

**PROPOSED BRAVO INTEGRATION PROJECT**

**SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

As part of the

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT PROCESS**

**FINAL SIA REPORT**

**BRAVO 4**

**November 2008**



**Prepared by:**

MasterQ Research

Reg. No.: 2003/002350/07

**SOCIAL TEAM:**

MasterQ Research

[www.masterq.co.za](http://www.masterq.co.za)

Ms Nonka Byker

Mobile: 082 940 3694

Telephone: 011 477 3265

Fax: 086 612 8122

E-mail: [nonka@masterq.co.za](mailto:nonka@masterq.co.za)

Postal address:

49 Muller Street

Yeoville

2198

## EXPERIENCE RECORD

This report was compiled by **Ms Nonka Byker** of **MasterQ Research**. Ms Byker holds a *B.Psych (Adult Mental Health)* from the University of Pretoria and is a social impact assessment specialist with approximately 3 years experience in this field. She specialises in the assessment of potential social impacts, which includes the collection and analysis of data and superimposing a proposed project on a baseline social profile to determine the potential social impacts from which mitigation measures can be developed. In total she has approximately 10 years experience in the social development field, of which 7 years were spent as a public participation consultant. Ms Byker is registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and is a member of the International Association of Impact Assessors South Africa (IAIASA).

Some of the Social Impact Assessments that Ms Byker has conducted on behalf of MasterQ Research included the following projects:

- Social Impact Assessment for the proposed liquid fuels transportation infrastructure from the Milnerton refinery area to the Ankerlig power station in the Atlantis Industrial area (Client: Eskom Generation, Project Manager: SSI).
- Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Thyspunt Integration Project (Client: Eskom Generation/Transmission, Project Manager: SiVEST).
- Social Impact Assessment with cognisance of potential tourism impacts for the proposed Matla-Jupiter-Sebenza 400kV transmission power line (Client: Eskom Generation/Transmission, Project Manager: SSI).
- Social Impact Assessment with cognisance of potential tourism impacts for the proposed Vryburg 400kV substation in the Northwest Province (Client: Eskom Generation, Project Manager: SSI).
- Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Mokopane Integration Project (Client: Eskom Generation/Transmission, Project Manager: Savannah Environmental).
- Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Steelpoort Integration Project (Client: Eskom Generation/Transmission, Project Manager: Savannah Environmental)
- Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Mercury-Ferrum transmission power line (Client: Eskom Transmission, Project Manager: Bohlweki Environmental)
- Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Ferrum-Garona transmission power line (Client: Eskom Transmission, Project Manager: Bohlweki Environmental)
- Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Steelpoort Pumped Storage Scheme (Client: Eskom Generation, Project Manager: Bohlweki Environmental)

## **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

The EIA regulations (1182 and 1183, as amended) states, amongst other, that an independent consultant must be appointed to act on behalf of the client and to ensure that the public participation process is managed properly. In this regard MasterQ Research submits that it has:

- The necessary required expertise to conduct social impact assessments, including the required knowledge and understanding of any guidelines or policies that are relevant to the proposed activity;
- Undertaken all the work and associated studies in an objective manner, even if the findings of these studies are not favourable to the project proponent;
- No vested financial interest in the proposed project or the outcome thereof, apart from remuneration for the work undertaken under the auspices of the above-mentioned regulations;
- No vested interest, including any conflicts of interest, in either the proposed project or the studies conducted in respect of the proposed project, other than complying with the required regulations;
- Disclosed any material factors that may have the potential to influence the competent authority's decision and/or objectivity in terms of any reports, plans or documents related to the proposed project as required by the regulations; and

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed Bravo Integration Project is required as a means to integrate the additional electricity supply from the new Bravo Power Station into Eskom's current electricity network. The integration of this additional electricity into the network would ensure that areas such as Secunda and Midrand would be supplied with additional electricity. The proposed Bravo Integration Project will be considered within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. In this regard, five separate applications have been lodged with DEAT.

This particular report only focuses on **Bravo 4 (DEAT Ref. No: 12/12/20/1095)** and details the results of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) specialist study conducted by MasterQ Research as part of the overall EIA process that is being conducted by Cymbian Environmental Social Consulting Services.

**Bravo 4** entails the construction and operation of two (2) new 400kV transmission power lines, both of which would be approximately 90km in length and would run parallel to each other, as follows:

- One (1) 400kV transmission power line from the Kendal Power Station to the Zeus substation; and
- One (1) 400kV transmission power line from the Bravo Power Station to the Zeus substation.

Vanclay (2002) defined a **social impact assessment** as follows:

*"... the process of analyzing (predicting, evaluating and reflecting) and managing the intended and unintended consequences on the human environment of planned interventions (policies, programmes, plans and projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions so as to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment."*

Bearing this in mind, a **change process** can therefore be defined as change that takes place within the receiving environment as a result of an intervention. A potential **social impact** follows as a result of the change process occurring. However, a change process can only result in an impact once it is experienced as such by the individual/household/community/organisation on a physical and/or cognitive level.

The change processes which were assessed included the following:

- **Demographic processes:** changes in the number and composition of people;
- **Geographical processes:** changes in land use patterns;
- **Economic processes:** changes in the way in which people make a living and the economic activities in society;

- **Institutional and empowerment processes:** changes in the role, efficiency and operation of governments and other organisations, and people's ability to get involved and influence decision making processes; and
- **Socio-cultural processes:** changes in the way in which humans behave, interact and relate to each other and their environment and the belief and value systems which guide these interactions.

This particular SIA also took into account the significance, spatial, duration, degree of probability and degree of certainty that a potential impact might have on the social environment. Impacts can either be negative, neutral or positive. The impacts are also categorised according to the various project stages, i.e. construction and decommissioning, and operation and maintenance. Mitigation measures have also been identified with the aim to reduce the potential negative impacts and to enhance the potential positive impacts.

In order to assess the alternatives in respect of its anticipated social impacts, a distinction was made between the following impacts:

- **Category 1:** Impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, e.g. the number of employment opportunities that might be created by the proposed project are expected to remain the same, irrespective of the chosen alternative (except in the case of the 'no go' option); and
- **Category 2:** Impacts that are expected to cause significant changes between the proposed alternatives, e.g. the need to resettle certain households increases proportionately if the development traverses densely populated areas as opposed to skirting sparsely populated areas.

For the establishment of the two new 400kV transmission power lines known as Bravo 4, three (3) possible route corridor alternatives were identified for the proposed 400kV transmission power line from the Kendal power station to the Zeus substation. At the time of the study, route corridor alternatives between the Bravo power station and the Zeus substation had not been identified. It was therefore assumed that this transmission power line would run parallel to the transmission power line between Kendal and Zeus and therefore all the identified social impacts in this document would be relevant for both Bravo 4 transmission power lines, unless otherwise stated.

Transmission power lines are constructed and operated within a servitude that is established along its entire length (55m wide per 400kV transmission power line). The servitude gives Eskom Transmission right of way for that piece of land. Right of way should not be confused with a rental agreement. Right of way gives Eskom certain rights and controls that support the safe and effective operation of the power line.

The proposed transmission power line corridors start out in the Emalahleni Local Municipality (MP312) and then traverse the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (MP307). The

Emalahleni Local Municipality is located within the Nkangala District Municipality (DC31), whereas the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality forms part of the Gert Sibande District Municipality. Both these districts are located within the Mpumalanga Province (MP).

In order to address the overall objective of this study, it was necessary to compile a detailed description of the study area. Therefore, in Section 3, every subsection provides a profile of the social processes in terms of demographic, geographical, economic, institutional and empowerment, and socio-cultural baseline conditions in the study area. Each subsection then concludes with a table summarising how the project is likely to change these baseline profiles, and the related impacts that could be expected as a result of the project.

### **Demographic Processes**

An overview of the population demographics of the study area in relation to South Africa as a whole, the province and the district revealed that there are more females than males in the study area, which might be ascribed to the migrant labour patterns in South Africa where the male moves to a different area in search of work. If this is the case, it can very well be assumed that these males are employed elsewhere and would therefore not be seeking work at the proposed project. It is therefore necessary to take cognisance of the fact that the majority of work seekers might be female.

Also, it would appear as if the area is characterised by a semi-skilled to skilled population, which is reflected in the fact that, in 2007, only a small minority (7.6% for the Emalahleni Local Municipality and 8.0% for the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality) of the population has had no form of formal education.

It is expected that the construction and operation of the proposed transmission power lines will lead to a change in the number and composition of the population within the affected areas, which in turn may impact on health, safety and community cohesion (these impacts are discussed in more detail in the socio-cultural section).

The demographic change processes that can be expected during the construction and decommissioning phases of the project are as follows:

- Influx of construction workers;
- Influx of job seekers;
- Relocation of households and/or population segments.

It is not foreseen that the presence of maintenance teams would lead to the large scale influx of people to the area as maintenance teams are normally small groups. Therefore, no demographic change processes are foreseen during the operation and maintenance phases.

## Geographical Processes

Geographical processes relate to land use patterns and infrastructure in the area. This section therefore describes the land use in the study area from a social perspective, specifically in terms of settlement patterns and land use developments.

The ELM IDP<sup>1</sup> states that the southern parts of the municipal area is known as the “Energy Mecca of South Africa”, which is as a result of rich coal deposits and coal reserves and the presence of a number of power stations. The area is further described as an urban and rural area, which includes large farms and dispersed urban settlements.

According to the GMLM IDP<sup>2</sup>, the main land use in the area is commercial farming followed by coal and gold mining, and then industries, of which the petro-chemical industry is said to be the largest.

A general assessment of the land uses in the study area indicated the following trends:

- Residential;
- Commercial cattle and crop farming;
- Mining; and
- Industries.

Geographical change processes refer changes in land use, whether it is on a temporary or permanent basis. The construction and operation of a transmission power line will lead to a change in the land use, mostly as a result of the surface infrastructure. The assessment of a land use change process from a social perspective takes into account how the proposed transmission power lines might affect the behaviour and/or lives of landowners and/or land users in the area.

The geographical change processes that can be expected during the construction and decommissioning phases of the project relate to the following land uses:

- Cultivated land; and
- Grazing land.

The geographical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during the operation and maintenance phase of the project are as follows:

- Grazing land;
- Spatial development (future land use); and

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<sup>1</sup> Emahlahlani Local Municipality IDP 2008/2009

<sup>2</sup> Integrated Development Plan 2007-2011 for the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality

- Presence of the transmission power line.

In addition, the following change process that would result in a Category 2 impact, which are those impacts that are expected to cause significant changes between the proposed alternatives, are as follows:

- Cultivated land (including irrigation); and
- Mining.

### **Economic Processes**

Economic processes relate to the way in which people make a living and the economic activities within that society. The employment status within a community gives an indication of the economic stability of such a community and also serves as an indicator of such a community's general well-being.

Overall it would appear as if the economy of the study area is growing at a steady pace. As economic industries are growing, more employment opportunities are created thereby further reducing the unemployment rate, creating sources of income which in turn leads to the creation of other opportunities such as further education, a need for housing (which in turn creates further employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly), etc.

Economical change processes relate to the changes brought about to the employment and general economic profile of the area as a result of the introduction of any development. Employment creates a source of income, which in turn enables the employed individual to access services and a support mechanism for his/her family, thereby enhancing not only the individual's quality of life, but also that of his/her household.

The economical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during the construction and decommissioning phases of the project are as follows:

- Compensation for servitude;
- Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals; and
- Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals.

In addition, the following economical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts during the operation and maintenance phase of the project are as follows:

- Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals; and
- Electricity supply and economic growth.

## **Institutional & Empowerment Processes**

Institutional and empowerment processes relate to the role, efficiency and operation of government sectors and other organisations within the area in terms of service delivery. It also investigates the ability of people to engage in decision-making processes to such an extent that they have an impact on the way in which decisions are made that would concern them.

Although there has been a steady increase and expansion of municipal service delivery in the GMLM, the opposite has occurred in the ELM where it appears that municipal service delivery has decreased. The mostly likely explanation for this occurrence is that the municipal services were unable to keep up with the huge increase in the number of households, which had an average annual growth rate of 5 113 households (or 30 678 households between 2001 and 2007).

Therefore, it would appear that, in general within the study area, municipal services are at a very vulnerable stage and that the municipal network might not be able to sustain additional connections to the network. It should further be noted water is a scarce commodity in specifically the GMLM and that there are limited water sources within the area. In this regard the GMLM IDP also stated that it is very crucial that all water supplies are regulated and measured so that water losses can be measured in a quantitative manner.

In terms of baseline empowerment processes, the hierarchy of needs as set out by Maslow, offers an insightful backdrop in terms of people's potential level of involvement in the EIA process and the issues that might be pertinent to them in a development of this nature. Therefore, in order to expect people to fully participate in a process that might affect their future, people would have to function on a higher level within the hierarchy of needs (the need for self esteem, characterised by knowledge and understanding needs as well as the need for an environment that is aesthetically appealing. This means that their basic needs have to be met first.

Negotiation for land is a change process on legal and empowerment level. The same applies to the stakeholders that will be involved in the public participation process. The EIA process is an opportunity for these stakeholders to give input into the process and project. However, stakeholders would have to offer up their time to become actively involved in the process and they should clearly understand their rights in terms of the process to enable them to use these rights.

The economical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during this phase of the project are as follows:

- Negotiation process; and
- Additional demand on municipal services.

An increase in the availability of electricity to the local area has been identified as an institutional and empowerment change process that can be expected during the operational and maintenance phase of the project.

### **Socio-Cultural Processes**

Socio-cultural processes relate to the way in which humans behave, interact and relate to each other and their environment, as well as the belief and value systems which guide these interactions.

Socio-cultural change processes that are associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project include changes to aspects such as health and safety and sense of place. In a social sense, it should be noted that the concept of 'health' is not only limited to physical health (i.e. the absence of ailments or illness), but also includes mental and social health. The expected changes that can occur in relation to health and safety aspects can be as a result of the presence of the proposed transmission power line and its associated infrastructure during operation, as well as the presence of construction workers and/or job seekers during construction.

The significance of the impacts of socio-cultural changes is difficult to determine on a prospective basis and are dependent on the demographic profile of, for example, construction workers and whether or not such differences affected local residents. For example, if construction workers were from a different cultural background than locals, conflict can be expected if such different cultural backgrounds are not respected. Conflict as a result of cultural differences or community disintegration as a result of the acceptance of construction workers' culture might occur – should the demographic profile of these construction workers be different, and should it matter to the communities involved.

The socio-cultural change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during the construction and decommissioning phase of the project are as follows:

- Integration with local community;
- Health;
- Safety and security; and
- Construction noise.

The geographical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts during the operation and maintenance phase of the project are as follows:

- Movement of maintenance workers; and
- Physical splintering.

In addition, the following change process that would result in a Category 2 impact, which are those impacts that are expected to cause significant changes between the proposed alternatives, are as follows:

- Sense of place; and
- Third party tampering.

### Expected Impacts

The significance of potential category 1 impacts is grouped per change process in Table A, while Table B reflects a summary of the potential category 2 impacts per change process.

*Table A: Category 1 impacts per change process*

CHANGE PROCESS	ASSESSMENT AREA	SIGNIFICANCE (pre-mitigation)	SIGNIFICANCE (post-mitigation)
<b>DEMOGRAPHICAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Influx of construction workers	Very Low -	Very low ±
	Influx of job seekers	Low -	Very low ±
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	n/a
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Temporary loss of cultivated land	Moderate -	<b>Low -</b>
	Temporary loss of grazing land	Low -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Permanent loss of grazing land	Very low – to ±	<b>Very low ±</b>
	Spatial development	Low -	<b>Very low -</b>
	Presence of transmission power line	Moderate -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
<b>ECONOMICAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Compensation for servitude	Low +	n/a
	Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low +	Low +

CHANGE PROCESS	ASSESSMENT AREA	SIGNIFICANCE (pre-mitigation)	SIGNIFICANCE (post-mitigation)
	Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low +	Low +
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low +	<b>Low +</b>
	Electricity supply and economic growth	Moderate +	<b>n/a</b>
<b>EMPOWERMENT &amp; INSTITUTIONAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Negotiation process	Moderate	Moderate +
	Additional demand on municipal services	Low -	Low -
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	<b>n/a</b>
<b>SOCIO-CULTURAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Integration with local community	Low -	Very low -
	Health	Moderate -	Moderate -
	Safety and security	Low -	Very low -
	Construction noise	Low -	Very low -
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Movement of maintenance workers	Low -	<b>Very low -</b>
	<b>Physical splintering</b>	<b>Very low -</b>	<b>Very low -</b>

**Table B: Summary of Category 2 Impacts per Project Phase**

Change Process	Assessment Area	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>DEMOGRAPHICAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Relocation	Low -	Low -	Moderate -	Low -	Low -	Low -
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>n/a</b>
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Cultivated land and irrigation	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
	Mining	Moderate -	Low – to ±	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
<b>ECONOMICAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>n/a</b>
<b>EMPOWERMENT &amp; INSTITUTIONAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Na
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>n/a</b>

Change Process	Assessment Area	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>SOCIO-CULTURAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Sense of place	Low -	Low -	Moderate -	Low -	Moderate -	<b>Low -</b>
	Third party tampering	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -

## Conclusions & Recommendations

The geographic, demographic and socio-cultural processes all have a number of negative impacts. However all of these impacts can be mitigated successfully if effectively managed. Economic impacts as a result of the project are for the most part positive in nature, which is mainly due to the economic investment and development that will take place in the community as a result of the project.

Although the expected construction impacts across all the change processes are mostly negative, these impacts are for the most part only temporary in nature and only expected to last over the construction period. In comparison, operational impacts are expected to last over the longer term and therefore would have a prolonged effect on especially the geographical environment in terms of the presence of the Transmission power lines in the area. People are more inclined to get “used” to the infrastructure in their area if servitude and line maintenance are applied effectively and with due diligence. The regular monitoring and evaluation of the Transmission power lines as a whole would also ensure that corrective measures can be taken immediately to prevent adverse effects either on the infrastructure itself, or on the local area.

To come up with a preferred corridor, a comparison among the alternative corridor alignments was conducted by assessing all of the category 2 impacts identified with a certain change process. A summary of the outcome of this brief assessment is as per the table below.

Process	Change Process	Western	Eastern	Western Sub
<b>Demographical</b>	Relocation of households and/or population segments	1.48	2.22	1.48
<b>Geographical</b>	Permanent loss of cultivated land (including irrigation)	1.84	1.6	1.6
	Mining operations	2.16	1.98	1.98
<b>Economical</b>	No category 2 impacts	-	-	-
<b>Institutional &amp; Empowerment</b>	No category 2 impacts	-	-	-
<b>Socio-Cultural</b>	Sense of place	1.8	2.96	2.96
	Third party tampering	1.38	1.62	1.62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8.66</b>	<b>10.38</b>	<b>9.64</b>

Based on the comparison of category 2 impacts prior to mitigation, overall the **western alternative** emerged as the preferred route corridor from a social perspective. It could further be concluded that the social environment in general pose no fatal flaws to the development of the proposed transmission power lines known as Bravo 4, under the condition that the identified mitigation measures in this document and as recommended for inclusion in the EMP, are implemented and adhered to, particularly where construction activities either takes place in close proximity to or passes through residential areas that could affect the quality of live of these households in terms of noise, dust, safety and security.

