte-kwytraking en die verwydering van swael in vlieg-as om lugbesoedeling te verminder.

## Wetlike vereistes en die OIB-proses

Regulasie 1182, afgekondig in terme van die Wet op Omgewingsbewaring (Wet Nr 73 van 1989) identifiseer sekere geskeduleerde aktiwiteite wat 'n "aansienlike nadelige uitwerking op die omgewing" kan hê. Hierdie aktiwiteite vereis 'n magtiging van 'n bevoegde omgewingsowerheid.

Die "konstruksie, oprigting en opgradering van fasiliteite vir die opwekking van kommersiële elektrisiteit van ten minste 10 megawatt en die infrastruktuur vir grootmaatvoorsiening" is so 'n geskeduleerde aktiwiteit.

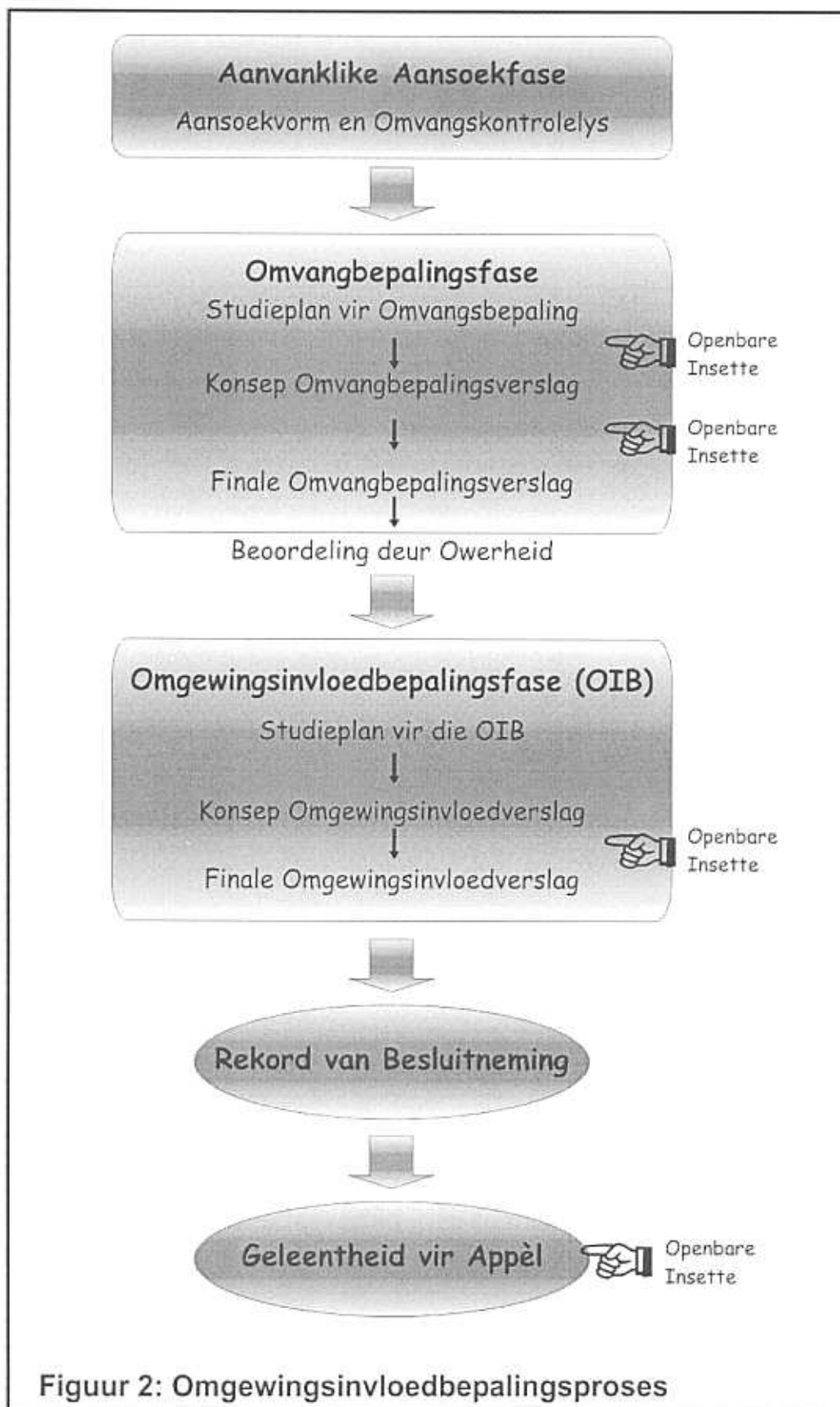
Verskeie ander aksies, wat as geskeduleerde aktiwiteite in terme van Regulasie 1182 beskou word, mag ook as deel van die voorgestelde projek uitgevoer word en daarom magtigings vereis. Hierdie sluit in die:

