

## ANNEXURE M

### Notification of revised site selection process and new sites

7 August 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: NOTIFICATION OF NEW SITES FOR THE EIA PROCESS**

Our correspondence of 14 July 2006 notifying you that a new site selection process was to be undertaken for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for a proposed coal-fired power station in the Witbank area, has reference. As indicated previously, after an independent review of the original site selection process it was decided to re-evaluate the site selection process, including additional sites and expand the criteria used for the evaluation.

**New Sites**

The revised site selection process was undertaken during July 2006. After identifying a range of possible sites, a site visit and site screening workshop was undertaken by Eskom, Ninham Shand and key EIA specialists. **This process has lead to the identification of two completely new sites for investigation in the EIA process.** Thus, the original sites (Site A and Site B) identified to you earlier (May 2006) in this process, were excluded from further investigation. **Please find attached a map showing the location and boundaries of the new sites (Site X and Site Y).**

A detailed explanation of the site screening and site selection process that was undertaken will be provided in the Draft Scoping Report which will be made available for public comment in late August. You will be sent notification of its availability together with a copy of the Executive Summary.

**Invitation to Comment**

**You are invited to send us any comments or concerns related to the two new sites.** All comments already received will remain in the documentation and any new comments received will be included and used to inform the Scoping process. We are currently in the process of identifying and notifying the affected landowners of the two new sites.


**Open House and Public Meetings**

Once the Draft Scoping Report is ready for public comment it will be lodged in the public domain (public libraries, local municipal offices and on the Eskom website). An invitation to attend an Open House and/ or Public Meetings during September will be sent out with the notification for the release of the Scoping Report.

The purpose of these meetings is to present the findings of the Draft Scoping Report, to provide an opportunity to familiarise yourselves with the proposed project, and, to elicit any comments that you may have on the Draft Scoping Report and EIA process. If you have any queries please contact Lindiwe Gaika or Karen Shippey at tel: (021) 481 2400, Fax: (021) 424 5588 or email: [lindiwe.gaika@shands.co.za](mailto:lindiwe.gaika@shands.co.za). We apologise for any inconvenience which may have been caused by the necessary changes in the project to-date. We look forward to your continued involvement in 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



7 Augustus 2006

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

Geagte Heer / Dame

**VOORGESTELDE STEENKOOL-AANGEDREWE KRAGSENTRALE EN GEPAARDGAANDE  
INFRASTRUKTUUR IN DIE OMGEWING VAN WITBANK:  
KENNISGEWING VAN NUWE TERREINE IN DIE OIB-PROSES**

Ons korrespondensie gedateer 14 Julie 2006 waarin u in kennis gestel is dat daar, as deel van die Omgewingsinvloedbepaling (OIB)-proses, ondersoek ingestel sal word na moontlike nuwe terreine vir 'n steenkool-aangedrewe kragentrale in die omgewing van Witbank, het betrekking. Soos voorheen aangedui is daar na afloop van 'n onafhanklike beoordelingsproses besluit om bykomende terreine te identifiseer, die kriteria vir die keuse van 'n geskikte terrein uit te brei en alle terreine te her-evalueer.

**Nuwe terreine**

Die nuwe selekteringsproses vir 'n geskikte terrein het gedurende Julie 2006 plaasgevind. Eskom, Ninham Shand en sleutel OIB-spesialiste het verskeie terreine geïdentifiseer, besoek en daarna tydens 'n werkwinkel evalueer. **Hierdie proses het daartoe gelei dat twee totaal nuwe terreine vir verdere ondersoek tydens die OIB-proses geïdentifiseer is.** Die oorspronklike terrein (A en B) wat vroeër in die proses (Mei 2006) aan u voorgelê is, word dus nie verder ondersoek nie. **Aangeheg is 'n kaart waarop die ligging en grense van die twee nuwe terreine (Terrein X en Terrein Y) aangedui is.**

'n Volledige beskrywing van die wyse waarop die terreine gekies en evalueer is, sal in die Konsep Ombangbepalingsverslag, wat teen Augustus vir openbare kommentaar beskikbaar sal wees, opgeneem word. Sodra die verslag beskikbaar is, sal u daarvan in kennis gestel word, asook 'n afskrif van die Uitvoerende Opsomming ontvang.

**Uitnodiging om Kommentaar te lewer**

**U word hierby uitgenooi om kommentaar te lewer en ons in kennis te stel van enige besware wat u teen die nuwe terreine mag hê.** Alle kommentaar wat reeds ontvang is, sal deel van die dokumentasie bly en alle nuwe kommentaar sal hierby gevoeg word om ombangbepalingsproses verder in te lig. Ons is tans besig om die eienaars van die terreine te identifiseer en van die proses in kennis te stel.

**Ope Dae en Openbare Vergaderings**

Sodra die Ombangbepalingsverslag vir kommentaar beskikbaar is, sal dit by openbare plekke (openbare biblioteke, plaaslike munisipale kantore en Eskom se webwerf) beskikbaar gestel word. 'n Uitnodiging na 'n Ope Dag en/of Openbare Vergaderings gedurende September sal saam met die kennisgewing oor die Konsep Ombangbepalingsverslag gestuur word. Die doel van hierdie vergaderings is om die bevindinge van die Konsep Ombangbepalingsverslag te bespreek, om verdere inligting oor die voorgestelde projek te bekom en om enige kommentaar wat u op die Konsep Ombangbepalingsverslag en die OIB-proses mag hê, te bekom.

Tree asb met Lindiwe Gaika of Karen Shippey by Tel: (021) 481-2400, Faks: (021) 424-5588 of e-pos: [lindiwe.gaika@shands.co.za](mailto:lindiwe.gaika@shands.co.za) in verbinding indien u enige verdere vrae het. Ons vra om verskoning indien u deur enige van die noodsaaklike veranderinge aan die proses tot op datum verontrief is. Ons sien uit na u volgehoue betrokkenheid by hierdie projek.

Die uwe  
NINHAM SHAND

*Lindiwe Gaika*  
LINDIWE GAIKA

Koördineerder: Openbare Deelname

*Karen Shippey*  
KAREN SHIPPEY (Pri.Sci.Nat, Cert. Env. Ass. Practitioner)  
Spanleier: Openbare Deelname