## ACRONYMS

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>CBD</b>	Central Business District
<b>CS</b>	Community Survey
<b>DEAT</b>	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
<b>ELM</b>	Emalahleni Local Municipality
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EMF</b>	Electro Magnetic Fields
<b>EMP</b>	Environmental Management Plan
<b>ESTA</b>	Extension of Security of Tenure Act
<b>GDS</b>	Growth and Development Strategy
<b>GMLM</b>	Govan Mbeki Local Municipality
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>GSDM</b>	Gert Sibande District Municipality.
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immune-deficiency virus
<b>I&amp;APs</b>	Interested and Affected Parties
<b>ICNIRP</b>	International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection
<b>IDP</b>	Integrated Development Plan
<b>MP</b>	Mpumalanga Province
<b>NDM</b>	Nkangala District Municipality
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environmental Management Act
<b>OHSA</b>	Occupational Health and Safety Act
<b>PPP</b>	Public Participation Process
<b>RDP</b>	Reconstruction & Development Programme
<b>RoD</b>	Record of Decision
<b>SAFCEC</b>	South African Federation of Civil Engineering

Contractors

<b>SAPS</b>	South African Police Service
<b>SDF</b>	Spatial Development Framework
<b>SIA</b>	Social Impact Assessment
<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infections
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>23</b>
1.1. Definition Of A SIA.....	24
<b>1.2. Objectives of the Study .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>1.3. Approach and Methodology.....</b>	<b>26</b>
1.3.1 Significance Rating Scales.....	27
<b>1.4. Scoping Phase Comments.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>1.5. Limitations and Assumptions.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>1.6. Applicable Legislation.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>2. PROJECT BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>2.1 Project Overview.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>2.2 Transmission Power Line Corridors.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>2.3 Regional Overview.....</b>	<b>37</b>
2.3.1 Provincial Level.....	38
2.3.2 District Level .....	38
2.3.3 Local Level.....	39
<b>2.4 Negotiation Process .....</b>	<b>39</b>
2.4.1 Expropriation.....	41
<b>2.5 Construction Process.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>3. SOCIAL CHANGE PROCESSES AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>3.1 Baseline Demographic Profile .....</b>	<b>46</b>
3.1.1 Population.....	46
3.1.2 Education.....	51
<b>3.2 Demographic Change Processes and Resultants Impacts.....</b>	<b>52</b>
3.2.1 Expected Impacts.....	52
3.2.2 Construction & Decommissioning Phases.....	52
3.2.3 Operation and Maintenance Phase .....	58
<b>3.3 Baseline Geographical Profile .....</b>	<b>58</b>
3.3.1 Current Land Use.....	59
<b>3.4 Expected Geographical Change Processes.....</b>	<b>66</b>
3.4.1 Expected Impacts.....	66
3.4.2 Construction & Decommissioning Phases.....	67
3.4.3 Operation & Maintenance Phase.....	70
<b>3.5 Baseline Economic Profile .....</b>	<b>80</b>
3.5.1 Employment and Economic Sectors.....	80
3.5.2 Household and Personal Income .....	83
<b>3.6 Economical Change Processes and Resultant Impacts .....</b>	<b>84</b>

3.6.1	Expected Impacts.....	84
3.6.2	Construction & Decommissioning Phases.....	86
3.6.3	Operation & Maintenance Phase.....	91
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Baseline Empowerment and Institutional Profile .....</b>	<b>94</b>
3.7.1	Municipal Services .....	94
3.7.2	Empowerment and Participation.....	96
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Expected Empowerment and Institutional Change Processes.....</b>	<b>97</b>
3.8.1	Expected Impacts.....	97
3.8.2	Construction & Decommissioning Phases.....	98
3.8.3	Operation & Maintenance Phase.....	101
<b>3.9</b>	<b>Baseline Socio-Cultural Processes .....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Expected Social-Cultural Change Processes and Resultant Impacts.....</b>	<b>101</b>
3.10.1	Expected Impacts.....	104
3.10.2	Construction & Decommissioning Phases.....	106
3.10.3	Operation & Maintenance Phase.....	111
<b>4.</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>119</b>
4.1	Summary .....	119
4.2	Preferred Route Corridor.....	126
4.3	Recommendations.....	128
<b>5.</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS.....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Demographical Change Processes .....</b>	<b>130</b>
5.1.1	Influx of Construction Workers .....	130
5.1.2	Influx of Job Seekers.....	130
5.1.3	Relocation of households and/or Population segments .....	130
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Geographical Change Processes .....</b>	<b>131</b>
5.2.1	Temporary loss of cultivated land.....	131
5.2.2	Temporary loss of grazing land .....	132
5.2.3	Permanent loss of grazing land.....	132
5.2.4	Spatial development.....	132
5.2.5	Presence of the transmission power line .....	132
5.2.6	Permanent loss of cultivated land, including irrigation .....	132
5.2.7	Mining operations.....	133
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Economical Change Processes .....</b>	<b>133</b>
5.3.1	Compensation for servitude .....	133
5.3.2	Direct formal employment to local individuals.....	133
5.3.3	Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals.....	134
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Empowerment and Institutional Change Processes .....</b>	<b>134</b>
5.4.1	Negotiation process .....	134
5.4.2	Additional demand on municipal services.....	135

<b>5.5</b>	<b>Socio-Cultural Change Processes.....</b>	<b>135</b>
5.5.1	Integration with local community .....	135
5.5.2	Health .....	136
5.5.3	Safety and Security .....	136
5.5.4	Construction noise .....	136
5.5.5	Movement of maintenance workers.....	136
5.5.6	Physical splintering .....	137
5.5.7	Sense of Place.....	137
5.5.8	Third party tampering .....	137
<b>6.</b>	<b>SOURCES .....</b>	<b>138</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

During 2007 Eskom received a positive Record of Decision (RoD) from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) on their proposed Bravo Power Station. This RoD enables Eskom to proceed with the construction and operation of the new Bravo Power Station, which is located near the town of Bronkhorstspuit in the Gauteng Province.

The current project, namely the proposed Bravo Integration Project, is therefore required as a means to integrate the additional electricity supply from the new Bravo Power Station into Eskom's current electricity network. The integration of this additional electricity into the network would ensure that areas such as Secunda and Midrand would be supplied with additional electricity.

The proposed Bravo Integration Project will be considered within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. Five separate applications have been lodged with DEAT, which are as follows:

- **Bravo 1 (DEAT Ref. No: 12/12/20/1093):** The construction and operation of two (2) 400kV bypass transmission power lines, both approximately 10km in length, as follows:
  - One (1) 400kV bypass transmission power line between the Sol substation in Kriel and the Zeus substation in Secunda; and
  - One (1) 400kV bypass transmission power line between the Sol substation in Kriel and the Camden substation in Ermelo.
- **Bravo 2 (DEAT Ref. No: 12/12/20/1094):** The construction and operation of two (2) 400kV loop-in lines into the new Bravo Power Station, both approximately 10km in length, as follows:
  - One (1) 400kV loop-in line from the Kendal-Apollo transmission line (which runs between Ogies and Centurion); and
  - One (1) 400kV loop-in line from the Duvha-Minerva transmission line (which runs between Middelburg and Johannesburg).
- **Bravo 3 (DEAT Ref. No: 12/12/20/1097):** The construction and operation of a new 400kV transmission power line from the Bravo Power Station to the Lulumisa substation in Kayalami. This transmission power line will be approximately 90km in length.
- **Bravo 4 (DEAT Ref. No: 12/12/20/1095):** The construction and operation of two (2) new 400kV transmission power lines, both of which would be approximately 90km in length and would run parallel to each other, as follows:
  - One (1) 400kV transmission power line from the Kendal Power Station to the Zeus substation; and

- One (1) 400kV transmission power line from the Bravo Power Station to the Zeus substation.
- **Bravo 5 (DEAT Ref. No: 12/12/20/1096):** The construction and operation of one (1) 400kV bypass transmission power line of approximately 10km in length on the Bravo-Vulcan transmission power line in order to bypass the Duvha substation.

This particular report only focuses on **Bravo 4 (DEAT Ref. No: 12/12/20/1095)** and details the results of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) specialist study conducted by MasterQ Research as part of the overall EIA process that is being conducted by Cymbian Enviro-Social Consulting Services. Separate Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Reports have been compiled for the Bravo 1-3 and 5 applications. In terms of Bravo 4, three (3) possible route corridor alternatives were identified for the proposed 400kV transmission power line from the Kendal power station to the Zeus substation. At the time of the study, route corridor alternatives between the Bravo power station and the Zeus substation had not been identified. It was therefore assumed that this transmission power line would run parallel to the transmission power line between Kendal and Zeus and therefore all the identified social impacts in the remainder of this document would be relevant for both Bravo 4 transmission power lines, unless otherwise stated.

The first subsection below gives a definition of a SIA, followed by details of the objectives of the study, whereas the third subsection details the approach and methodology that were followed to meet these objectives. The section is concluded with a discussion of the limitations and assumptions of the study, and applicable legislation.

### 1.1. Definition of a SIA

The definition of a SIA as defined by Vanclay (2002) gives an understanding of the backdrop against which this SIA was conducted. According to this definition, a **social impact** is defined as follows:

*“The consequences to human populations of any public or private actions (these include policies, programmes, plans and/or projects) that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organise to meet their needs and generally live and cope as members of society. These impacts are felt at various levels, including individual level, family or household level, community, organisation or society level. Some social impacts are felt by the body as physical reality, while other social impacts are perceptual or emotional.”*

Vanclay (2002) defined a **social impact assessment** as follows:

*“... the process of analyzing (predicting, evaluating and reflecting) and managing the intended and unintended consequences on the human environment of planned interventions (policies, programmes, plans and projects) and any social change processes invoked by*

*those interventions so as to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment.”*

According to Vanclay (2002:3-10), one of the pitfalls of many SIAs are that these studies refer to social change processes as social impacts. In this regard, Vanclay stated: “social change processes are set in motion by project activities or policies”, whereas social impacts “refer to the impacts actually experienced by humans in either a corporeal (physical) or cognitive (perceptual) sense.”

Bearing this in mind, a **change process** can therefore be defined as change that takes place within the receiving environment as a result of an intervention. A potential **social impact** follows as a result of the change process occurring. However, a change process can only result in an impact once it is experienced as such by the individual/household/community/organisation on a physical and/or cognitive level.

It should therefore be noted that the social specialists conducting this study made a definite distinction between change processes and impacts.

## **1.2. Objectives of the Study**

The overall purpose of the SIA will be to contribute to the EIA in such a way that it will enable DEAT to make an informed decision on the way forward with the proposed project. The specific objectives were as follows:

- Gain an understanding of the proposed project, including the alternative alignments or route corridors, and the nature and timeframe of proposed activities;
- Obtain information on the baseline social profile characterising the study area in terms of the following change processes:
  - **Demographic processes:** the number and composition of people;
  - **Geographical processes:** land use patterns;
  - **Economic processes:** the way in which people make a living and the economic activities in society;
  - **Empowerment and institutional processes:** the ability of people to be involved and influence decision making processes; and the role, efficiency and operation of governments and other organisations; and
  - **Socio-cultural processes:** the way in which humans behave, interact and relate to each other and their environment and the belief and value systems which guide these interactions;
- Identify how these processes might be changed by the proposed project and identify and describe the resultant impacts from such changes;

- Rate these impacts along specific significance rating scales in order to obtain an overall view of their relative severity and significance;
- Identify measures that could be implemented to prevent or ameliorate any negative impacts, or that can be used to enhance any positive impacts; and
- Present these mitigation/enhancement measures for inclusion in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The approach and methodology that were followed to fulfil the objectives are listed in section 1.3 below.

### **1.3. Approach and Methodology**

To ensure that the objectives of the study are answered, data had to be collected. Primary and secondary data collection methods were used. Primary data included a field trip by motor vehicle on 13 November 2008 along the various proposed route corridors. The objectives of the site visit were for the social specialists to familiarise themselves with the surrounding receiving environment and to identify any social sensitive sites.

Secondary data mostly centred on a desktop study, in which the following documents were scrutinised:

- Locality maps;
- Census 2001 and Community Survey 2007 data to determine any significant social trends in the area;
- A aerial study of the affected area through the use of Google Earth (2007);
- The EIA Scoping Report;
- The Integrated Development Plans (IDP) of the affected District and Local Municipalities;
- The Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF) of the affected District and Local Municipalities; and
- Where available, a desktop study of the Growth and Development Strategies (GDS) of the affected District and Local Municipalities.

Information that was relevant to the project was identified and assessed from these sources, within the context of the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases of the proposed project. The construction and decommissioning phases have been grouped together, as it is believed that similar processes take place during these phases. However, during the decommissioning phase these processes take place in reverse, e.g. instead of a team erecting the transmission power line, they will now dismantle it. This report also only

focuses on the transmission power line alternatives between Kendal and Zeus, known as Bravo 4.

### 1.3.1 Significance Rating Scales

This particular SIA also took into account the significance, spatial, duration, degree of probability and degree of certainty that a potential impact might have on the social environment. Impacts can either be negative, neutral or positive. The impacts are also categorised according to the various project stages, i.e. construction and decommissioning, and operation and maintenance. Mitigation measures have also been identified with the aim to reduce the potential negative impacts and to enhance the potential positive impacts. Also included in the assessment tables that follow in Section 3 is a rating of the significance of the impact.

To determine the significance of each identified issue, the following criteria were used.

**Significance**, which refers to the importance of impacts, and which has been defined as follows:

5	<b>Very High</b>	Of the highest order possible within the bounds of impacts which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts: there is no possible mitigation and/or remedial activity which could offset the impact. In the case of beneficial impacts, there is no real alternative to achieving this benefit.
4	<b>High</b>	Impact is of substantial order within the bounds of impacts, which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity is feasible but difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these. In the case of beneficial impacts, other means of achieving this benefit are feasible but they are more difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these.
3	<b>Moderate</b>	Impact is real but not substantial in relation to other impacts, which might take effect within the bounds of those which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity are both feasible and fairly easily possible. In the case of beneficial impacts: other means of achieving this benefit are about equal in time, cost, effort, etc.
2	<b>Low</b>	Impact is of a low order and therefore likely to have little real effect. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity is either easily achieved or little will be required, or both. In the case of beneficial impacts, alternative means for achieving this benefit are likely to be easier, cheaper, more effective, less time consuming, or some combination of these.
1	<b>Very Low</b>	Impact is negligible within the bounds of impacts which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts, almost no mitigation and/or remedial activity are needed, and any minor steps which might be needed are easy, cheap, and simple. In the case of beneficial impacts, alternative

means are almost all likely to be better, in one or a number of ways, than this means of achieving the benefit. Three additional categories must also be used where relevant. They are in addition to the category represented on the scale, and if used, will replace the scale.

0 **No Impact** There is no impact at all - not even a very low impact on a party or system.

**Spatial**, which refers to the physical extent of the impact, and which has been defined as follows:

5	<b>Global/National</b>	The maximum extent of any impact.
4	<b>Regional/Provincial</b>	The spatial scale is moderate within the bounds of impacts possible, and will be felt at a regional scale (District Municipality to Provincial Level).
3	<b>Local</b>	The impact will affect an area up to 5 km from the proposed route corridor.
2	<b>Study Area</b>	The impact will affect a route corridor not exceeding the Boundary of the corridor.
1	<b>Isolated Sites / proposed site</b>	The impact will affect an area no bigger than the route site.

**Duration**, which refers to the persistence of an impact on the environment, and which has been defined as follows:

1	<b>Incidental</b>	The impact will be limited to isolated incidences that are expected to occur very sporadically.
2	<b>Short-term</b>	The environmental impact identified will operate for the duration of the construction phase or a period of less than 5 years, whichever is the greater.
3	<b>Medium term</b>	The environmental impact identified will operate for the duration of life of the line.
4	<b>Long term</b>	The environmental impact identified will operate beyond the life of operation.
5	<b>Permanent</b>	The environmental impact will be permanent.

**Degree of probability**, which refers to the likelihood of the impact occurring, and which has been defined as follows:

1	Practically impossible
2	Unlikely

3	Could happen
4	Very Likely
5	It's going to happen / has occurred

**Degree of certainty**, which refers to the specialists confidence of an impact occurring, and which has been defined as follows:

<b>Definite</b>	More than 90% sure of a particular fact.
<b>Probable</b>	Between 70 and 90% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring.
<b>Possible</b>	Between 40 and 70% sure of a particular fact or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.
<b>Unsure</b>	Less than 40% sure of a particular fact or the likelihood of an impact occurring.
<b>Can't know</b>	The consultant believes an assessment is not possible even with additional research.

In order for the impacts to be described in a quantitative manner in addition to the qualitative descriptions provided above, this was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Impact Risk} = \frac{(\text{Significance} + \text{Spatial} + \text{Temporal})}{3} * \frac{\text{Probability}}{5}$$

The impact risk was then classified as follows:

RATING	IMPACT CLASS	DESCRIPTION
0.1 – 1.0	1	Very Low
1.1 – 2.0	2	Low
2.1 – 3.0	3	Moderate
3.1 – 4.0	4	High
4.1 – 5.0	5	Very High

In order to assess the alternatives in respect of its anticipated social impacts, a distinction was made between the following impacts:

- **Category 1:** Impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, e.g. the number of employment opportunities that might be created by the proposed project are expected to remain the same, irrespective of the chosen alternative (except in the case of the 'no go' option); and

- **Category 2:** Impacts that are expected to cause significant changes between the proposed alternatives, e.g. the need to resettle certain households increases proportionately if the development traverses densely populated areas as opposed to skirting sparsely populated areas.

#### 1.4. Scoping Phase Comments

An opportunity was created for interested and affected parties (I&APs) to become involved in the process through the public participation process (PPP). The PPP commenced during the scoping phase and extends across and includes the Impact Assessment phase (which is the current phase of the study). As part of the PPP, registered I&APs and other stakeholders were invited to comment on the proposed project. Table 1 below provides a summary of the comments received during the scoping phase as they pertained to the social environment, with a cross reference where such comments were addressed by the SIA.

**Table 1:** Comments on Social environment made during Scoping Phase

Comment	Stakeholder	Source	Reference in SIA
The employment of people might impact upon the enrolment of the school.	Mr Johan Els, Cultura High school in Bronkhorstpruit	Written submission in April 2008 in response to the BID	Section 3.2.
Include in the impact study the impact of the power lines crossing over agricultural land, cattle fields and close to farmhouses.	Mrs Gertie Janse van Rensburg, De Hoogenveld Trust, Portion 17 and 9 of Witpoort 563 JR	Written submission in April 2008 in response to the BID	Section 3.4
Consider the financial losses due to property value decline.	Mrs Angela Lake, Plot 29 Bashewa	Written submission in April 2008 in response to the BID	Bravo 3 SIA
Re-route the proposed power lines away from main roads and developing residential areas.	Mr Mark Walker, owner of 39 Garsfontein Road, Tiegerpoort.	Written submission in April 2008 in response to the BID	Bravo 3 SIA
Portion 1 Jakhalsfontein is only 9,3533 Ha in size. This is a high density export berry farm with all plantings under shade netting. Another servitude will reduce my livelihood and income drastically. Do not put the line next to	Mr Andreas Mellet Moll, BIO Select, Owner of Portion 1 Jakkalsfontein JR528	Written submission in April 2008 in response to the BID	Bravo 3 SIA

Comment	Stakeholder	Source	Reference in SIA
the existing lines.			
What economic benefit will accrue for the community?	Mr Peter Letsetebe, Satea/Pikitup, Protea North	Written submission in April 2008 in response to the BID	Section 3.6

## 1.5. Limitations and Assumptions

- This study was carried out with the information available to the specialist at the time of executing the study, within the available time frames and budget. The sources consulted are not exhaustive, and additional information which might strengthen arguments or contradict information in this report and/or identify additional information might exist.
- It was assumed that the decommissioning phase is similar to the construction phase, and therefore the decommissioning phase was not assessed separately.
- At the time of the study, a route alignment between the new Bravo power station and the existing Zeus substation was not available. It was, however, assumed, that such an alignment would follow the final preferred alignment between the Kendal power station and the Zeus substation (as these lines would run in parallel) and therefore the anticipated social impacts outlined and assessed in this report is relevant to both new transmission power lines. The section between Bravo and Kendal has been excluded as the alignment of this section of the transmission power line was not available at the time of the study.
- The specialists did endeavour to take an evidence-based approach in the compilation of this report and did not intentionally exclude scientific information relevant to the assessment.
- It was assumed that the motivation for, and the ensuing planning and feasibility studies of the project were done with integrity, and that the information provided to date by the project proponent, the independent environmental assessment practitioner and the public participation consultant was accurate.
- The statistics that informed this report were primarily taken from Census 2001 and the more recent Community Survey 2007. The comparative analyses of these sets of data should only be regarded as an indication of broad trends in the area, because of concerns about data integrity. The South African Statistics Council was concerned about the following regarding the Community Survey (2007):
  - Institutional population is merely and approximation to 2001 numbers and not new data;

- Unemployment in the Community Survey is higher and less reliable because of questions that were asked differently;
  - Grants do not match the (SASSA) data and should be interpreted with great care;
  - Income includes unreasonably high income for children – presumably misinterpretation of the question, listing parents' income for the child; and
  - Distribution of households by province has very little congruence with the General Household Survey or last census.
- A number of systematic errors were observed in the statistical data, which included:
    - An underestimate of men relative to women;
    - An underestimate of children younger than 10 years;
    - An excess of those aged 85+, in particular among men;
    - Missing women aged 20–34 from the Coloured population;
    - Misdistribution of the population by province;
    - Excess of people aged 10–24 in Western Cape and Gauteng;
    - A shortfall of women aged 20–34 in Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo.

The council states (2008): *“In the absence of a comprehensive sampling frame, it is difficult to determine whether the differences are due to sampling error, biases or the reality that has changed beyond our expectations. There may be other variables that will require similar warnings after further interrogation.”*

## **1.6. Applicable Legislation**

Cognisance was taken of the following legal requirements and regulatory documents:

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. No. 108 of 1996;
- Construction Regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA);
- Electricity Regulation Act, No 4 of 2006, section 27;
- Extension of Security of Tenure Act (Act 62 of 1997) (ESTA);
- National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), No. 107 of 1998, as amended and Environment Conservation Act, No. 73 of 1989, as amended; and
- The Environmental Impact Regulations of 21 April 2006.

The following section describes the project and study area and then proceeds to address the objectives of the study.

## **2. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

This section assesses the information relevant to the study area and the project. The first subsection provides an overview of the proposed project, followed by a description of the transmission power line route corridor alternatives, and then a general overview of the study area. The section concludes with an overview of the negotiation process, followed by an overview of the construction process.

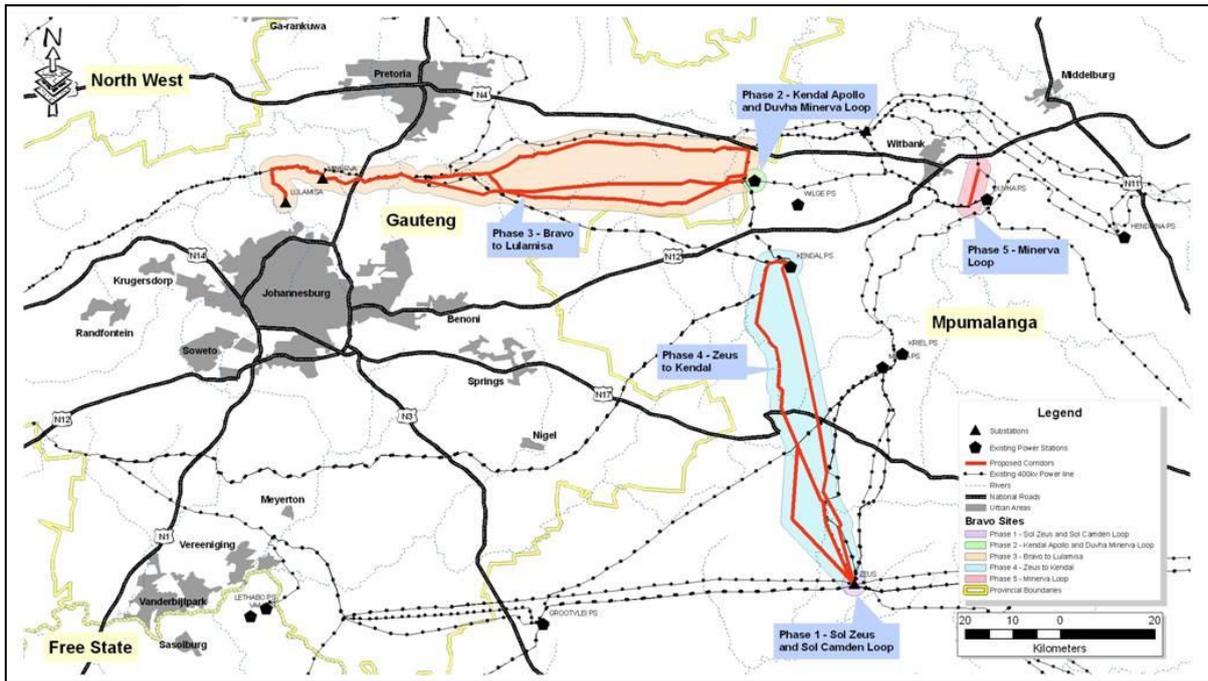
### **2.1 Project Overview**

Eskom Holdings Ltd. (Eskom) has been mandated to ensure a reliable and affordable electricity supply to consumers within South Africa. As such, they are responsible for both the generation as well as the distribution of electricity, which cannot be stored but has to be used as it is generated. To this end, the generated electricity has to be transmitted from the generation point to the end user and as such, it is required that the transmission capacity forms a balance between electricity supply and demand. Therefore, for Eskom Transmission to ensure that it fulfils its mandate and to provide the required infrastructural support to Eskom Generation, they have to plan, establish and expand their transmission power line infrastructure on a continuous basis.