- "konstruksie, oprigting of opgradering van:
  - enige gevaarlike en gevaarhoudende stowwe wat deur nasionale wetgewing beheer word
  - paaie, spoorweë, vliegvelds en aanverwante strukture
  - strukture wat verband hou met kommunikasienetwerke, wat maste, torings en reflektorskottels insluit
  - skemas vir die onttrekking of benutting van grondwater- of oppervlaktewater vir doeleindes van grootmaatvoorsiening
  - rioolsuiweringswerke en aanverwante infrastruktuur"
- "verandering in grondgebruik van:
  - landbou of gesoneerde onbepaalde gebruik of 'n soortgelyke sonering na enige ander grondgebruik."
- "wegdoen van afval soos gedefinieer in Artikel 20 van die Wet"
- "geskeduleerde prosesse soos gelys in die Wet op die Voorkoming van Lugbesoedeling"<sup>3</sup>

Die voorgestelde steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrale en aanverwante infrastruktuur verg dus magtiging van die bevoegde omgewingsowerheid na aanleiding van 'n OIB-proses soos voorgeskryf in Regulasie 1183 van die Wet op Omgewingsbewaring. Die OIB-proses word in **Figuur 2** uiteengesit.

<sup>2</sup> Neem kennis dat die transmissielyns wat die nuwe kragentrale met die sentrale netwerk sal verbind, as 'n afsonderlike OIB-proses hanteer sal word.

<sup>3</sup> Nr 45 van 1965



Figuur 2: Omgewingsinvloedbepalingsproses

Die OIB-proses bestaan uit twee fases, naamlik die samestelling van 'n Omvangbepalingsverslag en 'n Omgewingsinvloedverslag (OIV). Die doel van die Omvangbepalingsverslag is om die moontlike positiewe en negatiewe omgewingsfaktore (beide maatskaplik en biofisies) van die projek te identifiseer en omskryf. Openbare deelname vorm 'n belangrike komponent van beide fases.

Die doel van die Omgewingsinvloedverslag is om daardie impakte wat in die Omvangbepalingsverslag geïdentifiseer is, meer indringend te ondersoek. Die volgende spesialis-studies is reeds as noodsaaklik geïdentifiseer:

**Tabel 1: Geïdentifiseerde spesialisstudies wat tydens die OIB-proses aandag moet geniet**

Spesialisstudie	Spesialiste wat ondersoekesal hanteer
Invloed op kwaliteit van lug	AirShed Planning Professionals
Geraasfaktore	Jongens Keet Genote
Visuele impakte	Strategic Environmental Focus
Impak op plaaslike fauna en flora	Makecha Development Association
Impak op akwatiese ekosisteem	Ecosun
Impak op grondwater	Groundwater Consulting Services
Risikobepaling	Ilitha Riskom
Argeologiese impakte	Northern Flagship Institution
Impak op landboupotensiaal	Universiteit Vrystaat
Verkeersimpakte	Ninham Shand
Geotegniese ondersoeke	Ninham Shand
Sosio-ekonomiese impakte	Urban-Econ
Beplanningsfaktore	Maluleke, Luthuli & Genote

Daar is ook voorsiening gemaak dat die hele proses deur 'n erkende konsultantmaatskappy, Mark Wood Environmental Consultants, nagegaan word.

### Oorweging van Alternatiewe

Die projek is gebaseer op verskeie ondersoeke wat deur Eskom gedoen is, naamlik die ISEP op nasionale vlak en plaaslike terreinverkenningsondersoeke. Die terreinondersoeke is deur Eskom uitgevoer en vyf moontlike terreine is geïdentifiseer. 'n Rangorde is aan elke terrein toegeken en twee terreine is vir verdere ondersoek geselekteer. Op hierdie wyse is die twee terreine geïdentifiseer wat deel van die OIB-proses sal vorm. Die algemene ligging van die twee terreine, gemerk "A" en "B" word op **Figuur 1** aangedui. Die terreine word kortliks as volg beskryf:

- **Terrein A** – Die terrein is op of binne die algemene gebied van die voormalige Wilge Kragentrale, naby die oostelike grens van die aangrensende steenkoolveld, geleë. Die grond word tans vir die verbouing van gesaaides en weiveld benut.
- **Terrein B** – Die terrein lê tussen die Kendal Kragentrale en die N12 snelweg, ten suide van die hoof-steenkoolveld. Die grond word tans vir die verbouing van gesaaides benut.