As part of Eskom Transmission's expansion programme, they are proposing the establishment of a number of bypass, turn-in and transmission power lines (as outlined in the introduction), and known as the Bravo Integration Project. The main objective of this project is to integrate the new Bravo Power Station into the existing electricity grid.

As previously mentioned, five separate applications have been lodged with DEAT in terms of the various components of the proposed Bravo Integration Project. Figure 1 below provides an overview of the transmission power line corridor alternatives for the proposed Bravo Integration Project as a whole.

**Figure 1: Overview of the Bravo Integration Project**



Source: Cymbian Enviro-Social consulting services (based on information received from Eskom Transmission)

As this report only deals with the proposed transmission power line corridor alternatives from the Kendal power station to the Zeus substation as well as the proposed transmission power line between the new Bravo power station and the Zeus substation (known as **Bravo 4**), the following subsection is confined to providing an overview of the applicable transmission power line corridor alternatives between these points.

## 2.2 Transmission Power Line Corridors

Bravo 4 entails the construction and operation of two (2) new 400kV transmission power lines, both of which would be approximately 90km in length and would run parallel to each other, as follows:

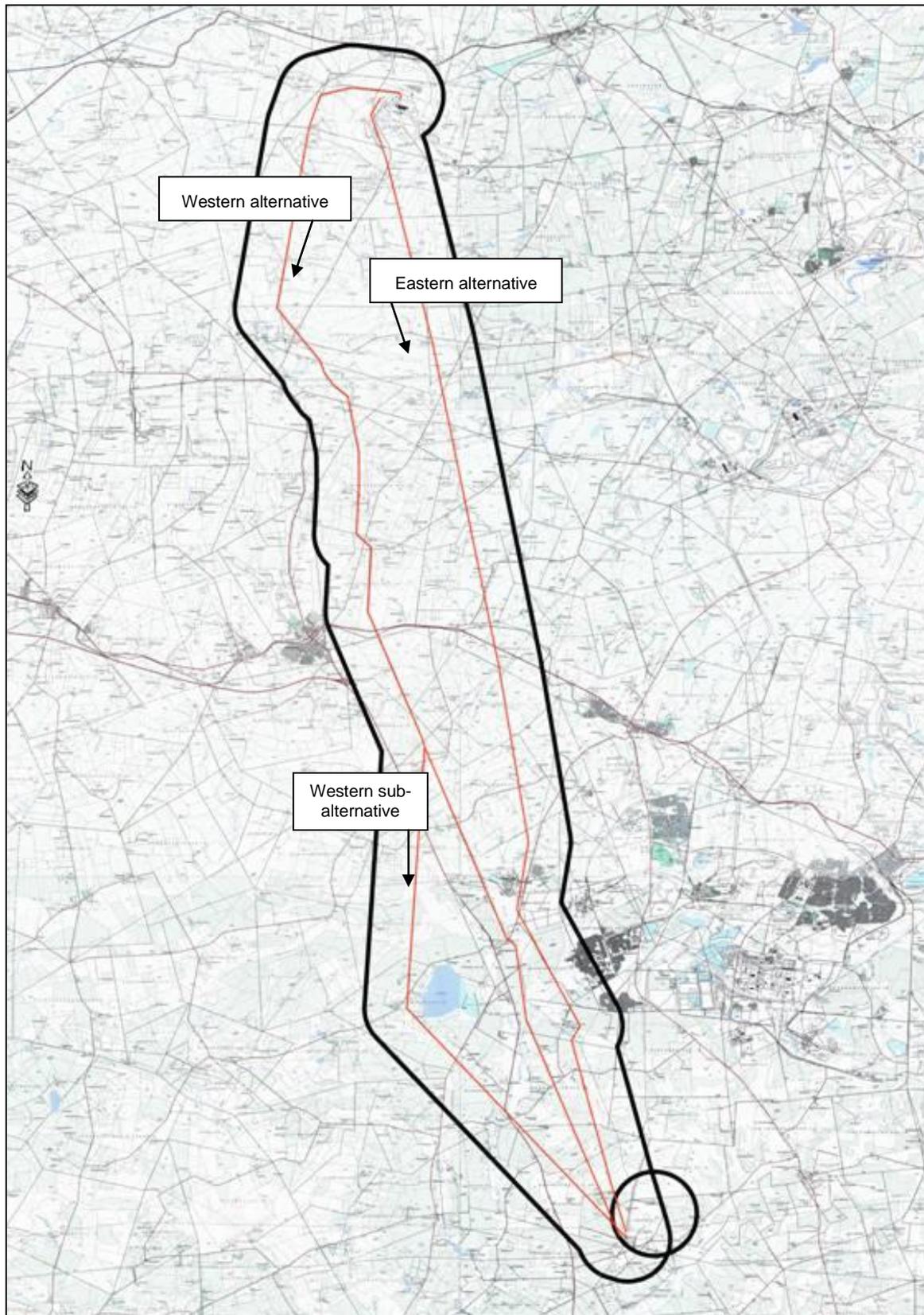
- One (1) 400kV transmission power line from the Kendal Power Station to the Zeus substation; and
- One (1) 400kV transmission power line from the Bravo Power Station to the Zeus substation.

These transmission power lines would run parallel within one corridor. Even though the permanent servitude for the transmission power lines would be 55m (110m for parallel lines), the corridors under investigation is 5km wide (2.5km to either side of the central line) to ensure a comprehensive assessment process with the aim to identify any possible negative as well as positive impacts. For this reason, three (3) possible alternative route corridors

have been identified between Kendal and Zeus for the assessment process, of which only one (1) would be selected in the end as the preferred corridor.

Figure 2 below provides an overview of these three alternative route corridors, known as Bravo 4, and which forms the subject of this SIA report.

**Figure 2: Bravo 4 Alternative Route Corridors**



**Source:** Cymbian Enviro-Social consulting services (based on information received from Eskom Transmission)

The **Western alternative** exits the Kendal power station to the north, after which it immediately turns westwards to follow existing transmission power lines. This corridor then continues to follow existing transmission power lines in a southerly direction for most of the alignment. This corridor alternative crosses the following farms: Schoongezicht 218IR, Leeuwfontein 219IR, Straffontein 252IR, Dieplaagte 262 IR (only the north-eastern corner), Streshlah 261IR, Kromdraai 263IR, Weltevreden 307IR, Goedehoop 308IR, Grootlaagte 311IR, Salpeterkranz 351IR, Brakspruit 359IR, Branddrift 322IR, Kromdraai 325IS and Vlakfontein 328IS. The corridor enters the existing Zeus substation from the north.

The **Eastern alternative** exits the Kendal power station to the west, after which it turns southwards. This corridor alternative crosses the following farms: Schoongezicht 218IR, Leeuwfontein 219IR, Zondagsfontein 253IR, Uitvlugt 255IR, Kortlaagte 267 IS, Moedverloren 88IS, Blesbokspruit 52IS and 90IS, Uitmalkaar 126IS, Bolspruit 127IS, Kromdraai 128IS, Zandfontein 130 IS, Grootspruit 279IS, Rietkuil 283IS, Branddrift 322IS, Kromdraai 325IS and Vlakfontein 328IS. The corridor enters the existing Zeus substation from the north.

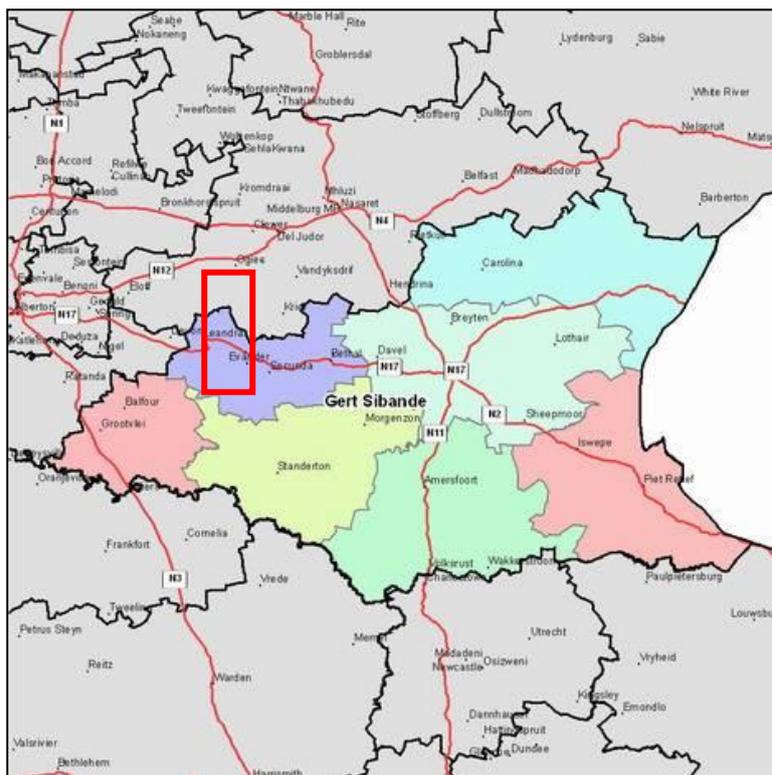
The **Western sub-alternative** deviates from the Western alternative and cross the R50 on the farm Brakspruit 359IR. It further cross the farms Rietkuil 531IR, Leeuwpan 532IR, Roodebank 323IS and Kromdraai 325IS. The corridor enters the existing Zeus substation from the northwest.

### **2.3 Regional Overview**

The proposed transmission power line corridors start out in the Emalahleni Local Municipality (MP312) and then traverse the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (MP307). The Emalahleni Local Municipality is located within the Nkangala District Municipality (DC31), whereas the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality forms part of the Gert Sibande District Municipality. Both these districts are located within the Mpumalanga Province (MP) (refer to Figure 3 – study area marked in red).

**Figure 3: Municipal Delineation within the Nkangala District Municipality**

Source: Municipal Demarcation Board



The following subsections provide a regional overview of the study area on a broad based provincial and district level. For a more detailed account of the receiving environment or potentially affected area (i.e. local municipal level), refer to relevant change processes under the various subsections in Section 3.

### **2.3.1 Provincial Level**

Mpumalanga has a land surface area of approximate 79 511.5km<sup>2</sup>, which represents approximately 6.5% of South Africa’s total land surface. According to the Community Survey 2007<sup>3</sup>, the province is home to approximately 3 643 435 people, which represents a population growth of approximately 7.6% (or 277 550 people) over the 6-year period between 2001 (when the last census was conducted) and 2007. The population in Mpumalanga accounts for 7.5% of South Africa’s total population of 48 502 063 people as of 2007. The province appears to be largely rural in nature, which is evident in the fairly low population density of 45.8 persons per km<sup>2</sup>.

### **2.3.2 District Level**

The Nkangala District Municipality (NDM) is located on the north-western border of Mpumalanga and consists of 6 local municipalities. The district covers an area of

<sup>3</sup> Statistics South Africa. Community Survey 2007: Key Municipal Data. Report No: 03-01-22 (2007)

16 892.6km<sup>2</sup> and is home to a population of approximately 1 226 498 people. This brings the population density in the district to 72.6 persons per square kilometre, which is almost double than that of the province as a whole. Of the 7 local municipalities within the NDM, only one, the Emahleni Local Municipality (ELM) is relevant to this study.

The Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM) is located on the eastern border of Mpumalanga and consists of 7 local municipalities. The district covers an area of 31 845.9km<sup>2</sup> and is home to a population of approximately 890 699 people. This brings the population density in the district to 28.0 persons per square kilometre, which, as is the case with the province as a whole, is indicative of the fact that the district is largely rural in nature. Of the 7 local municipalities within the GSDM, only one, the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (GMLM) is relevant to this study.

### **2.3.3 Local Level**

The ELM is located on the western border of the NDM. The area is landlocked with the Delmas Local Municipality to the west, the Thembisile Local Municipality to the north and the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality to the east. To the south lies the GMLM, which forms part of the GSDM. The ELM covers an area of approximately 2 678km<sup>2</sup> and consists of 32 wards. Some of the most notable towns within the ELM include Witbank, Ogies and Kriel.

The GMLM can be found on the north-western border of the GSDM. The municipality is landlocked by the Dipaleseng Local Municipality to the west, the Lekwa Local Municipality to the south, the Msukaligwa Local Municipality to the east, and the Emahlaheni Local Municipality (which forms part of the Nkangala District Municipality) to the north. The GMLM covers an area of 2 954.6km<sup>2</sup> and consists of 31 wards. Some of the major urban areas or towns within the GMLM include Leandra to the northwest, Kinross to the north, Secunda in the central part of the GMLM, and Bethal to the east.

## **2.4 Negotiation Process**

Transmission power lines are constructed and operated within a servitude that is established along its entire length (55m wide per 400kV transmission power line). The servitude gives Eskom Transmission right of way for that piece of land. Right of way should not be confused with a rental agreement. Right of way gives Eskom certain rights and controls that support the safe and effective operation of the power line.

The process of achieving the servitude agreement is referred to as the Servitude Negotiation Process, or just the negotiation process. This process is undertaken directly by Eskom Transmission. Important points relating to the EIA process are as follows:

- Servitude negotiation is a private matter between Eskom Transmission and the landowner concerned.

- The standard agreement can be expanded on depending on specific requests from the landowner.
- The negotiation process involves a number of stages, as outlined below, and culminates in the signing of a servitude agreement at which point Eskom Transmission enters into a legal agreement with the landowner.
- The agreements will detail such aspects as the exact location and extent of the servitude, and access arrangements and maintenance responsibilities.
- Compensation measures are agreed in each case.
- The negotiation process may take place at any time in the planning of a new line.
- This process must be completed (i.e. the agreement must be signed) before construction starts on that property.
- The negotiation process is independent of the EIA process.

The EIA process has become important in the initial planning and route selection of a new Transmission power line. For this reason, it would normally be preferable that the negotiation process begins after the EIA has been completed. At this stage there is greater confidence in the route to be adopted, and it would be supported by environmental authorisation.

However, it may be required that the negotiation process needs to start earlier, and may begin before or run in parallel to the EIA process. This may be due to tight timeframes, knowledge of local conditions and constraints, etc. Eskom Transmission has a right to engage with any landowner at any time, though they do so at risk if environmental authorisation has not been awarded.

The following process represents the steps that are followed in registering the servitude:

- The route is usually finalised before negotiation starts.
- Negotiators determine which properties are affected by the final route.
- The Survey-General is contacted to verify and confirm the properties to be affected.
- The Deeds Office provides the names of the legal owners of the properties.
- The services of an external property valuator are procured. Properties are valued by doing a strip valuation for which price ranges for the different properties are submitted.
- Maps are drafted for each property indicating the proposed route for the Transmission power line to be constructed on private or tribal land. The route is between 200 and 500m in width, which is based on international guidelines relating to the health and safety aspects of transmission power line installations.
- Eskom draws up an option to secure the servitude. The option indicates that the owner will accept that the line will cross his property, subject to conditions to be finalised in the

negotiation of the servitude agreement. An option is valid for one year. The value of the land to be negotiated is calculated by multiplying the area of the servitude required from the landowner with the valuator's unit price.

- Eskom's negotiators visit the landowners to start negotiations. The documentation, including the map of the affected area and the option are used to start negotiations. If landowners are not aware of the proposed line to be constructed on their property, the negotiator explains the procedures and conditions to them.
- The landowner signs the option. Special conditions are negotiated and added to the standard option form.
- Once the route is confirmed (i.e. options signed with the upstream and downstream affected landowners), the servitude agreement will be finalised with the landowners. This agreement will set out the compensation amount, and conditions for the establishment and operation of the servitude, and will be site specific (different landowners may have different requirements). Compensation payments are made when the servitude is registered at the Deeds office. If no agreement can be reached between Eskom and the landowner and all other avenues to resolve the issues has been investigated and failed, Eskom applies for expropriation of the land (see section 2.4.1). A full EIA has to be completed before an application of expropriation can be logged. This is not a preferred option for Eskom.
- Once the construction is complete and the land rehabilitated to the landowners' satisfaction, the landowner signs a 'Final Release' certificate.
- Once the clearance certificate is signed, the responsibility for the line and servitude is handed over to the regional Eskom Transmission office. Prior to this the Eskom national office is responsible for the process.
- If the landowner is not satisfied with the construction process, conditions cannot be renegotiated. However, the landowner can refuse to sign the 'Final Release' certificate should the rehabilitation of the land not have been done to a satisfactory level (i.e. to a similar condition as before the construction started).

#### **2.4.1 Expropriation**

Expropriation will only take place once the negotiation process has reached a deadlock and/or after a maximum period of 90 days have lapsed after the commencement of the negotiation process with a particular landowner and resolution has not been reached. However, Eskom aims to avoid expropriation as this process is time consuming and tedious. Apart from the delay in construction as a result of expropriation, Eskom does not prefer to follow the expropriation route as they believe that it damages their relationship with landowners. In the interests of minimising the impact of expropriation, Eskom will make all

attempts to be flexible towards unique circumstances as it is believed that such an approach would mitigate the risk of landowners refusing the registration of the servitude on their respective properties.

If required, expropriation will take place in accordance with the Expropriation Act (Act 63 of 1975) where the basis for compensation is outlined as follows:

*(1) The amount of compensation to be paid in terms of this Act to an owner in respect of property expropriated in terms of this Act, or in respect of the taking, in terms of this Act, of a right to use property, shall not, subject to the provisions of subsection (2), exceed—*

- a. in the case of any property other than a right, excepting a registered right to minerals, the aggregate of—
  - i. the amount which the property would have realized if sold on the date of notice in the open market by a willing seller to a willing buyer; and***
  - ii. an amount to make good any actual financial loss caused by the expropriation.****
- b. in the case of a right, excepting a registered right to minerals, an amount to make good any actual financial loss caused by the expropriation or the taking of the right.*

## **2.5 Construction Process**

The construction process follows on negotiations with landowners in which the servitude is secured.

There are a number of variables determining the sequence of events in the construction process, the number of people involved in each activity and the time spent on an activity. These variables include the timeframes for completion of the line, the natural environment and other local conditions. Some activities could happen simultaneously.

When the construction of the line starts, each activity will follow the previous one, so that a chain of events, with different teams involved will happen over time. On average, there are some 35 active days of construction at any point. However, this may take place over a period of up to two years.

At the EIA phase, prior to negotiations, the route of the line is investigated for approval by DEAT. Once approval is obtained, the following steps represent the process of construction:

1. The route is surveyed. This is done by air as well as by walking the route.
2. A profile of the line is designed based on soil conditions and other factors. At this stage decisions are made on conductor types, towers, insulators and foundations to be used.

3. Environmental review stage – a “walk-through” survey of the route is undertaken in order to determine any site-specific sensitivities which must be taken into account during the final placement of the towers and the construction and operational phases.
4. A final design of the line is made and placement of towers determined.
5. Tenders are issued and awarded to one or more construction companies.
6. Negotiations with landowners regarding access to the servitude during the construction phase are started. Access plans are drafted and signed by Eskom, the contractor and the landowner. At these discussions, the parties agree on rehabilitation measures to be implemented after construction. Photographs of the applicable infrastructure or land is taken beforehand to ensure that rehabilitation is done to the agreed upon standard. Access roads are established through recurring use – blading or scraping of a new road should not be expected, but this is site dependent.
7. The centre line is pegged. At this stage requirements and locations of new gates are recorded.
8. Bush clearance is done along the centre line. The width of the line to be cleared differs depending on the vegetation and the landscape of the area as well as on landowners’ requirements. At each tower position, four strips are cleared (size depends on the type of tower to be erected) for assembly and erection of the tower. The bush clearance team(s) move through the whole length of the line. However, the time needed to finish this activity depends on the vegetation of the area. During bush clearance protected species are identified and appropriately handled. Certain plants could be salvaged and relocated while alien species are eradicated. Cut material is cleared from the servitude and appropriately disposed of.
9. New gates are often installed when bush clearance is done.
10. Before the contractor starts with the foundations of the towers, the towers should have been pegged. A surveyor is appointed to do this. When pegging is being done, the footing of the tower is set out. Any obstacles or potential problems with the tower positions and the consequent moving of tower positions are reported.
11. The first step in putting the foundations for the towers in place is in establishing foundation nominations. At this stage, soil types are checked to determine foundation requirements. Trial foundations are dug at the main foundation points. This is done through mechanical back-actor / auger methods. However, in certain circumstances manual labour is used.
12. Foundations are excavated mechanically with a back-actor where possible. At this stage it looks like a square pit of up to 4mx4m in areas and 4m deep, depending on soil conditions. The pit will be covered up or fenced off after it has been dug until the foundation is cast. This is done to prevent livestock from falling into these pits.

13. The foundation steelwork is fitted into the foundation pit not too long after it has been dug. This is done to reinforce the foundations. The steelwork is made up at base camp and brought to site by truck. However, all fitting and wiring is done on site.
14. The concrete for the foundations is poured after the steelwork has been fitted. Shuttering (which is a structure generally made of timber in which liquid concrete is placed, compacted, and allowed to harden) is done and a standard concrete truck used to cast the concrete. A 28-day period is required for curing after concrete has been laid. Where access problems exist, concrete may need to be mixed on site. Helicopters may need to be used in exceptional circumstances. During this stage, access or service roads will be used extensively.
15. Tower steelwork is delivered in sections by long trucks and assembled on site. One truck transports one tower section directly from the factory to site. Access roads are clearly marked to ensure that the correct tower is delivered to site.
16. Towers are assembled on site by an assembly team. The steelwork is fitted and assembled on the ground using a crane – thereby necessitating the area to be cleared of vegetation around the tower. At the time of the study it was not clear if a lay-down area would be required and if such a lay-down area would be cleared of any vegetation. These areas will be considered from an environmental perspective during the walk-through survey (refer to point 3). Once the nuts are punched, non corrosive paint is placed on the nuts.
17. Towers are erected with cranes. The size of these cranes starts at 50 tons. It is presumed that a flat area is required from which the crane could be operated. However, it was not clear if vegetation clearance would be required.
18. After towers have been erected, the stringing of the cables begins. Cable drums are placed next to each other and stringing takes place in both directions from the drum stations. Up to 4km can be strung from one station in each direction. The working area at each drum station can be as long as 130m but will be confined to the servitude width. Intensive vehicle movement may take place within this working area. A pilot tractor places the pilot cable on the ground, which is pulled up through the use of a pulley. Conductors must not touch the ground as this will result in damage which will impact on the operation of the line. In mountainous areas, a helicopter can be used for stringing or the pilot rope can be shot across valleys.
19. The line is tensioned from each cable station to ensure minimum ground clearance heights required for the particular power line in question are achieved.
20. Rehabilitation of the construction site (mainly the servitude) is a continuous process. However, final rehabilitation starts after about 100 towers have been strung. The contractor is required to give one year's guarantee on their work, in which time

rehabilitation must be concluded. Each landowner has to sign a release form once their area has been rehabilitated, indicating that they are satisfied that everything has been left as agreed. Quotations are sourced and a proposal prepared to reimburse landowners for damages, if required. The proposal goes through a tender committee at which the payment is approved. All damages, including damages to crops must be paid and also signed off by the landowner.

21. A final inspection is done by Eskom together with the affected landowner to determine whether rehabilitation has taken place to the satisfaction of the landowner.

Some of the initial activities only involve a limited number of specialised people that moves through the servitude. It is only when bush clearance starts that larger numbers of construction workers come onto site. The following teams are active on site:

- **Bush clearance team:** Consisting of between 10–20 people, depending on local conditions (e.g. less people would be needed in the Karoo than in the bushveld). This team could also be involved in erecting gates. If a separate team put up gates, a team size of around 5 people could be expected. The potential for recruiting local labour for these teams is extensive.
- **Foundations team:** Consisting of between 35–45 members per team. More than one team could be used to accelerate construction. Although there is an opportunity for local labour to be recruited in this team, it is limited to unskilled activities.
- **Assembly team:** Consisting of between 10–25 people per team. More than one team could be used to accelerate construction. Limited potential for recruitment of local labour exists as this task largely requires skilled labour.
- **Erection team:** Size 15 – 20 people per team. No potential for recruitment of local labour as highly skilled teams are required for this task.
- **Stringing team:** Consisting of approximately 120 people. Limited potential for recruiting local labour as this task largely requires skilled labour.
- **Rehabilitation team:** Consisting of between 5–15 people, depending on site conditions. These teams could be involved in different activities. Limited potential for recruiting local labour as this task largely requires skilled labour.

### 3. SOCIAL CHANGE PROCESSES AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In order to address the overall objective of this study, it was necessary to compile a detailed description of the study area. The first subsection below provides a profile of the social processes in terms of demographical, geographical, economical, institutional and empowerment, and socio-cultural baseline conditions in the study area. Each subsection concludes with a table summarising how the project is likely to change these baseline profiles, and a detailed assessment of the related impacts that could be expected as a result of the project.

A change process can be defined as change that takes place within the receiving environment as a result of a direct or indirect intervention. A potential impact follows as a result of the change process. However, a change process can only result in an impact once it is experienced as such by an individual/community on a physical and/or cognitive level.

#### 3.1 Baseline Demographic Profile

Demographic processes relate to the number of people and composition of a community and include an overview of the population size and the educational profile of the affected communities.

Unless otherwise stated, the baseline social profile was compiled based on data obtained from Census 2001 and the Community Survey (CS) 2007. It is important for readers to note that CS data does not replace Census data, but that the CS is merely an attempt to adjust measurements to a best estimate. In this regard, Statistics South Africa has stated the following: *“Any adjustment done [in CS 2007] has maintained the profiling of the community in terms of the people and households while compensating and correcting the undercounted bias by different projections on national, provincial and municipalities.”*<sup>4</sup>

Therefore, please bear in mind that the following data should only be viewed as indicative of the broad trends within the area and not as a rigid representation of the area.

##### 3.1.1 Population

The ELM covers an area of approximately 2 678km<sup>2</sup> and in 2007 had a total population of 435 217 people. Compared to the population size of 2001, when the population stood at approximately 276 413 people, this means that the population size within the ELM increased at an average rate of 26 467 people per annum or a total of 158 804 over the 6-year period between 2001 and 2007. This population increase also brought about a change in the

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<sup>4</sup> Statistics South Africa: Community Survey 2007: Key Municipal Data: ix.

population density in the area from 103.2 persons per km<sup>2</sup> in 2001 to 162.5 persons per km<sup>2</sup> in 2007.

In comparison, the GMLM covers an area of approximately 2 954.6km<sup>2</sup> and in 2007 had a total population of 268 947 people. Compared to the population size of 2001, when the population stood at approximately 221 739 people, this means that the population within the GMLM grew at an average rate of 7 868 people per annum or a total of 47 208 over the 6-year period between 2001 and 2007. This population growth also brought about a change in the population density in the area from 75.0 persons per km<sup>2</sup> in 2001 to 91.0 persons per km<sup>2</sup> in 2007.

Although the population density within both areas increased significantly, such population densities are still regarded as fairly low when compared to an urban area such as Johannesburg where the population density in 2007 stood at approximately 2 364 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

When considering the households within these areas, the following definition was applied: *“One or more people occupying a housing unit as their usual place of residence. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated people who share living arrangements”*.<sup>5</sup>

In 2001, the ELM had a total of 74 917 households which increased steadily at a rate of 5 113 households per annum to a total of 105 592 households in 2007. It seems that in both areas the number of households developed more or less on par with the population growth rate so that there has been an average increase of between 0.1 and 0.4 persons per household over the 6-year period between 2001 (when the average number of persons per household was estimated at 3.7 for the ELM and 3.3 for the GMLM) and 2007 (an average of 4.1 persons per household for the ELM and 3.4 for the GMLM).

The predominant population groups in the both areas remained the same between 2001 and 2007 and are therefore still Black African (85.8% for the ELM and 82.5% for the GMLM), followed by White (12.7% for the ELM and 15.8% for the GMLM). However, the population growth rate amongst the White population group (estimated at 25.1%) within the GMLM is much faster than that of their Black African counterparts (estimated at 16.4%), whereas in the ELM the growth rate amongst the Black African population is faster than that of the White group (which decreased by 3.2% between 2001 and 2007).

The same sort of phenomenon can be found amongst the gender distribution in the study area. In the GMLM in 2001 there was an almost equal split between the male and female ratio (with males dominating slightly at 50.3% in the GMLM and at 50.6% for the ELM). The gender ratio in the GMLM has since been far surpassed by the females so that in 2007

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<sup>5</sup> [irhr.ua.edu/blackbelt/glossary.html](http://irhr.ua.edu/blackbelt/glossary.html)

females dominated at 53.5%. This is due to the fact that the male growth rate in the area is at 2.6% per annum; whereas the female growth rate is almost double that at 4.6% per annum. A declining male population might also be ascribed to the migrant labour patterns in South Africa where the male moves to a different area in search of work in order to support his family. The reverse was true for the ELM, where the male population kept increasing so that in 2007, 51.1% of the total population was male. This might also be ascribed to the migrant labour patterns which might have resulted in an influx of males from GMLM to the ELM in search of employment. This scenario is however unlikely in view of the fact that most of the major industries (notably Sasol and other major mining houses) are located in the GMLM and not the ELM.

More than two thirds (approximately 70%) of the total population of the study fall within the working age category, which is defined by Statistics South Africa as the ages between 15 and 64.

Table 2 below provides an overview of the population demographics of the study area in relation to South Africa as a whole, the province and the district. From this table it is evident that there are more females than males in the study area, which, as mentioned above, might be ascribed to the migrant labour patterns in South Africa where the male moves to a different area in search of work. If this is the case, it can very well be assumed that these males are employed elsewhere and would therefore not be seeking work at the proposed project. It is therefore necessary to take cognisance of the fact that the majority of work seekers might be female.

**Table 2: Summary of Population Characteristics**

	South Africa	MP	NDM	ELM		GSDM	GMLM	
	2007			2001	2007	2007	2001	2007
Area size (km <sup>2</sup> )	1 219 912	79 511.5	16 892.6	2 678		31 845.9	2 954.6	
Total population	48 502 063	3 643 435	1 226 498	276 413	435 217	890 699	221 739	268 947
				Average decrease of 26 467 persons per annum			Average increase of 7 868 persons per annum	
Population density (people per km <sup>2</sup> )	39.8	45.8	72.6	103.2	162.5	28.0	75.0	91.0
				Average increase of 9.9 persons per km <sup>2</sup> per annum			Average increase of 2.7 persons per km <sup>2</sup> per annum	
Total households	12 500 610	940 403	305 566	74 917	105 592	247 518	67 622	79 192
				Average increase of 5 113 households per annum			Average increase of 1 928 households per annum	
Avg. persons per household	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.3	3.4
Predominant Population Groups	Black African (79.5%) <sup>4</sup>	Black African (92.0%) White (6.8%)	Black African (90.9%) White (7.8%)	Black African (82.2%) White (15.9%)	Black African (85.8%) White (12.7%)	Black African (89.5%) White (9.1%)	Black African (83.6%) White (14.4%)	Black African (82.5%) White (15.8%)
				Average increase of 24 381 Black Africans p.a., with an equal increase of 3.6% proportion of total population.			Average increase of 6 076 Black Africans p.a., but decrease by 1.1% proportion of total population.	

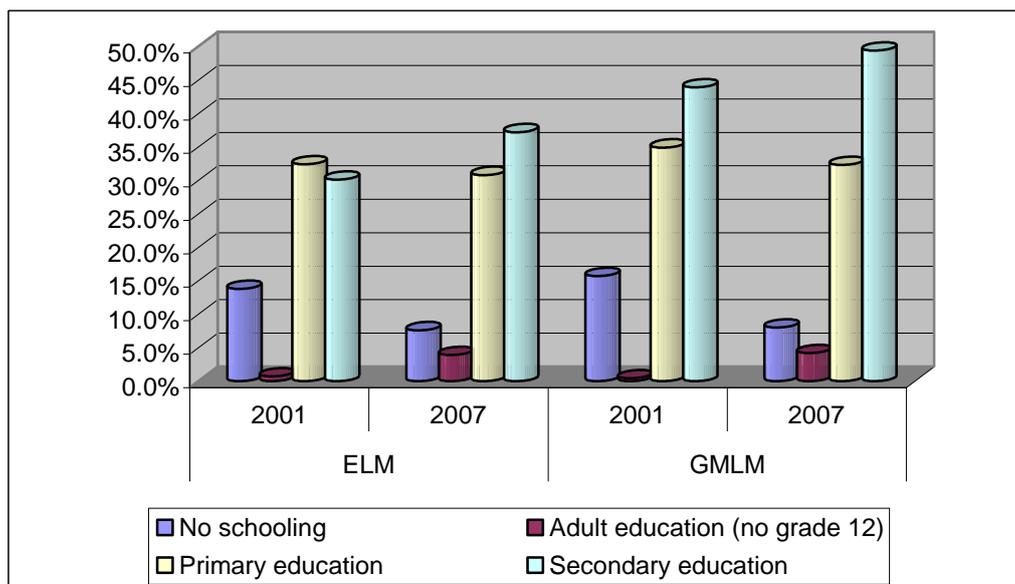
	South Africa	MP	NDM	ELM		GSDM	GMLM	
	2007			2001	2007	2007	2001	2007
				Average decrease of 1 866 Whites p.a., with an equal decrease of 3.2% proportion of total population.			Average increase of 1 782 Whites p.a., and increase by 1.4% proportion of total population.	
Predominant Gender	Female (50.8%) <sup>6</sup>	Female (51.4%)	Female (50.1%)	Male (50.6%)	Male (51.5%)	Female (51.0%)	Male (50.3%)	Female (53.5%)
				Male population growing faster than female population.			Female population growing faster at 4.6% p.a. against male counterparts' growth of 2.6% p.a.	
Predominant Age Group	Working age (% unknown)	Working age (62.0%)	Working age (64.3%)	Working age (68.8%)	Working age (69.1%)	Working age (62.4%)	Working age (68.1%)	Working age (70.0%)
				Working age population increased by an average of 18 409 persons p.a., and proportionally increased by 0.05% p.a.			Working age population increased by an average of 6 200 persons p.a.	

<sup>6</sup> Census 2001 data (2007 data not readily available)

### 3.1.2 Education

An overview of the educational profile for the study area on local municipal level is provided in Figure 4. Overall it would appear as if the area is characterised by a semi-skilled to skilled population, which is reflected in the fact that, in 2007, only a small minority (7.6% for the ELM and 8.0% for the GMLM) of the population has had no form of formal education.

**Figure 4:** Comparative educational profile (Grouped) for the Study Area



When considering the educational levels reported for the total population of the study area between 2001 and 2007, the number of people who attended and/or completed a primary level education, decreased in both areas as reflected in figure 4 above. On the upside, the number of people who have had no schooling also decreased, while at the same time the number of people who completed some form of secondary education increased by between 5.5% and 7.1%.

The number of people who obtained a higher (post-Grade 12) qualification also increased by between 0.5% and 0.9%. The increase in the secondary and tertiary educational levels could be as a result of a need to get out of the poverty cycle, realising that some form of education might be beneficial.

One of the driving forces behind social change is educational attainment, which in turn is linked to poverty levels as there appears to be a correlation between the level of educational attainment and income levels. People with higher educational levels tend to be economically better off, and therefore contribute more to the reduction of the unemployment rate. Educational attainment is also linked to poverty in the sense that funds are required to further studies, therefore people living in less favourable economic conditions tend to be unable to further their education, which in turn holds them in a downward poverty spiral.

## 3.2 Demographic Change Processes and Resultants Impacts

It is expected that the construction and operation of the proposed transmission power lines will lead to a change in the number and composition of the population within the affected areas, which in turn may impact on health, safety and community cohesion (these impacts are discussed in more detail in the socio-cultural section).

### 3.2.1 Expected Impacts

Table 3 below provides an overview of the expected change process to occur as well as the expected impacts that might occur as a result of these change processes taking place.

**Table 3:** Expected Demographic Change Processes

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE PROCESSES				
Expected Change Process		Yes	No	Expected Impact
<b>Population change</b>	Will the development lead to an increase in numbers of a certain section of the population, e.g. migratory workers?	X		Influx of construction workers that will lead to a change in the number and composition of the local community, and impact on economy, health, safety and social well-being.
<b>In-migration of unemployed work seekers</b>	Will the development intentionally or unintentionally contribute to the in-migration of work seekers into the area?	X		Influx of job seekers that will lead to a change in the number and composition of the local community, and impact on economy, health, safety and social well-being.
<b>Relocation or displacement of individuals or families</b>	Will the development at this or future stages lead to the relocation of residents?	X		Relocation of households would have an impact on people's way of life and the standard of life that these people have grown accustomed to.

### 3.2.2 Construction & Decommissioning Phases

This sub-section deals with the expected demographic change processes and resultant impacts that can be expected with the introduction of the proposed project to the affected areas. The demographic change processes that can be expected during this phase of the project are as follows:

- Influx of construction workers;
- Influx of job seekers;
- Relocation of households and/or population segments.

These change processes will be discussed separately together with a detailed assessment of the expected impact as a result of the change process taking place. All the demographic change processes during the construction and decommissioning phases, apart from relocation of households and/or population segments, are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives.

- **Influx of Construction Workers**

The impact of the influx of construction/decommissioning workers is mostly applicable to the areas surrounding the construction camps where workers spend evenings and weekends. Contact between the local community and the workers can be expected and conflict could be expected. An estimated total of approximately 245 people from various disciplines will form part of the construction team. As some of these disciplines require unskilled labour, up to a total number of approximately 20 people, it is assumed that this segment of the construction team would be sourced from within the local area, thereby reducing the number of construction workers who enter the area to approximately 225 people.

On a total population of 435 217 people, this means a population increase of approximately 0.05% within the ELM over the construction period, whereas it translates to a population increase of approximately 0.08% on the total population of 268 947 in the GMLM. The influx of construction workers to the area is therefore not expected to cause any significant impacts on the baseline population size. It is however unclear if, and how many, of these construction workers will live in a construction village.

- **Influx of Job Seekers**

Job seekers can be expected in the area, either at the construction village or at the construction site. Although a small number of job seekers could be employed in this way, job seekers mostly hang around the camp for a few days in the hope of securing a job on site. Local individuals could jeopardise their current employment in leaving their workplace in the hope of earning a better income in construction. It is not possible to accurately predict the amount of job seekers that would flood to the area, which could range from a single job seeker to hundreds and thousands of job seekers.

The influx of job seekers into the environment will lead to an increased demand on local services and will not necessarily lead to a boost in the local economy, seeing as these job seekers are mostly unemployed. The influx of job seekers might further lead to conflict with local residents in respect of competition over limited job opportunities.

Apart from situations such as these, the influx of job seekers could also lead to the expansion of informal settlements, which could be close to the servitude area, as these settlers have no resources and therefore aim to settle as close to economic activity as possible. A construction site or process taking place in the area is viewed as an economic

activity as it might offer the opportunity of employment. A job seeker would normally first live in the field while trying to secure employment at the construction site. Later on he/she might grow accustomed to the area (even if they did not secure employment) and then also move their family into the area, which is normally the period in which they would construct a more 'formal' housing structure.

An assessment of these category 1 impacts was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance of each of the identified issues, as per table 3a below.

**Table 3a: Construction & Decommissioning Phases: Demographic Change Processes Category 1 Impact Assessment**

	Significance		Spatial		Duration		Degree of Probability		Degree of Certainty		Risk	Status
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>												
Influx of construction workers	Low	2	Study area	2	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>0.96</b>	<b>Very low</b>	Negative
Influx of job seekers	Moderate	3	Study area	2	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>1.38</b>	<b>Low</b>	Negative
<b>POST MITIGATION</b>												
Influx of construction workers	Very low	1	Study area	2	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>0.78</b>	<b>Very low</b>	Neutral
Influx of job seekers	Low	2	Study area	2	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>0.96</b>	<b>Very low</b>	Negative
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>												
<p><b>Construction Workers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness amongst construction workers about local traditions and practices.</li> <li>• Inform local businesses that construction workers will move into the area to enable local businesses to plan for the extra demand.</li> <li>• Ensure that the local community communicate their expectations of construction workers' behaviour with them.</li> <li>• Construction workers should be clearly identifiable by wearing proper construction uniforms displaying the logo of the construction company. Construction workers could also be issued with identification tags.</li> </ul>						<p><b>Job Seekers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that employment procedures / policy are communicated to local stakeholders, especially community representative organisations and ward councillors.</li> <li>• Have clear rules and regulations for access to the camp / site office to control loitering. Consult with the local SAPS to establish standard operating procedures for the control and/or removal of loiterers at the construction site.</li> <li>• Eskom (or its appointed contractor) should monitor areas where people gather in the field on a regular basis as this is normally the first indication that settlement might take place in the area. These people should be removed in co-operation with the local SAPS to prevent the formation and/or expansion of informal settlements in such an area, especially if it encroaches upon the servitude.</li> </ul>						

- **Relocation of Households and/or Population Segments**

Although, at present, there is no settlement within any of the proposed servitudes, in all cases there are scattered households within very close proximity to the all the proposed alternatives. It is not foreseen that these households would necessarily have to be resettled as it might also be possible to fine-tune the alignment that is preferred in the end to avoid such households. The proximity of these households in relation to the proposed alignments has been outlined in more detail under “sense of place” in section 3.10.3.

It is however; important to note that even if the proposed transmission power line is aligned in such a manner that it does not traverse any inhabited areas, the possibility cannot be ruled out that some areas will not be inhabited by the time construction commences. There have been incidences where households have deliberately settled in an area that is known to be earmarked as a servitude. Such households then claim to have been living in that area for an extended period of time. Such claims are motivated by the fact that they might be able to claim compensation from Eskom for having to be resettled.

Furthermore, the uncontrolled development of informal settlements could lead to a situation where Eskom does not have unrestricted access to their servitudes. In such an instance, Eskom would not be able to reach the transmission power line in the event of either routine maintenance or an emergency (malfunctioning) on the line. This could cause severe delays on maintenance being carried out. People settling within the servitude would also impact on their own health and safety.

As the impact of relocation depends on the level of attachment to a place, which in turn is informed by variables such as age and number of years spent in that particular area, it is believed that if the servitude is inspected for settlement on a regular basis, Eskom would be able to remove people and/or households from the servitude without causing severe negative impacts. The sooner that people are removed from the servitude, the less likely it becomes that they have become attached to the area, as they have only been living there for a short space of time. The impact is therefore not viewed as purely negative due to the fact that Eskom would have unrestricted access to their servitude in case of emergency. The safety of the relocated party would also be enhanced if they are removed from the servitude.

An assessment of this category 2 impact, which is those impacts that are expected to cause significant changes between the proposed alternatives, was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance of the impact per site, as per table 3b below.