Die keuse van die terreine sal as deel van die OIB-proses hersien word. Hierdie beoordeling sal deur Mark Wood Consultants, 'n erkende strategiese en



beoordelingskonsultant in die energiebedryf, gedoen word. Eskom se verslag oor die identifisering van die terreine, sowel as die beoordelingsverslag, sal deel van die Omvangbepalingsverslag vorm. Indien die Omvangbepalingsverslag deur die omgewingsowerhede goedgekeur word, sal dit 'n aanduiding wees dat die behoefte aan en die regverdiging van die projek aanvaar word.

Die onderskeie alternatiewe vir elke vlak van die projek sal in die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag opgeneem word.

## Openbare Deelname

Na afloop van elke rondte openbare deelname sal die publiek vier weke tyd gegun word om kommentaar te lewer. Die volgende komponente is deel van die OIB se openbare deelnameproses:

### Fase 1

Die hoofdoel van hierdie fase is om die motivering vir die voorgestelde projek te verduidelik en B&GPe te versoek om enige kwessies of probleme wat daar mag wees, te identifiseer. Fase 1 bestaan uit die volgende stappe:

- 'n Kennisgewing aan alle grondeienaars wat geraak word, asook alle sleutelrolspelers
- 'n Advertensie oor die projek in plaaslike, streeks- en nasionale koerante, met die versoek dat B&GPe registreer en kommentaar lewer;
- Die beskikbaarstelling van 'n agtergrond inligtingsdokument aan B&GPe;
- Gesprekke met sleutelrolspelers, naamlik geaffekteerde grondeienaars, plaaslike owerhede ens; en
- Die hou van 'n openbare vergadering vir sleutelrolspelers en die algemene publiek.

### Fase 2

Die primêre doel van Fase 2 is om die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag aan B&GPe voor te lê, om aan te toon dat hulle kommentaar tot op datum in aanmerking geneem is, om verdere kommentaar te verkry en/of nog kommentaar of knelpunte te identifiseer. Fase 2 bestaan uit die volgende stappe:

- Insluiting van die openbare kommentaar in die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag (in die vorm van 'n Lys van Kwessies wat opgevolg moet word);
- Besikbaarstelling van die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag op Eskom se projek-webwerf, asook by openbare biblioteke / munisipale kantore en ander geskikte plekke; en
- Die hou van 'n tweede openbare vergadering om die konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag voor te lê. Die openbare vergaderings sal in koerante geadverteer word. Alle geregistreerde B&GPe sal van die vergadering en die indiening van die verslag in kennis gestel word, asook 'n Uitvoerende Opsomming ontvang.

### Fase 3

Fase 3 is daarop gemik om die Verslag oor die Omgewingsinvloedbepaling (OIB) aan B&GPe voor te lê. Dit sluit in:

- Besikbaarstelling van die Konsep OIB-verslag in openbare biblioteke / munisipale kantore / ander geskikte plekke en op Eskom se projekwebwerf;

- Die hou van 'n finale openbare vergadering om die konsepverslag van die OIB voor te lê. Alle geregistreerde B&GP'e sal van die vergadering en die indiening van die verslag in kennis gestel word, asook 'n Uitvoerende Opsomming ontvang;
- Finalisering van die OIB-verslag waarby alle openbare kommentaar ingesluit is as deel van die opgedateerde Lys van Kwessies is; en
- B&GP'e in te lig oor die uitslag van die OIB-proses.

#### Fase 4

Daar is 'n periode van 30 dae waarbinne B&GP'e appél kan aanteken teen die Rekord van Besluitneming (RvB) wat deur die omgewingsowerheid uitgereik word. Hierdie periode van appél begin sodra die RvB uitgereik is.

As gevolg van u betrokkenheid by vorige omgewingsprosesse, of as gevolg van u antwoord op die kennisgewings in die koerante, is u as 'n B&GP wat 'n moontlike belang by die projek mag hê, geïdentifiseer. Indien daar enige kwessies of aspekte is wat u met betrekking tot die projek wil noem, word u versoek om die aangehegte Antwoordblad in te vul en dit aan Ninham Shand terug te stuur deur van die ingeslote koefert gebruik te maak, of dit te faks.

Indien u verdere inligting oor die projek en uitnodigings na vergaderings wil ontvang, word u versoek om uself as 'n B&GP te registreer deur in verbinding te tree met:

**Lindiwe Gaika**  
Tel: (021) 481-2508  
lindiwe.gaika@shands.co.za

OF **Karen Shippey**  
Tel: (021) 481-2502  
karen.shippey@shands.co.za

Faks: (021)-424 5588

Posadres: Ninham Shand,  
Posbus 1347  
Kaapstad  
8000