**Table 3b: Construction & Decommissioning Phases: Demographic Change Processes Category 2 Impact Assessment: Relocation of Households and/or Population Segment**

	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	High	4	High	4	High	4
<b>Spatial</b>	Study area	2	Study area	2	Study area	2
<b>Duration</b>	Permanent	5	Permanent	5	Permanent	5
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Unlikely	2	Could happen	3	Unlikely	2
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Possible		Possible		Possible	
<b>Risk</b>	1.48	Low	2.22	Moderate	1.48	Low
<b>Status</b>	Negative		Negative		Negative	
<b>POST-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	Moderate	3	Moderate	3	Moderate	3
<b>Spatial</b>	Study area	2	Study area	2	Study area	2
<b>Duration</b>	Permanent	5	Permanent	5	Permanent	5
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Unlikely	2	Could happen	3	Unlikely	2
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Possible		Possible		Possible	
<b>Risk</b>	1.32	Low	1.98	Low	1.32	Low
<b>Status</b>	Negative		Negative		Negative	
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the resettlement and/or displacement of households as far as possible.</li> <li>• If resettlement is unavoidable, residents should be sufficiently compensated and assisted with the relocation process.</li> <li>• A form of compensation should also be granted to individuals who are residing in informal settlements within the servitude.</li> <li>• A formal grievance procedure should be implemented and communicated to landowners to ensure a fair and transparent process.</li> <li>• Eskom (or its appointed contractor) should monitor areas where people gather in the field on a regular basis as this is normally the first indication that settlement might take place in the area. These people should be removed in co-operation with the local SAPS to prevent the formation and/or expansion of informal settlements in such an area, especially if it encroaches upon the servitude.</li> <li>• The servitude should be inspected on a regular basis to determine whether any settlement has taken place, either within the servitude, or encroaching upon the servitude.</li> <li>• Households that encroach upon or settle within the servitude have to be relocated as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Eskom or its appointed contractors should assist these households with the relocation process.</li> <li>• Educate surrounding communities about the dangers of living in the servitude.</li> </ul>						

	Western Alternative	Eastern Alternative	Western Sub-Alternative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A form of signage on the towers should also indicate that it is dangerous.</li> <li>• In some way, a barrier (psychological and/or physical) should indicate that no structures should be built in the servitude. One way of achieving such a barrier is to educate community leaders on the health and safety aspects of the servitude, who then in turn can ensure that settlement does not take place within the servitude.</li> </ul>		
<b>PREFERRED ALIGNMENT</b>			
<b>Western alternative</b> following on the <b>western sub-alternative</b> as fewer households would be affected.			

### 3.2.3 Operation and Maintenance Phase

The size and composition of the maintenance team will depend on the type of maintenance that would be required on the transmission power line. Maintenance on the servitude involves teams who clear the servitude of any vegetation and/or other structures which may impede on the operation of the transmission power line. Prior to servitude maintenance, the servitude is inspected, either by a ground servitude inspection team or by flying over the servitude. Again the size of the maintenance team is dependant on the actual clearing that has to be done. It is however assumed that, because of the fact that bush clearance is viewed as unskilled labour, local residents could be employed on the bush clearance teams.

In any event it is not foreseen that the presence of maintenance teams would lead to the large scale influx of people to the area as maintenance teams are normally small groups. Therefore, no demographic change processes are foreseen during the operation and maintenance phases.

### 3.3 Baseline Geographical Profile

Geographical processes relate to land use patterns and infrastructure in the area. This section therefore describes the land use in the study area from a social perspective, specifically in terms of settlement patterns and land use developments.

Land use is defined as “the way land is developed and used in terms of the types of activities allowed (agriculture, residences, industries, etc.) and the size of buildings and structures permitted. Certain types of pollution problems are often associated with particular land uses, such as sedimentation from construction activities”.<sup>7</sup>

Another definition of land use is as follows: “Patterns of land use arise naturally in a culture through customs and practices, but land use may also be formally regulated by zoning, other laws or private agreements such as restrictive covenants”.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> [www.soil.ncsu.edu/publications/BMPs/glossary.html](http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/publications/BMPs/glossary.html)

<sup>8</sup> [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land\\_use.html](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_use.html)

### **3.3.1 Current Land Use**

The ELM IDP<sup>9</sup> states that the southern parts of the municipal area is known as the “Energy Mecca of South Africa”, which is as a result of rich coal deposits and coal reserves and the presence of a number of power stations. The area is further described as an urban and rural area, which includes large farms and dispersed urban settlements.

According to the GMLM IDP<sup>10</sup>, the main land use in the area is commercial farming followed by coal and gold mining, and then industries, of which the petro-chemical industry is said to be the largest.

A general assessment of the land uses in the study area indicated the following trends:

- Residential;
- Commercial cattle and crop farming;
- Mining; and
- Industries.

The following subsections briefly describe the current land use in the towns and areas in the immediate vicinity and/or in close proximity to the proposed transmission power line corridor alternatives. Unless otherwise stated, the information was adapted from the GMLM Spatial Development Framework (SDF)<sup>11</sup> and the ELM IDP.

#### **3.3.1.1 Emalahleni Local Municipality**

The land use within the ELM has been divided into five main uses, namely business activities, industrial activities, mining areas, electricity and agriculture. These land uses will be discussed briefly.

- **Business Activities**

The eMalahleni Central Business District (CBD) is the primary business centre within the ELM. The area includes offices, retail, general businesses and commercial uses. The most prominent focal point within the ELM is the junction between the N12 and the N4, which the ELM believes offers opportunities for further business and commercial development. This junction offers a highly visible site of approximately 89ha, for which there is a high demand for high tech industrial and office development. Apart from the eMalahleni CBD, business nodes can also be found in areas such as Ga-Nala and Ogies, which has offices, retail and

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<sup>9</sup> Emalahleni Local Municipality IDP 2008/2009

<sup>10</sup> Integrated Development Plan 2007-2011 for the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality

<sup>11</sup> Govan Mbeki Municipality: Spatial Development Framework. June 2006.

general business uses. These two centres mostly serve as business areas to the surrounding farms.

- **Industrial Activities**

The nine industrial areas in the ELM are all mostly centred in and around the town of eMalahleni. These nine areas also constitute the largest concentration of industrial areas in the whole district. The development of these areas is constrained as a result of the presence of undermining, which is viewed by the ELM as a huge constraint as there is a demand for industrial sites within the area.

- **Mining areas**

The central and southern portions of the ELM are characterised as mining areas, with large parts of the area affected by shallow undermining. Also, a number of mines in the area closed down, which had significant environmental impacts in the form of sinkhole formation, subsiding, underground fires and water seepage. Mine closure also gave rise to economic impacts with large scale retrenchments which in turn lead to the closure of mining towns.

- **Electricity**

Eskom developed a number of power generating facilities within the ELM, mainly as a result of the presence of rich coal reserves within the ELM. The presence of these power stations lead to the development and expansion of towns such as Ga-Nala, Thubelihle, and Wilge (which closed down).

- **Agriculture**

The rural areas of the ELM consist mostly of farms and agricultural holdings, characterised by cattle farming and maize farming. Agricultural holdings are mostly located on the periphery of the urban areas.

Figure 5 below provides an overview of the current land use along the **Western alternative**, which mostly traverses agricultural land and follows the alignment of the existing transmission power line.

**Figure 5:** Land use along the western corridor within the ELM



### 3.3.1.2 Govan Mbeki Local Municipality

- **Urban Areas**

Initially the town of **Leandra** was meant to be an agricultural support centre but over the years it grew and developed due to the various mining activities in the area. However, the town lacks economic diversification, which in turn resulted in substantial urban decay, notably in the Central Business District (CBD) and industrial areas within the town. The residential areas of Leandra is characterised by formal housing structures in the form of single dwelling units on stands ranging between 1200m<sup>2</sup> and 3000m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, there are also still a fairly large number of vacant stands, some of which are serviced whilst others are not. Industrial and commercial land uses are located to the south of Leslie, south of the railway line and east of the R50. Again there are a number of vacant stands within the industrial and commercial area. Although some business can also be found in the Leslie industrial area, most businesses are located within the CBD. As is the case with the rest of the town, the CBD is also in a state of urban decay. Community facilities in the area include churches, a mosque, a clinic, a community hall, a police station and two primary schools, of which the one is vacant.

**Secunda** is the biggest urban centre within the GMLM. The town was established in 1975 around the Sasol II and III developments as a result of the urgent need to house Sasol employees. The development and expansion of Secunda also lead to the revitalisation of some of the more dormant town in the area, such as Trichardt. Today Secunda is the most diversified economic hub of the total district. As could be expected, the majority of the residential area consists of formal single dwelling housing structures, located on stands of approximately 900m<sup>2</sup> in size. Again there are a substantial number of vacant residential stands throughout the town. Apart from Sasol who is located to the south of town, Secunda

also has two other industrial and commercial areas, namely a newly established light industrial/commercial area north of the CBD, and an industrial area on the north-eastern edge of town that is partially undeveloped. The vast majority of businesses and retail centres are situated in the CBD, where some parts are in need of upgrading. In addition to the seven shopping centres scattered throughout the town, other community facilities include a number of churches, schools (5 primary and 3 secondary), a private hospital and municipal clinic, a police station, and a magistrate's court.

**Trichardt** is situated east of and adjacent to Secunda. These two towns are only separated by a railway line and therefore appear to be a single town as opposed to two separate towns. The town was initially established as a farming support centre during the early 1900s. Trichardt threatened to become a "ghost town" until SASOL developed its large plants in adjacent Secunda, which led to development and diversification albeit on a smaller scale as Secunda. As a result of the presence of SASOL's hostels in Trichardt, the town has quite a high proportion of multiple residential units. Apart from these residential units, single residential components of approximately 1 300m<sup>2</sup> can also be found in the town. There are no informal settlements in Trichardt. Trichardt has no clearly defined industrial area. Light industrial and commercial areas are situated to the north-western part of town with no clear distinction between these areas and the adjacent residential areas. The businesses are mostly concentrated along the N17, which includes mostly motor trade and associated businesses.

**eMbalenhle** is the largest residential urban settlement area in the GMLM and was established in 1978 to accommodate members of SASOL's workforce. In this regard, SASOL's further expansion and development also led to the development and growth of eMbalenhle. The main land use in eMbalenhle is residential in nature and therefore this town relies heavily on Secunda to meet its physical and economical needs. Although the town is well serviced, it is lagging behind economically.

- **Agriculture**

Despite the fact that large parts of the GMLM area are not suitable for arable agriculture, most of the rural areas within the GMLM are taken up by commercial farming activities. These agricultural activities are mostly centred on dry land crop cultivation (e.g. maize, sunflowers and beans), whereas the grasslands are used as grazing fields. Scattered chicken farms can also be found in the area. Notable improvements have been done on some of the commercial farms, but such improvements mostly relate to the farmsteads, e.g. the farmhouse, farm stores and labourers' complexes.

Figure 6 below provides an overview of the current land use along the **Western alternative**, which mostly traverses agricultural land and follows the alignment of the existing transmission power line.

**Figure 6:** Land use along the western corridor within the GMLM (just north of the N17).



- **Mining**

Two types of mining occur within the GMLM, namely coal and gold mining. According to the GMLM SDF, almost the whole municipal area is underlain with coal reserves. Although Sasol is the major role player in the coal mining sector, other mining title holders include Anglo, Ingwe, Xstrata, Eyesiswe and Tesa. A total of 13 shafts are located in the central part of the GMLM, together with an extensive network of surface conveyor belts. Despite the fact that it seems as if the coal seams are generally shallow, opencast mining only takes place at Syferfontein to the north of Secunda. The level at which these coal seams are found therefore sterilizes large parts of the GMLM for surface development.

Harmony Gold is the only gold mining company in the GMLM and mostly operates in the vicinity of Evander and eMbalenhle, which lies to the west of Secunda. As opposed to the shallow coal seams, the gold reefs are generally deep below the surface and therefore gold mining operations do not pose a significant development constraint. However, despite the fact that these operations do not sterilise the land as is the case with the coal mining operations, the surface infrastructure associated with these gold mining operations does sterilise large parcels of land. Infrastructure associated with gold mining operations include rock dumps, mine dumps and tailings facilities, of which the tailings facilities in particular pose the biggest constraints to development as a result of the size of such facilities, the associated dust pollution and the potential impact on downstream areas.

- **Future Land Use**

The proposed Evander South gold mine is located to the west of the R50 on the farms Rietkuil and Wildebeestspruit. The area is located along the south-western extent of the Evander Goldfields in the Mpumalanga Province, approximately 15km south-southeast of Leandra and 27km west of Secunda.

Harmony Gold Mining (Pty) Ltd. undertook a pre-feasibility assessment in 2006/07 to determine the viability of developing the proposed Evander South gold mine. The results of the pre-feasibility study indicated the need for further drilling to clarify the extent of the ore body, as well as to improve the geological and resource modelling. If the feasibility of the proposed new mine is proved by means of this additional drilling, a full EIA process will be undertaken.

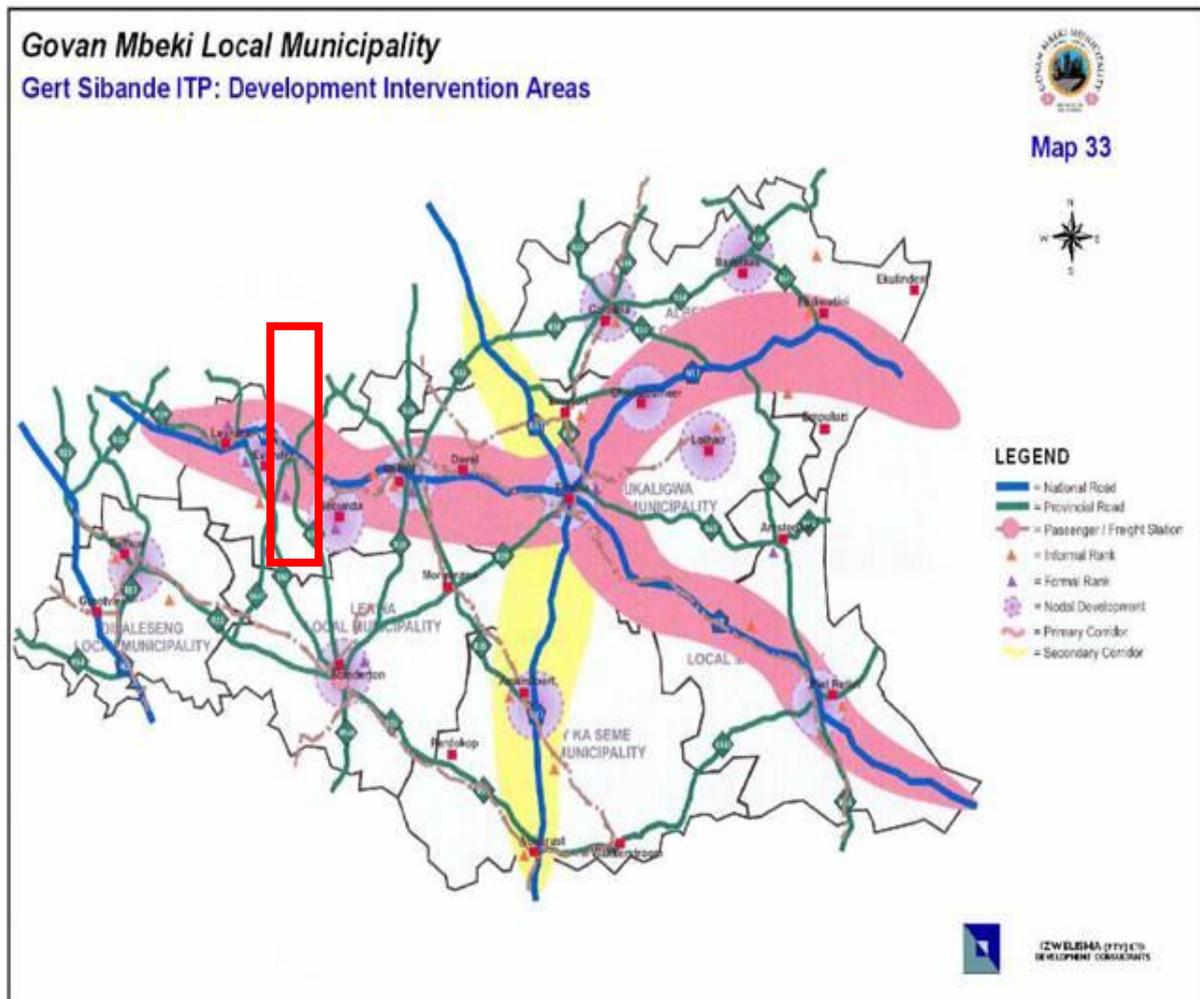
The proposed operation plans to make use of conventional stoping, which will be supported by a trackless infrastructure (meaning that trucks will collect the ore from box holes and tip this onto truck conveyors on the decline system). The footwall infrastructure will be mechanised and there is also an option to mechanise the stoping.

The ore will be milled on site and then transported to the existing metallurgical plant at Kinross via the use of an underground pipeline that will be approximately 16km in length. It is believed that the use of an underground pipeline would reduce the surface infrastructure required at the proposed mine, while at the same time making optimal use of existing infrastructure and resources.

- **Municipal-wide Development Framework**

The GMLM has included a municipal-wide development framework in their SDF with the aim to integrate development principles and objectives. As part of this municipal-wide development framework, Secunda has been identified as a primary urban node, supported by Bethal and Leandra. The N17 has furthermore been earmarked as a primary high-order mobility corridor. Secunda and Evander have been identified as nodal development areas (refer to Figure 7 below, study area marked in red).

**Figure 7: Development Intervention Areas within the GMLM**



Source: Govan Mbeki Local Municipality SDF 2006

Areas such as Secunda, Evander and parts of Kinross are viewed as fully serviced urban areas and therefore the emphasis in these towns are placed on the maintenance of infrastructure, social services and densification. One such densification project entails a mixed use township development in the Secunda area (an area of approximately 28km<sup>2</sup> between Secunda and Evander), which will consist of commercial, shopping, social, housing and other land uses. This project has been initiated by Harmony Gold and approved by the GMLM. This project forms part of the GMLM’s urban infill zone where they foresee that most developments in the area would be of a residential nature, but that other development such as industrial and commercial developments would also have to be promoted to aid the creation of employment opportunities.

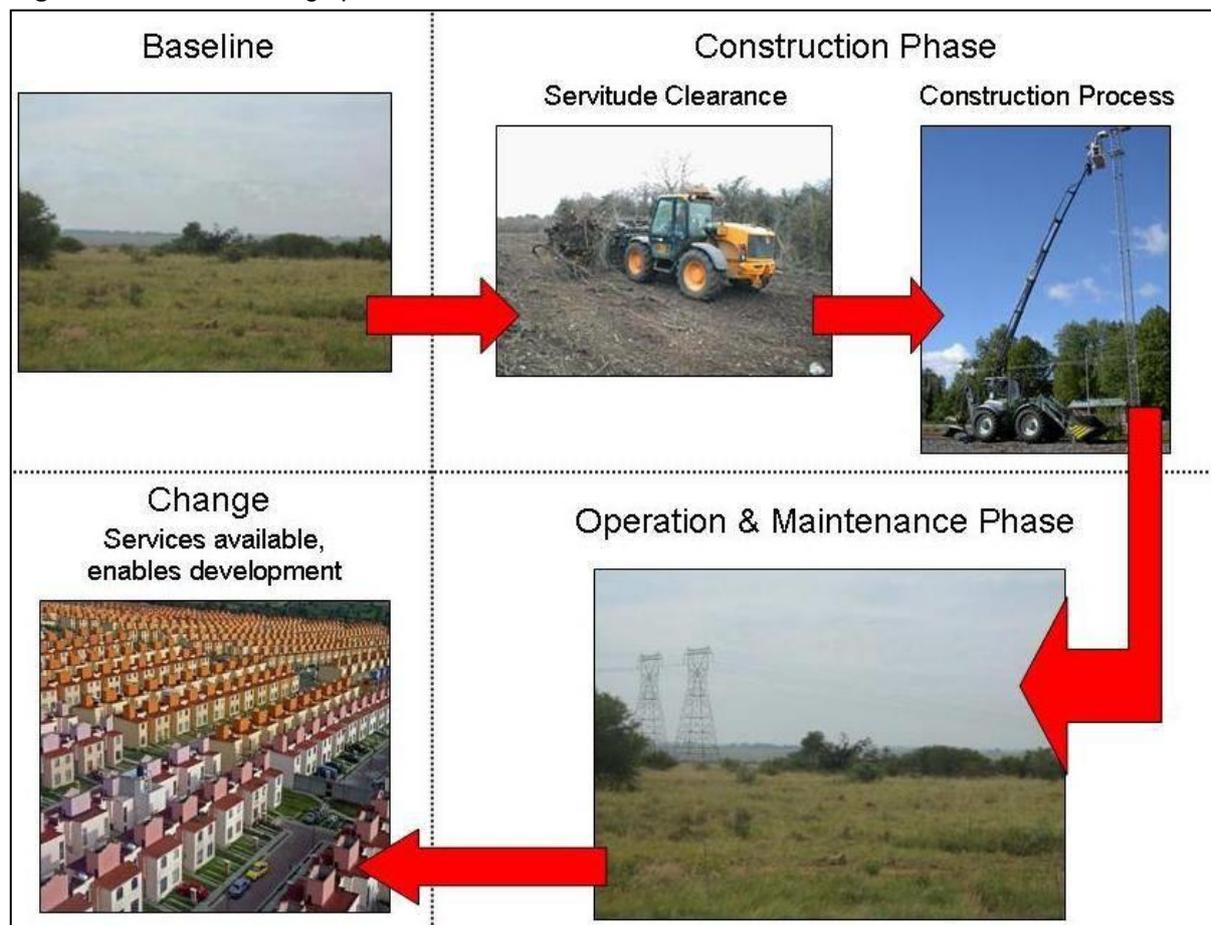
Other areas that have been identified for urban development is mostly situated to the north of Secunda. However, development in this area would only be allowed once the urban infill zone has been developed and therefore urban expansion into this area is not foreseen within the short to medium term (or within the next 10 years).

### 3.4 Expected Geographical Change Processes

Geographical change processes refer changes in land use, whether it is on a temporary or permanent basis. The construction and operation of a transmission power line will lead to a change in the land use, mostly as a result of the surface infrastructure. The assessment of a land use change process from a social perspective takes into account how the proposed transmission power lines might affect the behaviour and/or lives of landowners and/or land users in the area.

In light of the above, potential geographical impacts from a social perspective are considered within the context of change processes in the use of the land. An example of how the presence of a transmission power line could lead to land use changes is illustrated in figure 8.

**Figure 8:** Land use change processes



Photos for illustration purposes only

#### 3.4.1 Expected Impacts

Table 4 below provides an overview of the expected change process as well as the expected impacts that might occur as a result of the change process taking place.

**Table 4: Geographical Change Processes**

GEOGRAPHICAL CHANGE PROCESSES				
Expected Change Process		Yes	No	Expected Impact
<b>Access to environmental resources</b>	Will the development impact on people's access to environmental resources, such as water, wood, medicinal plants etc?		X	No impact foreseen.
<b>Change in access to resources that sustain livelihoods</b>	Will the development impact on people's (legal or illegal, formal or informal) access to environmental resources that help to sustain their livelihoods, e.g. grazing land for their cattle; wood for heat/cooking/selling, etc.?	X		Temporary loss of cultivated and grazing land due to construction activities, leads to a decreased area for cultivation and grazing, resulting in an economic impact. Also permanent loss of cultivated and grazing land through the land acquisition process.
<b>Land acquisition and disposal, including availability of land</b>	Will the development contribute to or directly impact on the ability of local residents to keep or acquire property/land?	X		Permanent servitude of 55m (110m for parallel lines) will restrict access to that portion of land, although certain land uses will still be permitted within the servitude.
	Will the development set a precedent for change in land use in the area?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Are there any potential land-claims for the area?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will the development affect the claims process?	-	-	Not applicable.

### **3.4.2 Construction & Decommissioning Phases**

This sub-section deals with the expected geographical change processes and resultant impacts that can be expected with the introduction of the proposed project to the affected areas. The geographical change processes that can be expected during this phase of the project relate to the following land uses:

- Cultivated land; and
- Grazing land.

These change processes will be discussed separately together with a detailed assessment of the expected impact as a result of the change process taking place. The change processes during the construction and decommissioning phases are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, as all of the corridor alternatives pass through agricultural land.

- **Cultivated land**

A temporary loss of cultivated land can be expected during the construction of the proposed Transmission power line due to the physical space needed for these construction activities. This would mean that a farmer would not have access to a part of his/her land for the cultivation and/or harvesting of crops for the duration of the construction activities, which in turn would result in a temporary loss of income for that portion of the land. Where crops are cleared for the servitude, this would have an economic impact on the farmer as a result of a reduced harvest. However, normally the loss of cultivated land is considered during the negotiation process and included in the compensation amount payable to the landowner.

- **Grazing land**

As is the case with cultivated land, a temporary loss of grazing land can also be expected during the construction phase due to the physical space needed for the construction activities. This would mean that a farmer would not have access to a part of his/her grazing land for the duration of the construction activities, which might have planning and economic implications.

An assessment of these category 1 impacts was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance of each of the identified issues, as per table 4a below.

**Table 4a: Construction & Decommissioning Phases: Geographical Change Processes Category 1 Impact Assessment**

	Significance		Spatial		Duration		Degree of Probability		Degree of Certainty		Risk	Status
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>												
Temporary loss of cultivated land	High	4	Study area	2	Short term	2	Very likely	4	Probable	2.16	Moderate	Negative
Temporary loss of grazing land	Moderate	3	Study area	2	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Probable	1.38	Low	Negative
<b>POST MITIGATION</b>												
Temporary loss of cultivated land	Moderate	3	Study area	2	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Probable	1.38	Low	Negative
Temporary loss of grazing land	Low	2	Study area	2	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Probable	1.2	Low	Negative to Neutral
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>												
<p><b>Cultivated Land:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compensation for the temporary loss of cultivated land should be included in the negotiation process with the landowner.</li> <li>• Initial servitude clearing on the farmland should take place after the harvesting season, as far as possible. Landowners should be compensated for the loss of cultivated land.</li> <li>• The area should be rehabilitated upon completion of the construction activities to ensure that the land is returned in the same condition as prior to the construction activities.</li> </ul>						<p><b>Grazing Land:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation measures should be implemented to avoid any negative impact on animals (e.g. fencing off the construction area).</li> <li>• Eskom or its appointed contractor(s) should assist with the temporary relocation of livestock during construction, as well as relocating cattle back to their original grazing area once construction in an area is completed.</li> <li>• Grazing areas should be rehabilitated to their original grazing conditions to ensure that cattle can continue to graze in the area once they are returned to that area.</li> <li>• Where the area cannot be rehabilitated to its original condition within a reasonable period of time, Eskom or its appointed contractor(s) should provide funding to obtain alternative food sources to the farmer for the time period required for natural rehabilitation to occur within the grazing area.</li> </ul>						

### **3.4.3 Operation & Maintenance Phase**

The geographical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during this phase of the project are as follows:

- Grazing land;
- Spatial development (future land use); and
- Presence of the transmission power line.

In addition, the following change process that would result in a Category 2 impact, which are those impacts that are expected to cause significant changes between the proposed alternatives, are as follows:

- Cultivated land (including irrigation); and
- Mining.

These change processes will be discussed separately together with a detailed assessment of the expected impact as a result of the change processes taking place.

- **Grazing land**

The presence of towers and Transmission power lines on grazing land pose fewer problems, as cattle can move around towers and therefore less land is lost. The portion of land that was used for construction activities is handed back to the landowner upon completion of these activities. Cattle can move freely under Transmission power lines and around towers to graze. The permanent loss of grazing land is therefore not regarded as significant.

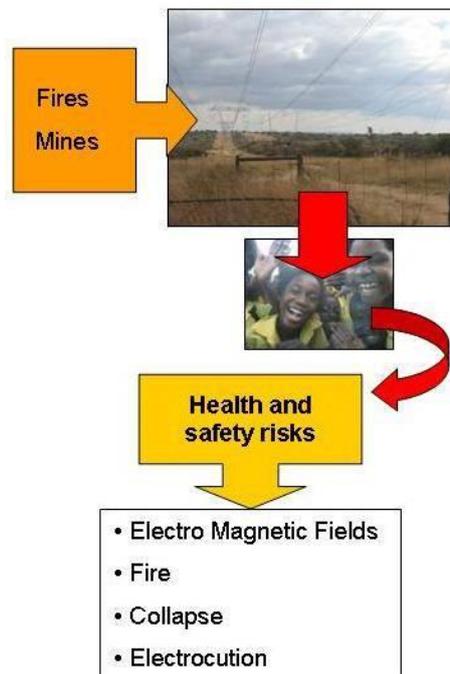
- **Spatial development (future land use)**

Transmission power lines may impact on the development patterns in an area, because structures are not allowed within the servitude. Once a transmission power line is operational, development may occur towards and into the servitude because of normal growth, merging of villages/developments, lack of alternative space, municipal development plans or job expectations because of a project (such as the construction of a transmission power line).

This would impact on the planning process as development plans would have to be revised to accommodate the presence of a Transmission power line, which would have an economic impact on the municipality. The revision of development plans would also delay developments.

- **Presence of the Transmission power line**

The main social concerns which arise when considering the presence of a transmission power line close to human settlement and potential settlement in the servitude are health and safety aspects as illustrated in the diagram that follows. The intention is that the servitude mitigates these potential health and safety related impacts. Risks are related to Electro and Magnetic Fields (EMF), electrocution, fire and collapse. A line could cause fatal/traumatic accidents because of collapse of a tower and/or lines because of mechanical failure, fire and mining activities. Fire can be caused by of electrical malfunction or human error.



Utilities in South Africa involved in the generation and distribution of electrical energy, are bound by the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act [63] to provide such services in a safe manner. There are currently no regulations (under the Hazardous Substances Act) in terms of exposure to power frequency EMF in South Africa and the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines are used for assessing human exposure to these fields. The guidelines for electric and magnetic field exposure set by the ICNIRP, an organisation linked to the World Health Organisation (WHO), receive world-wide support (Pretorius 2006). To manage the risks, the line runs in a servitude in which buildings, and crops higher than 2-4 meters are not allowed (depending on voltage of the line).

The results of a study commissioned by ESKOM Holdings Limited (Pretorius 2006) on the possible health effects of EMF noted the following:

- \* The main focus of research has been on a possible association between long term exposure to magnetic fields and childhood leukaemia.
- \* Based on the epidemiological findings, the risk of EMF being a health hazard is small.
- \* Based on current understanding of the topic, EMF is regarded a possible but not proven cause of cancer.
- \* The suggestion for this health outcome stems mainly from a fairly consistent pattern of the increased but small risk observed from some epidemiological studies. This finding has not been confirmed by (notably all) controlled laboratory studies.
- \* No evidence of a causal relationship between magnetic field exposure and childhood leukaemia has been found and no dose-response relationship has been shown to exist between EMF exposure and biological effects.
- \* A possible explanation for the epidemiological findings may be confounding (a factor other than EMF) or bias (subjects studied are not representative of the target population for which conclusions are drawn) which render the data inconclusive and prevent resolution of the inconsistencies in the epidemiologic data.
- \* In general, studies of animal reproductive performance, behaviour, milk production, meat production, health and navigation have found minimal or no effects of EMF. The literature published to date has shown little evidence of adverse effects of EMF from overhead power lines on farm animals and wildlife.

It was concluded that electric and magnetic fields with levels typical of a power line environment, complying with the requirements for proper servitude management as prescribed by the electric utility, are unlikely to affect plants in terms of growth, germination and crop production.

Considering electrocution, transmission lines could pose a safety risk. Induced charges can build up on fence wires mounted on wood posts near power lines.<sup>12</sup> This phenomenon is generally restricted to higher voltage lines (200 kV or greater). The magnitude of the build-up depends on a variety of factors:

- \* The size of the power line;
- \* The length of fence paralleling the line;
- \* The distance between the line and the fence;
- \* The amount of moisture in the fence posts and the ground; and

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<sup>12</sup> [www.greatriverenergy.com/community/power\\_line\\_safety.html](http://www.greatriverenergy.com/community/power_line_safety.html)

\* The presence of grounding devices such as metal fence posts or weeds growing next to the fence.

An assessment of these category 1 impacts was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance of each of the identified issues, as per table 4b below.

**Table 4b: Operation & Maintenance Phase: Geographical Change Processes Category 1 Impact Assessment**

	Significance	Spatial		Duration		Degree of Probability		Degree of Certainty		Risk	Status	
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>												
Permanent loss of grazing land	Low	2	Isolated	1	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>0.6</b>	<b>Very low</b>	Negative to Neutral
Spatial development (future land use)	High	4	Isolated	1	Long term	4	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>1.8</b>	<b>Low</b>	Negative
Presence of the transmission power line	Moderate	3	Study area	2	Long term	4	Very likely	4	Possible	<b>2.4</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	Negative
<b>POST MITIGATION</b>												
Permanent loss of grazing land	Very low	1	Isolated	1	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>0.6</b>	<b>Very low</b>	Neutral
Spatial development (future land use)	Moderate	3	Isolated	1	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>0.78</b>	<b>Very low</b>	Negative
Presence of the transmission power line	Low	2	Study area	2	Long term	4	Could happen	3	Possible	<b>1.62</b>	<b>Low</b>	Negative to Neutral
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>												
<b>Grazing land:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible, towers should be located on the boundary of the farmland to lessen the loss of grazing land.</li> </ul>			<b>Spatial development:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route alignment should avoid both existing and planned settlements, where possible.</li> <li>Route alignment should take cognisance of local development plans.</li> </ul>				<b>Presence of the transmission power line:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education local residents on the real and perceived dangers of living close to a Transmission power line.</li> <li>Maintenance of the servitude in terms of restrictions associated with residences within this area.</li> </ul>					

- **Cultivated land (including irrigation)**

Although it is still possible to cultivate land around towers, the presence of a tower does complicate the cultivation process which in some instances could lead to a loss of available land for cultivation.

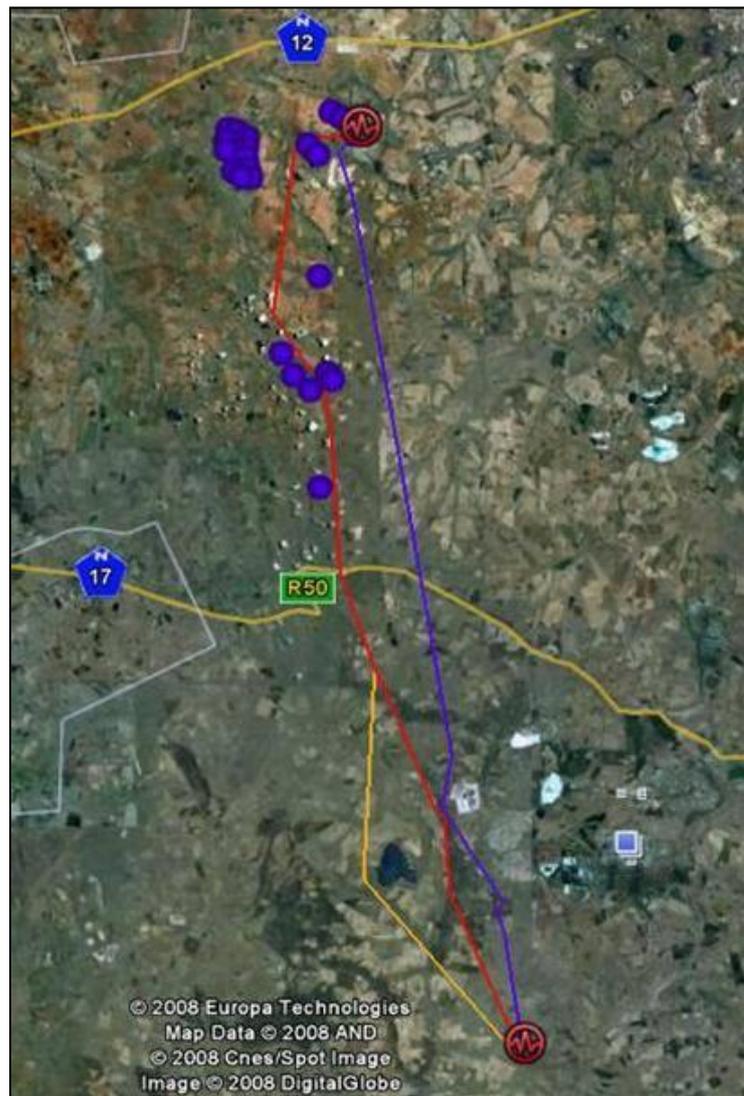
The presence of a Transmission power line complicates crop spraying by aeroplane and in some instances makes crop spraying from the air impossible due to the fact that the Transmission power lines are in the way.

Furthermore, Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) seems to interfere with Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment and other advanced electronic equipment that is used when ploughing. It has also been reported that Transmission power lines or the resultant EMF interferes with two-way radio systems when these are used in the vicinity of a power line.

In terms of crop irrigation, it is preferable that 400kV lines do not cross centre pivots, because of the proximity of the water to the Transmission power line. Also, the towers might interfere with sub surface irrigation pipes, and the space needed for the centre pivot. Centre pivots are mostly concentrated around the western alignment, with the closest centre pivot located to the south of the western alignment where the corridor exited the Kendal power station. The edge of this irrigated area is approximately 35m south of the southern edge of the western alignment. In all other instances, the centre pivots and irrigated areas are located at a distance of at least 800m or more away from the alignment. Figure 9 below gives an indication of the location of the centre pivots. However, it should be noted that this image is *not to scale* and therefore it might appear that the western alignment crosses through centre pivot areas, which is not the case.

**Figure 9:** Location of centre pivots in relation to the various alignments (not to scale)

**Source:** Google Earth and Site Visit GPS points



An assessment of this category 2 impact was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance the impact per alignment, as per table 4c below.

**Table 4c:** Operation & Maintenance Phase: Geographical Change Processes Category 2 Impact Assessment: Cultivated land (including irrigation)

	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	Moderate	3	Low	2	Low	2
<b>Spatial</b>	Isolated	1	Isolated	1	Isolated	1
<b>Duration</b>	Medium term	3	Medium term	3	Medium term	3

	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Very likely	4	Very likely	4	Very likely	4
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Possible		Possible		Possible	
<b>Risk</b>	1.84	Low	1.6	Low	1.6	Low
<b>Status</b>	Negative		Negative		Negative	
<b>POST-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	Low	2	Very low	1	Very low	1
<b>Spatial</b>	Isolated	1	Isolated	1	Isolated	1
<b>Duration</b>	Medium term	3	Medium term	3	Medium term	3
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Very likely	4	Very likely	4	Very likely	4
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Possible		Possible		Possible	
<b>Risk</b>	1.6	Low	1.04	Low	1.04	Low
<b>Status</b>	Negative to Neutral		Negative to Neutral		Negative to Neutral	
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation should take place between the landowner and Eskom to determine the extent of permanent loss of land for cultivation due to the presence of the tower(s).</li> <li>• Upon agreement between the landowner and Eskom, landowners should be compensated for the permanent loss of portions of the land that is unreachable due to the presence of the tower(s).</li> <li>• Where possible, pylons should be located on the border of the farmland to lessen the potential loss of cultivated land.</li> <li>• Alignment should be done in such a way that it is located a safe distance away from centre pivots.</li> </ul>						
<b>PREFERRED ALIGNMENT</b>						
<p><b>Eastern alignment</b> due to the fact that the western alignment currently could potentially affect more centre pivot irrigation systems than the eastern and western sub-alternative. The western alternative also already carries a servitude, which means that more land would be lost for these farmers.</p>						

- **Mining**

Transmission power lines should avoid mining activities due to the possibility of slumping and underground fires. Also, towers pose a risk to mining activities in the form of towers falling over, with health and safety as well as economic impacts as a result. In turn, the mining activities might also pose a risk to the safety of the Transmission power line; if for example, blasting takes place at the mining operation.

At least 7 existing and 1 proposed mining operations have been identified within the study area, which includes the following operations (depicted in figure 10):

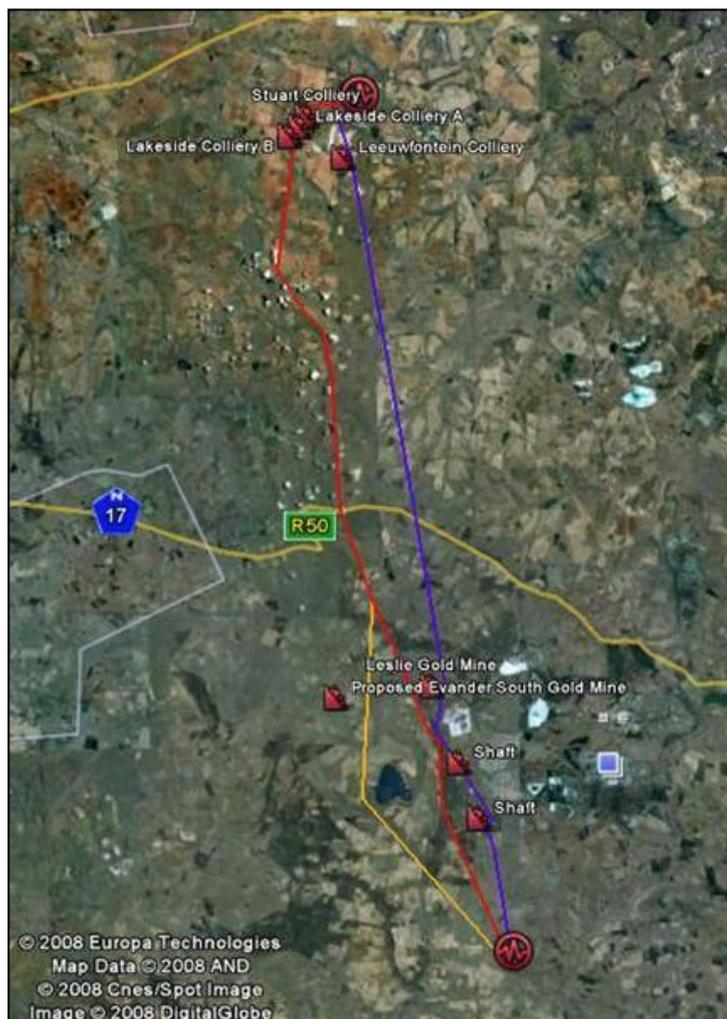
<b>Mining Operation</b>	<b>Type of Operation</b>	<b>Closest Alignment</b>
Stuart Colliery	Open cast colliery	Western alignment, approximately 675m west of colliery
Lakeside Colliery A	Open cast colliery	Western alignment, approximately 250m west of colliery
Lakeside Colliery B	Open cast colliery	Western alignment, approximately 5m east of colliery (existing line crosses eastern point of colliery)
Leeuwfontein Colliery	Open cast colliery	Eastern alignment, approximately 575m east of colliery
Leslie Gold mine	Deep cast underground	Western alignment, approximately 250m west of the mine Eastern alignment, approximately 110m east of the mine
Unknown shaft	Deep cast underground	Western alignment, approximately 1.1km west of the shaft Eastern alignment, approximately 430m east of shaft
Unknown shaft	Deep cast underground	Western alignment, approximately 1.8km west of shaft Eastern alignment, approximately 660m east of shaft.
Proposed Evander South Gold Mine	Deep cast underground (proposed)	Western sub-alternative, approximately 2.1km west of proposed site

Mineral rights holders have rights to the surface area as well as far as they need the surface area to exercise their right to extract minerals. Therefore, any structures on the mineral rights surface areas have to be approved by the holders of these rights.

Blasting takes place on a regular basis at open cast mining areas, as is associated with many of the mines in the area. Therefore mining operations could have a negative impact on the Transmission power line itself due to blasting (i.e. flying rocks that could potentially hit the Transmission power line, leading to breakdowns and an interruption in electricity supply).

**Figure 10:** Location of mining operations in relation to the various alignments (not to scale)

**Source:** Google Earth and Site Visit GPS points



An assessment of this category 2 impact was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance the impact per alignment, as per table 4d below.

**Table 4d:** Operation & Maintenance Phase: Geographical Change Processes Category 2 Impact Assessment: Mining Operations

	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	High	4	Moderate	3	Moderate	3
<b>Spatial</b>	Isolated	1	Isolated	1	Isolated	1
<b>Duration</b>	Medium term	3	Medium term	3	Medium term	3
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Very likely	4	Could happen	3	Could happen	3
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Probable		Possible		Possible	

	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>Risk</b>	2.16	Moderate	1.98	Low	1.98	Low
<b>Status</b>	Negative		Negative		Negative	
<b>POST-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	Moderate	3	Low	2	Low	2
<b>Spatial</b>	Isolated	1	Isolated	1	Isolated	1
<b>Duration</b>	Medium term	3	Medium term	3	Medium term	3
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Very likely	4	Could happen	3	Could happen	3
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Probable		Possible		Possible	
<b>Risk</b>	1.84	Low	1.2	Low	1.2	Low
<b>Status</b>	Negative to Neutral		Negative to Neutral		Negative to Neutral	
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location of the Transmission power line should be determined in consultation with mining companies.</li> <li>• It is preferable to avoid mining operations at these plants altogether.</li> </ul>						
<b>PREFERRED ALIGNMENT</b>						
<p>The <b>eastern alignment</b> in the northern part of the study area as the open cast mining area is located far enough from the alignment. North of the Leslie Gold mine it is preferable to switch over to the <b>western alignment</b> to avoid the Leslie mine and shafts further south in the study area, as well as placing the line further away from the slimes dam.</p>						

### 3.5 Baseline Economic Profile

Economic processes relate to the way in which people make a living and the economic activities within that society. The employment status within a community gives an indication of the economic stability of such a community and also serves as an indicator of such a community's general well-being.

#### 3.5.1 Employment and Economic Sectors

Table 5 below provides an overview of the employment and economic sectors of the study area in relation to South Africa as a whole, the province and the district. From this table it is clear that the study is not only characterised by a predominantly semi-skilled to skilled male population, but also a fairly high employment rate.

Close on three quarters (or 70.1% for the ELM and 72.9% for the GMLM) of the working age population within the study is formally employed. This represents an average increase of 10.6% in the employment rate in the whole study area.

Overall it would therefore appear as if the economy of the study area is growing at a steady pace. As economic industries are growing, more employment opportunities are created thereby further reducing the unemployment rate, creating sources of income which in turn leads to the creation of other opportunities such as further education, a need for housing (which in turn creates further employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly), etc.

**Table 5: Summary of Employment and Economic Sectors**

	South Africa	MP	NDM	ELM		GSDM	GMLM	
	2001 <sup>13</sup>	2007		2001	2007	2007	2001	2007
Employed <sup>14</sup>	33.7%	40.1%	42.1%	40.2%	50.0%	43.4%	40.0%	53.8%
Unemployed <sup>14</sup>	24.0%	20.0%	19.8%	25.0%	21.3%	21.6%	26.5%	20.0%
Not economically active	42.3%	39.9%	38.1%	34.8%	28.7%	35.1%	33.5%	26.2%
Employment rate <sup>15</sup>	58.4%	66.7%	68.0%	61.6%	70.1%	66.8%	60.2%	72.9%
Predominant industry	Community services (29.1%)	Unspecified (29.0%)	Unspecified (26.1%)	Unspecified (73.8%)	Unspecified (32.6%)	Unspecified (48.6%)	Unspecified (74.6%)	Unspecified (41.3%)

<sup>13</sup> Census 2001 data (2007 data not readily available)

<sup>14</sup> This is the percentage employed/unemployed of the entire working age population and should not be read as the unemployment rate, i.e. the *not economically active* population is included in this segment.

<sup>15</sup> In order to reflect a more accurate employment rate, the *not economically active* population has been excluded from this segment.

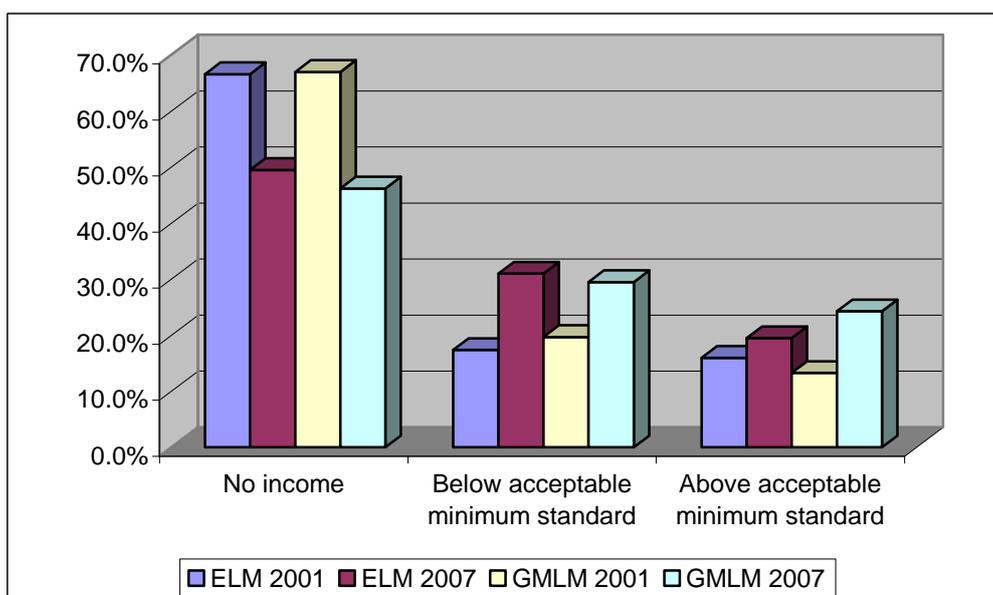
### 3.5.2 Household and Personal Income

In 2001, close on a fifth to a quarter (or one in every 4-5 households) in the study area had no annual household income. A further 33.6% (or 27 621) of the households within the ELM lived below the acceptable minimum standard, which is nationally defined as an annual household income of at least R20 000 per annum. In the GMLM this figure was even higher and was estimated at 40.7% (or 27 528) of the households. In the ELM, close on half (45.6%) lived above the acceptable minimum standard (> R20 000 p.a. per household). This figure dropped again in the GMLM, where only slightly over a third (37.6%) lived above the acceptable minimum standard.

Unfortunately Community Survey 2007 did not include data on household incomes and therefore this report also includes an overview of personal income (which was covered in CS 2007) in an attempt to provide an overview of the baseline economic conditions of individuals in the area.

The graph below (Figure 11) provides a comparative overview of the personal income levels of individuals in the study area between 2001 and 2007. However, it should be noted that the 'no income' category also includes persons under the age of 14 (who is not regarded as people within a working age category and therefore would earn no income) as well as persons from the 'not economically active' population, who are therefore not only unemployed, but who are also not actively seeking employment and therefore also do not earn an income.

**Figure 11:** Overview of Monthly Personal Income (2001 and 2007 compared)



The number of individuals with no personal income decreased by between approximately 17.1% and 20.8% over the 6 year period between 2001 and 2007, bearing in mind that a

large segment of those with no personal income are either under the age of 14 or not economically active. The number of individuals who earn a personal monthly income below the national accepted minimum standard (defined as earning at least R1 600 per month) has increased by between 9.8% (in the GMLM) and 13.6% (in the ELM) between 2001 and 2007. The number of individuals who earn above the acceptable minimum standard increased only marginally in the ELM (3.5%), but by 11% in the GMLM.

From this data, it would appear as if more people entered the economic market, which is linked to the increased employment rate and the broadening of the economic sectors within the study area.

### 3.6 Economical Change Processes and Resultant Impacts

Economical change processes relate to the changes brought about to the employment and general economic profile of the area as a result of the introduction of any development. Employment creates a source of income, which in turn enables the employed individual to access services and a support mechanism for his/her family, thereby enhancing not only the individual's quality of life, but also that of his/her household.

#### 3.6.1 Expected Impacts

Table 6 below provides an overview of the expected change process as well as the expected impacts that might occur as a result of the change process taking place.

**Table 6:** Economical Change Processes

ECONOMIC CHANGE PROCESSES				
Expected Change Process		Yes	No	Expected Impact
Increase in division between rich and poor	Will the development exacerbate class equalities?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will the development deny or enhance economic opportunities for vulnerable communities?	X		Unskilled labour, such as bush clearance, might be sourced from the local area thereby creating job and income opportunities.
Enhanced reinforced economic inequities	Will the development enhance or enforce class inequality?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will the project create different levels of economic opportunity?	X		Depending on the skills levels required, it is believed that different skills levels will have differently structured salary packages,

<b>ECONOMIC CHANGE PROCESSES</b>				
<b>Expected Change Process</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Expected Impact</b>
				thereby creating lower income to higher income opportunities.
	Will the employment opportunities created by the development be sustainable?		X	It is believed that most of the employment opportunities would be restricted to the construction phase.
<b>Change in the commercial / industrial focus of the community</b>	Will the development change the income generating focus of the community?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Do residents have the required skills, life experience and contextual understanding to benefit from the proposed development?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will a change in economic focus associated with the development have repercussions for social cohesion?		X	No impact foreseen.
<b>Change in employment equity of vulnerable groups</b>	Are vulnerable groups able to take advantage of changed employment opportunities associated with the development?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will vulnerable groups have to compete with more appropriately qualified applicants from elsewhere?	X		The required skills might not be available in the local area, which means that the appropriate skills might have to be 'imported', thereby causing a reduction in the job and income opportunities available to local residents.
<b>Change in occupational opportunities</b>	Will the development lead to an increase or decrease in employment opportunities?	X		An increase in employment opportunities is expected.
	Will the development create different levels and types of employment?	X		Employment opportunities will range from unskilled to highly skilled positions.
	What types of skills will the development require?			Skilled workers would be required.
<b>Land acquisition</b>	Will the development lead to a significant increase in the cost of		X	No impact foreseen.

ECONOMIC CHANGE PROCESSES				
Expected Change Process		Yes	No	Expected Impact
and disposal, including cost of land	land/property in the area?			
	Will the development result in an increase of land/property prices?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will the increase in land/property prices exacerbate class and race inequity?		X	No impact foreseen.

### 3.6.2 Construction & Decommissioning Phases

The economical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during this phase of the project are as follows:

- Compensation for servitude;
- Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals; and
- Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals.

These change processes will be discussed separately together with a detailed assessment of the expected impact as a result of the change processes taking place. No category 2 impacts are foreseen during this stage of the project.

- **Compensation for servitude**

Eskom pays a once-off amount to landowners for right of way in the servitude of 55m per 400kV line. Compensation is also paid for the potential loss of livelihood as a result of the servitude. Normally compensation is calculated based on current market related land values, after which Eskom would offer 100% of the value of the land. Should the lines take up more than 50% of the land, Eskom will offer to buy the farm out (personal communication, Eskom). The value of the servitude to be negotiated is calculated by multiplying the area of the servitude required from the land owner with the valuator's unit price. The impact of financial gain should be long-term, because although a once-off amount is paid, this amount is deemed to reflect the lifelong economic effect. However, land owners are increasingly insisting on an annual access fee, which should be revised annually.

The financial gain is seen as a positive impact. The servitude is negotiated within a corridor (of up to 500 m wide) approved by DEAT. Some modification of the proposed line alignment is possible within this approved corridor, but significant modification in the alignment will be subject to additional environmental review. Effective mitigation measures could result in a servitude which satisfies both parties.

However, the final status of the impact is dependant on the negotiation process. A transparent negotiation process that leads to a positive outcome (i.e. both parties are satisfied with the agreement) will have a positive impact. A breakdown in negotiations would lead to a negative impact in terms of a lengthy legal process that can either lead to an alternative route for the Transmission power line or the expropriation of land for the servitude. In this instance the project will be severely delayed. If there is a breakdown in the negotiation process, the potential impact would be high levels of frustration as a result of the litigation process and the resultant delay in construction, as well as the potential for a perceived economic loss for both parties.

It is furthermore difficult to determine the significance post mitigation as Eskom has no control over how a particular landowner would invest the money and therefore a post-mitigation assessment has not been conducted.

- **Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals**

It is believed that only a very limited number of local individuals within the study area could potentially be employed during construction. This is due to the fact that mostly skilled or semi-skilled labour is required during construction. Due to the skills levels required for the actual construction of the Transmission power lines, it is not foreseen that a large number of local labourers will be engaged in the construction phase.

However, if more than one construction team is utilised on various sections of the Transmission power lines, it is believed that more people will benefit from the employment opportunities created through this process, albeit on a shorter term. It is highly recommended that local individuals should be employed for work components that do not require a substantial amount of skill, e.g. foundation excavation, vegetation clearance, erection of gates, cleaning services, and security guards.

In construction projects commissioned by government, employment requirements usually include gender quotas, youth quotas and quotas for local labour to be employed during the project. In addition, a certain proportion of time for which construction workers are paid should be spent on skills development initiatives. According to the Human Resource Manager of the South African Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC), the current norm in this industry is to use between 50–70% local labour during construction. This should be used as a guideline by Eskom as far as possible.

Although job opportunities are viewed as a positive impact, the fact that the job opportunities are only temporary in nature limits the extent of such a positive impacts in view of the fact that the economic relief and the associated impacts would only be temporary in nature. This impact also depends on the timeframe of the project.

- **Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals**

Indirect informal job opportunities mainly relate to services that are not directly linked with the construction activities, e.g. domestic services, food stalls, etc., either at the construction village or the construction site. However, the size, nature and location of the construction village (if used) as well as the construction site, together with the number of construction workers and other employees at either the construction village or the construction site respectively, will determine the extent of the services required. In general, informal job opportunities are expected to be limited.

Another potential opportunity is the rental of land for the accommodation of the construction workers and storage of equipment in return for financial compensation, albeit confined to the landowner. Housing construction workers within local communities and the use of local contractors to supply material should be considered as this increases the economic investment into the affected area.

An assessment of these category 1 impacts was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance of each of the identified issues, as per table 6a below.

**Table 6a: Construction & Decommissioning Phase: Economical Change Processes Category 1 Impact Assessment**

	Significance		Spatial		Duration		Degree of Probability		Degree of Certainty		Risk	Status
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>												
Compensation for servitude	Moderate	3	Isolated	1	Incidental	1	Going to happen	5	Definite	1.7	Low	Positive
Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low	2	Local	3	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	1.38	Low	Positive
Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low	2	Local	3	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	1.38	Low	Positive
<b>POST MITIGATION</b>												
Compensation for servitude	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Moderate	3	Local	3	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	1.62	Low	Positive
Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals	Moderate	3	Local	3	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	1.62	Low	Positive
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>												
<b>Compensation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compensation (not necessarily in the form of monetary compensation) to individuals who are residing in informal settlements within the servitude should be considered. However, this issue should be approached with caution as this might set a precedent for future projects (people might deliberately move onto the servitude for the purpose of receiving compensation).</li> <li>The land valuator should be experienced in valuating</li> </ul>				<b>Direct formal employment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unskilled job opportunities should be afforded to local residents. Local trade unions could assist with the recruitment process to counteract the potential for social mobilisation.</li> <li>Equal opportunities for employment should be created to ensure that the local female population also have access to these opportunities. Females should be</li> </ul>				<b>Indirect formal and/or informal employment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible, formalise informal job opportunities (e.g. the provision of services such as food) at the construction site and/or camp. The formalisation process could include issuing permits to vendors and removing non-permitted individuals as a way to reduce the potential for conflict amongst vendors and to curb loitering at the site and/or camp.</li> <li>Identify the segment of the local community that might</li> </ul>				

<p>the land in question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process should be conducted with the necessary respect, and the negotiator should be transparent about the process and expectations (do not engage in “empty promises”).</li> <li>• The negotiation should be done for the whole servitude and not part of the servitude.</li> <li>• Contracts should be reviewed by an independent body.</li> <li>• Land owners should be made aware that a pre- and post evaluation of their land value is possible.</li> <li>• In the case of tribal authorities, Eskom should consider establishing a trust fund in consultation with the tribal authority (as a form of compensation) for the community that is jointly administrated by Eskom and the tribal authority. Community development projects can then be funded from the trust fund, which would aid sustainable development in the area.</li> </ul>	<p>encouraged to apply for positions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals with the potential to develop their skills should be afforded training opportunities. Eskom or its appointed contractors should be involved in this process.</li> <li>• Mechanisms should be developed to provide alternative solutions for creating job security upon completion of the project. This could include formal and/or informal training on how to look for alternative employment, information on career progression, etc. to ensure that people are equipped to seek other jobs with the skills that they have gained.</li> <li>• Payment should comply with applicable Labour Law legislation in terms of minimum wages.</li> <li>• Where local labourers are employed on a more permanent basis, cognisance should be taken of the Labour Law in terms of registering the worker with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), Pay as You Earn (PAYE), workman's compensation and all other official bodies as required by law. This would enable the worker to claim UIF as a means of continuous financial support when the worker's position on the construction team has either become redundant or once the construction phase comes to an end.</li> <li>• Avoid employing foreign labour on the project. Immigrants are seen to be "taking" jobs or trading opportunities needed by South Africans - often at lower rates of pay or by evading trading regulations.</li> </ul>	<p>benefit from informal indirect opportunities, and assist them with skills development and subsidise sustainable initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage construction workers to use local services.</li> </ul>
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### **3.6.3 Operation & Maintenance Phase**

The economical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during this phase of the project are as follows:

- Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals; and
- Electricity supply and economic growth.

These change processes will be discussed separately together with a detailed assessment of the expected impact as a result of the change processes taking place. No category 2 impacts are foreseen during this stage of the project.

- **Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals**

It is unlikely that maintenance workers will be sourced from within the local community, due to the skilled nature of the job requirements. Also, it is more likely that Eskom would employ a maintenance team that will cover the entire length of the transmission power lines instead of fragmented maintenance teams that only cover a certain section of these lines. Furthermore, transmission power line maintenance is a highly skilled job seeing as maintenance is normally carried out on live lines to prevent a disruption in the supply.

However, some local individuals may be employed on servitude maintenance teams, but that would to a large extent depend on the appointed servitude maintenance contractor. The number of people involved in a maintenance team depends on the type of maintenance that has to be conducted.

Due to the fact that local community members are unlikely to be employed as transmission power line maintenance team members, no tangible economic impacts are foreseen. Where local community members are used as servitude maintenance workers, this could lead to an economic impact and local social upliftment.

- **Electricity supply and economic growth**

Resources and infrastructure, such as electricity, water and fuel, enables normal economic growth as most economic activities are dependant on a sufficient and steady supply of electricity. Normal economic activities, e.g. industry and businesses, are affected when electricity is not available. The economic impact on such services increases the longer services such as electricity is unavailable.

The proposed transmission power line would enhance the electricity supply to the local area, thereby stimulating economic growth through the establishment and/or expansion of businesses and industries. This in turn creates additional employment opportunities, which further enhances economic growth, permitting a positive economic impact to filter down to a more grassroots level.

An assessment of this category 1 impact was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance of the identified issue, as per table 6b below.

**Table 6b:** Operation & Maintenance Phase: Economical Change Processes Category 1 Impact Assessment

	Significance		Spatial		Duration		Degree of Probability		Degree of Certainty		Risk		Status
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>													
Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low	2	Study area	2	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	1.02	Low		Positive
Electricity supply and economic growth	High	4	Regional	4	Medium term	3	Very likely	4	Probable	2.96	Moderate		Positive
<b>POST MITIGATION</b>													
Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Moderate	3	Study area	2	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	1.2	Low		Positive
Electricity supply and economic growth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>													
<b>Employment opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals with the potential to develop their skills should be afforded training opportunities. Eskom should be involved in this process.</li> <li>Make use of local labour on unskilled maintenance components, such as servitude maintenance.</li> <li>Where local labourers are employed on a more permanent basis, cognisance should be taken of the Labour Law in terms of registering the worker with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), Pay as you earn (PAYE), workman's compensation and all other official bodies as required by law. This would enable the worker to claim UIF as a means of continuous financial support when the worker's position on the construction team has either become redundant or once the construction phase comes to an end.</li> </ul>							<b>Electricity supply and economic growth:</b> None.						

### **3.7 Baseline Empowerment and Institutional Profile**

Institutional and empowerment processes relate to the role, efficiency and operation of government sectors and other organisations within the area in terms of service delivery. It also investigates the ability of people to engage in decision-making processes to such an extent that they have an impact on the way in which decisions are made that would concern them.

#### **3.7.1 Municipal Services**

The years between 2001 and 2007 saw a steady increase in the delivery of municipal services to the households within the study area. Some of the most significant increases have been in the number of households who connected to the electricity network, most notably the fact that, of the almost half of all households who made use of coal for heating purposes in 2001, more than half made use of electricity for this purpose in 2007.

The municipal infrastructure is mostly located within the urban areas of the municipal areas. Municipal infrastructure backlogs are mostly confined to the previously disadvantaged township areas, and, as could be expected, in informal settlement areas. The outlying rural areas rely almost exclusively on water and sanitation services that are below Reconstruction & Development Programme (RDP) standard. In terms of water services, RDP standard is defined as piped water either within a dwelling or within 200m of such a dwelling. Sanitation services on par or above RDP standard is defined as any waterborne sanitation services that are connected to a municipal sewerage system or a ventilated pit latrine (VIP) system.

Table 7 below provides an overview of the municipal services of the affected area in relation to the province and the district as a whole. No data could be obtained for the overall municipal service delivery in South Africa. Although there has been a steady increase and expansion of municipal service delivery in the GMLM, the opposite has occurred in the ELM where it appears that municipal service delivery has decreased. The mostly likely explanation for this occurrence is that the municipal services were unable to keep up with the huge increase in the number of households, which had an average annual growth rate of 5 113 households (or 30 678 households between 2001 and 2007).

Therefore, it would appear that, in general within the study area, municipal services are at a very vulnerable stage and that the municipal network might not be able to sustain additional connections to the network. It should further be noted water is a scarce commodity in specifically the GMLM and that there are limited water sources within the area. In this regard the GMLM IDP also stated that it is very crucial that all water supplies are regulated and measured so that water losses can be measured in a quantitative manner.

**Table 7: Overview of Municipal Service Delivery to the Affected Areas**

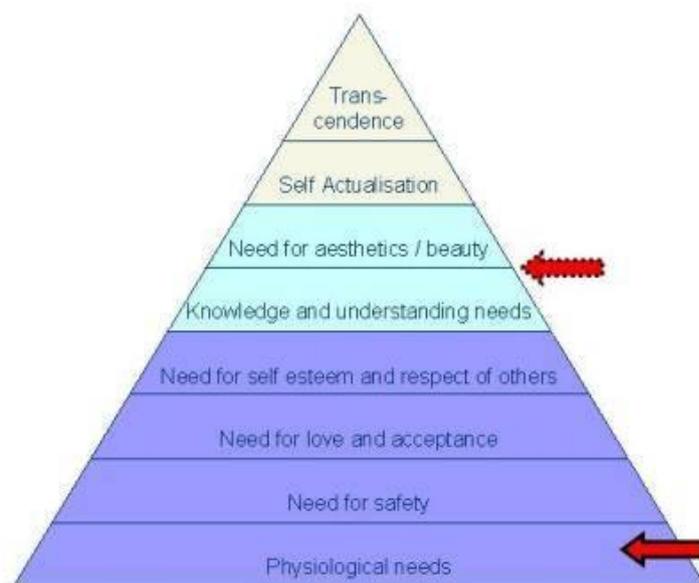
	South Africa	MP	NDM	ELM		GSDM	GMLM	
		2007		2001	2007	2007	2001	2007
Energy cooking		Electricity (55.7%)	Electricity (59.6%)	Electricity (62.6%)	Electricity (56.4%)	Electricity (53.3%)	Electricity (42.2%)	Electricity (71.7%)
Energy heating		Electricity (45.0%)	Electricity (49.3%)	Electricity (59.2%)	Electricity (47.1%)	Electricity (39.7%)	Coal (42.1%)	Electricity (58.2%)
Energy lighting		Electricity (82.2%)	Electricity (81.5%)	Electricity (70.3%)	Electricity (60.1%)	Electricity (79.8%)	Electricity (71.3%)	Electricity (87.5%)
Refuse		Own disposal (49.6%)	Own disposal (48.1%)	Removed once a week (64.2%)	Removed once a week (56.9%)	Removed once a week (59.7%)	Removed once a week (82.9%)	Removed once a week (82.9%)
Sanitation		RDP standard or above (55.5%)	RDP standard or above (54.9%)	RDP standard or above (74.7%)	RDP standard or above (66.2%)	RDP standard or above (73.6%)	RDP standard or above (71.9%)	RDP standard or above (95.0%)
Water		RDP standard or above (91.1%)	RDP standard or above (96.6%)	RDP standard or above (94.2%)	RDP standard or above (98.6%)	RDP standard or above (91.9%)	RDP standard or above (91.1%)	RDP standard or above (97.5%)

### 3.7.2 Empowerment and Participation

In terms of baseline empowerment processes, the hierarchy of needs as set out by Maslow, offers an insightful backdrop in terms of people's potential level of involvement in the EIA process and the issues that might be pertinent to them in a development of this nature. Maslow argued that the type of need that a person experiences is dependent on the fulfilment of other needs. The various categories of needs are organised in a hierarchy, which indicates which level of need has to be fulfilled before the next level of need would be experienced (refer to Figure 11).

Therefore, in order to expect people to fully participate in a process that might affect their future, people would have to function on a higher level within the hierarchy of needs (the need for self esteem, characterised by knowledge and understanding needs as well as the need for an environment that is aesthetically appealing, as indicated by the dashed red arrow). This means that their basic needs had to be met first (as indicated by the solid red arrow). The flipside is that people, who live in poverty as a result of high unemployment rates, low income levels and a poor education, struggle to survive on a daily basis and are therefore more focused on their more basic needs.

**Figure 11:** Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Source: [www.arrod.co.uk](http://www.arrod.co.uk)

People who are more focused on their basic needs are therefore in a sense disempowered to fully participate in the process. The issue here is not that these communities are misinformed or lack information as such, but rather that these communities are ignorant about their rights and responsibilities as participants in the process. In such an instance it can very well be expected that such community members' expectation of the project mostly relates to employment opportunities. However, due to the fact such residents mostly function

on a very basic needs level, they might fail to comprehend the “bigger picture” or in other words, the associated impacts (both negative and positive) that the proposed project would bring to their area. Their lack of understanding has bearing on future generations that will inhabit the area.

### 3.8 Expected Empowerment and Institutional Change Processes

Negotiation for land is a change process on legal and empowerment level. The same applies to the stakeholders that will be involved in the public participation process. The EIA process is an opportunity for these stakeholders to give input into the process and project. However, stakeholders would have to offer up their time to become actively involved in the process and they should clearly understand their rights in terms of the process to enable them to use these rights.

Attitude formation may start during the EIA process. Attitude formation is a change process, and not an impact. Attitude formation might result in delays in project implementation, which might result in secondary impacts such as economic impacts.

#### 3.8.1 Expected Impacts

Table 8 below provides an overview of the expected change process as well as the expected impacts that might occur as a result of the change process taking place.

**Table 8:** Institutional & Empowerment Change Processes

INSTITUTIONAL AND EMPOWERMENT CHANGE PROCESSES				
Expected Change Process		Yes	No	Expected Impact
<b>Change in / disruption of power relationships</b>	Will the development impact on the levels of power, opportunity and access of individuals or sections of the community, e.g. during the negotiation process?	X		A breakdown in the negotiation process could severely delay the project and result in an economic impact on both the landowner as well as on Eskom.
	Is the development being used for the political gain of a section of the community, and what are the implications for the larger social environment?		X	No impact foreseen.
<b>Exclusivity</b>	Will the development contribute to the culture of exclusivity?		X	The development would create economic growth through the availability of electricity, which has been assessed in table 8b.

INSTITUTIONAL AND EMPOWERMENT CHANGE PROCESSES				
Expected Change Process		Yes	No	Expected Impact
<b>Inequality</b>	Will the development increase unequal access to opportunities or resources?		X	The development will enhance more equal opportunities to resources as services become available, as assessed in table 8b.
<b>Change in community infrastructure</b>	Will the development change any aspect of community infrastructure, such as crèches, clinics, schools, churches, formal or informal sports fields, open areas, dumping grounds etc?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will the development create increased demand for basic services, e.g. water, electricity, sewerage, roads?	X		Additional demand on municipal services could impact on health if such services are not available.
	Will the existing access of the community to basic services be impacted by the development?	X		Additional demand on municipal services could impact on health if such services are not available.
<b>Change in housing needs / demands</b>	Will the development create a housing need, e.g. due to the immigration of construction workers?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Has the need for more housing been addressed by the development and or the authorities?			Not applicable.

### 3.8.2 Construction & Decommissioning Phases

The economical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during this phase of the project are as follows:

- Negotiation process; and
- Additional demand on municipal services.

These change processes will be discussed separately together with a detailed assessment of the expected impact as a result of the change processes taking place. No category 2 impacts are foreseen during this stage of the project.

- **Negotiation process**

The negotiation process is undertaken directly by Eskom and is independent of the EIA process. Eskom should determine in consultation with the landowners who should form part of this process and then ensure that all the relevant parties are present. Important points relating to the negotiation process were discussed in Section 2.4.

The results of a study conducted by MasterQ Research (2007) identified the differences amongst landowners in negotiation skills and knowledge as one of the weaknesses in the negotiation process. In addition, it seemed that the perception amongst certain stakeholders who participated in the study was that landowners with more money had more negotiating power. For example, during the negotiations for the Matimba-Witkop Nr. 2 400kV transmission power line, one landowner managed the moving of an existing line to the edge of his land before he agreed to the construction of the second line. However, this landowner was held responsible for the financial implications of the moving of the line.

If negotiations are not handled with the necessary sensitivity the impact of this process can be severely negative, i.e. a deadlock in negotiations resulting in an indefinite delay of the project. It would normally be preferable that the negotiation process begins after the EIA has been completed. At this stage there is greater confidence in the appropriateness of the site, and it would be supported by environmental authorisation. Although Eskom has the right to engage with any landowner at any time, they do so at risk if environmental authorisation has not been awarded.

- **Additional demand on municipal services**

Additional municipal services will be required at the construction site and the construction village during the construction phase. The additional demand on municipal services causes a slight concern as it would appear that, in some cases, the supply of these services are lacking, e.g. electricity is not well supplied throughout the area.

If a construction village is not managed properly, it may lead to a lack of adequate water as well as unhygienic conditions in the case of waste and sanitation services. This in turn could lead to waterborne diseases that will not only affect the construction worker, but could also spread to the local community.

An assessment of this category 1 impact was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance of the identified issue, as per table 8a below.

**Table 8a: Construction & Decommissioning Phase: Institutional & Empowerment Change Processes Category 1 Impact Assessment**

	Significance		Spatial		Duration		Degree of Probability		Degree of Certainty		Risk	Status
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>												
Negotiation process	High	4	Study area	2	Short term	2	Going happen	5	Possible	2.7	Moderate	Depends on the outcome of the negotiation process
Additional demand on municipal services	Moderate	3	Study area	2	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	1.38	Low	Negative
<b>POST MITIGATION</b>												
Negotiation process	High	4	Study area	2	Short term	2	Going happen	5	Possible	2.7	Moderate	Positive
Additional demand on municipal services	Low	2	Study area	2	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	1.2	Low	Negative
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>												
<p><b>Negotiation Process:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of a fair and transparent negotiation process, as discussed under Section 2.4.</li> <li>Negotiations in should be approached with the necessary cultural sensitivity.</li> <li>Eskom should consider making use of an approved interpreter during the negotiation process to ensure that there are no misunderstandings as a result of language barriers.</li> </ul>						<p><b>Additional demand on municipal services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction workers should be made aware of the limited capacity of the municipal services network.</li> <li>Negotiations with the affected local municipalities must be conducted and a “demand-side management” should be implemented.</li> <li>Sufficient portable chemical toilets should be provided on site and at the construction village. These must be regularly maintained and serviced.</li> <li>Contractors should ensure adequate sanitation services (e.g. showers) at the construction village with effective drainage facilities to ensure that used water is appropriately treated and carried away from the site.</li> </ul>						

### **3.8.3 Operation & Maintenance Phase**

An increase in the availability of electricity to the local area has been identified as an institutional and empowerment change process that can be expected during the operational and maintenance phase of the project. This issue has been assessed under “electricity supply and economic growth” in section 3.6.3.

### **3.9 Baseline Socio-Cultural Processes**

Socio-cultural processes relate to the way in which humans behave, interact and relate to each other and their environment, as well as the belief and value systems which guide these interactions.

### **3.10 Expected Social-Cultural Change Processes and Resultant Impacts**

Socio-cultural change processes that are associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project include changes to aspects such as health and safety and sense of place. In a social sense, it should be noted that the concept of ‘health’ is not only limited to physical health (i.e. the absence of ailments or illness), but also includes mental and social health. The expected changes that can occur in relation to health and safety aspects can be as a result of the presence of the proposed transmission power line and its associated infrastructure during operation, as well as the presence of construction workers and/or job seekers during construction.

The significance of the impacts of socio-cultural changes is difficult to determine on a prospective basis and are dependent on the demographic profile of, for example, construction workers and whether or not such differences affected local residents. For example, if construction workers were from a different cultural background than locals, conflict can be expected if such different cultural backgrounds are not respected. Conflict as a result of cultural differences or community disintegration as a result of the acceptance of construction workers’ culture might occur – should the demographic profile of these construction workers be different, and should it matter to the communities involved.

A study conducted by MasterQ Research (2007) to provide an evidence-based approach for the assessment of social impacts during the construction of high voltage Transmission power lines, gave an indication of the changes that can be expected as a result of the project. This study evaluated the social impacts anticipated for the construction of the Matimba-Witkop Nr. 2 400kV Transmission power line in the Limpopo Province, against the actual social impacts that were experienced in the end. The findings of this study were supplemented with the actual social changes that occurred during the construction of the Beta-Delphi 400kV Transmission line. The results of this study are briefly discussed under the following points:

- ***Sexual relationships***

According to literature and interviews with representatives from contractors and Eskom (MasterQ Research 2007), sexual relations between construction workers and local individuals are mainly driven by the possibility of financial gain by local women from the more affluent construction workers. In this study (MasterQ Research 2007), it became clear that these sexual relations might be different from traditional sex work where sexual services were exchanged for money. Women from poor communities seemed to engage in transactional sex with construction workers where an exchange of commodities could take place.

Women seemed to visit men at the construction camp or in the local communities in which workers stayed. Representatives from the contractor interviewed, indicated that some women stayed in the construction camps even though they were strictly speaking not allowed to. This was said to be allowed as “construction workers work long hours and should be allowed these freedoms”.

In both of the construction camps that were visited, women were found inside, washing clothes or hanging around the barracks. In a discussion with one of the construction workers on site, he said that the girls with whom they have a ‘jol’ also wash and cook for them. This was confirmed by one of the women found in the camp who said that she wasn’t paid for washing and cooking as she had a relationship with the man she washed and cooked for. In interviews with community members sexual relations between the workers and local women were seen as a natural occurrence and no-one mentioned that these relationships were based on the exchange of money or other benefits.

The impact of sexual relationships between construction workers and women from the community could manifest in children being born after construction has finished. Even though no evidence could be found in this regard, the possibility was confirmed by a number of people interviewed. The councillor interviewed in Sebole, said that the community saw an increase in teenage pregnancies since they had started to welcome construction workers from different projects to stay in their community, and the implication was that construction workers were responsible for these pregnancies.

- ***Alcohol abuse***

Alcohol abuse among construction workers seemed to be a problem during construction, especially after workers had received payment. The issues relate to alcohol’s effect on behaviour – sometimes causing irresponsible behaviour that could escalate to violence or conflict between individuals or groups – which was mentioned by stakeholders on both the Matimba-Witkop Nr. 2 400kV and the Beta-Delphi 400kV Transmission power lines.

However, according to one of the contractor representatives that were interviewed, alcohol abuse had decreased in the last few years. He said that as workers were required to work harder while on site, there was not much time left for workers to drink heavily.

- ***Access Control***

One of the most prominent issues amongst landowners was how they had lost control over who entered and moved about on their property due to the construction of the Transmission power line (MasterQ Research 2007). Landowners felt that their privacy was invaded with the construction and maintenance of the transmission power line. A common emotion amongst landowners, according to one interviewee, was: “You’re on my land; I don’t have any control over what happens here.” This sentiment was confirmed by a number of landowners that were interviewed. For a landowner that valued and cared for his property, the invasion of strangers was difficult. One of the comments made on what this invasion feels like was related as follows: “Maande lank is daar vreemdelinge wat in jou huis is” (there are strangers in your house for months on end).

- ***Safety & security fears***

The presence of these ‘strangers’ on their property also sparked some safety and security concerns amongst landowners. This was said within the context of increased violent crimes conducted against farmers in South Africa. Landowners said they wanted to know when Eskom will be on their property. One of the interviewees said that with access to his property during construction, there was a possibility that unwanted people could enter to observe the property - thereby making him vulnerable to safety and security risks.

- ***Integration of construction workers in local communities***

Relationships between construction workers and local communities in the construction of the Matimba-Witkop Nr. 2 400kV Transmission power line were good according to all parties interviewed. Where conflict was experienced between construction workers from outside and the local communities, it seemed to be largely sparked by the use of alcohol. The difference in income between these groups was also cited as an additional source of conflict.

- ***Cultural landscape changes***

Changes in noise, dust, and pollution levels may be experienced as intrusion impacts, which impact on the cultural landscape and sense of place. MasterQ Research results (2007) indicate that the impacts on cultural landscape are considered to be:

- Littering. One (1) landowner discovered cans and remains from construction on his land. Other complaints regarding littering were reported in site meeting minutes.

- Some construction activities were noisy. While some (2) landowners reported that the noise bothered and irritated them, others did not have a problem with the noise caused by construction activities. Noise originated from chainsaws, drill machines and bulldozers on site. Helicopters along the line also bothered one landowner.
- Dust on roads due to vehicular movement. One (1) landowner complained about the prevalence of dust during construction.

### 3.10.1 Expected Impacts

Table 9 below provides an overview of the expected change process as well as the expected impacts that might occur as a result of the change process taking place.

**Table 9: Socio-Cultural Change Processes**

SOCIO-CULTURAL CHANGE PROCESSES				
Expected Change Process		Yes	No	Expected Impact
<b>Disruption of social networks</b>	Will the development impact on existing social networks?		X	No impact foreseen.
<b>Disruption in daily living and movement patterns</b>	Will the development change the lifestyle of residents?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will the development impact on access to facilities and resources, such as schools, hospitals, fields, forests, etc?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will it impact on movement patterns, such as pedestrians crossing roads?	X		Impact of construction activities on movement patterns of local communities, potentially impacting on safety and ease of movement.
	Will it divide communities physically (e.g. through the building of a highway)?		X	No impact foreseen.
<b>Dissimilarity in social practices</b>	Do new residents have dissimilar social practices to current residents?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Do the new residents have different values, religious practices, social standard, etc?		X	No impact foreseen.
<b>Alteration in family</b>	Could the development threaten family cohesiveness?	X		Socially acceptable integration, including the risk

<b>SOCIO-CULTURAL CHANGE PROCESSES</b>				
<b>Expected Change Process</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Expected Impact</b>
<b>structure</b>	Could it impact on immediate or extended family networks?	X		of spreading STIs and HIV/AIDS with an impact on health. The spread of STI and HIV is a matter of great concern, also in view of the light that construction workers move out of the area into another area where the spread of these STI and HIV continues. Apart from the obvious health implications, HIV infection in particular also has an economic impact.
	Could it impact on the traditional roles played by members of the family?	X		
<b>Conflict</b>	Will the development lead to conflict between sectors of the social environment?	X		If social integration between newcomers and residents is hindered, it can lead to conflict, which in turn delays the construction process and has economic implications for the developer.
	Is there conflict between the developer and the public?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Is this conflict being addressed?			Not applicable.
<b>Safety and crime impacts</b>	Will the development impact on existing crime and safety patterns?	X		Presence of construction workers and job seekers leads people to believe that there will be an increase in crime, which impacts on surrounding landowners' sense of safety and security.
<b>Change in sense of place</b>	Will the development impact on people's "sense of place", e.g. through the large scale development of a rural community?	X		As the transmission power line might impact on people's perception of safety, these people might now feel unsafe in the area knowing that such infrastructure is in close proximity to their houses. The presence of such a line also has a visual impact, changing the landscape from unspoilt to 'spoilt'.
	Will the change "in sense of place" impact on people's relationship to the environment?	X		
<b>Implications for social history</b>	Does the development have any implications for the social history of affected communities?		X	No impact foreseen.

SOCIO-CULTURAL CHANGE PROCESSES				
Expected Change Process		Yes	No	Expected Impact
	Will the development further marginalise communities that have been relocated during <i>apartheid</i> ?		X	No impact foreseen.
	Will the development affect processes, structures or patterns that are valued as part of the social history of an area?		X	No impact foreseen.
<b>Change in leisure opportunities</b>	Will the development impact on access to existing leisure opportunities?	X		Linked to 'sense of place'.

### 3.10.2 Construction & Decommissioning Phases

The socio-cultural change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during this phase of the project are as follows:

- Integration with local community;
- Health;
- Safety and security; and
- Construction noise.

These change processes will be discussed separately together with a detailed assessment of the expected impact as a result of the change processes taking place. No category 2 impacts are foreseen during this stage of the project.

- **Integration with local community**

This change process relates to the ease with which construction workers integrate into the local community and the ease with which the local community accepts the presence of the construction workers. If integration is hindered, it can lead to conflict, e.g. due to cultural differences.

Conflict can take place on multiple levels. Firstly, inter-conflict between the construction workers and the local community in terms of job opportunities and where the local community perceives the construction workers as competing for housing opportunities. Secondly, intra-conflict between construction workers themselves in terms of housing offered, and potentially in terms of salary packages. In a construction village conflict might

be more intense due to the concentrated living and working conditions of the construction workers.

Where conflict is not resolved quickly and efficiently, it could give rise to labour strikes, site lock-outs, etc, which in turn delays the construction process and has clear economic implications for the developer. Not only does the contractor have to pay for the labour during the days of a legal strike, but they might also be required to acquire the services of a mediator in an attempt to resolve the issues.

- **Health**

Construction workers form part of a significant section of the population known as migratory workers. The social cultural issues associated with this section of the population have been thoroughly researched. Due to their unique situation, construction workers engage in behaviour that makes them vulnerable, such as risky sexual behaviour (e.g. unprotected sex) and destructive behaviour (e.g. alcohol abuse, damaging the environment), which could be explained by their migratory status. When they are separated from their homes, they are also distanced from traditional norms, prevailing cultural traditions and support systems that normally regulate behaviour within a stable community. In addition, it might also be that construction workers who are faced with dangerous working conditions and the risk of physical injury might be more preoccupied by immediate (direct) risks and therefore tend to disregard salient (more indirect) risks, such as HIV infection. Again, it is likely that HIV transmission occurs, as the local population might be uneducated about the risk and transmission of HIV and would therefore more easily engage in risky behaviour as a result of ignorance.

Construction workers' situations seem to make them vulnerable to high-risk sexual behaviour. There are ample research results to indicate that there is a direct link between temporary migration and HIV infection. Research also seems to indicate that construction workers might be more at risk of contracting HIV from members of local communities, as opposed to transmitting the infection to community members.

In this context health impacts focus mainly on the spread of certain sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV/AIDS. It is not uncommon for construction workers who are separated from their families for a period of time to establish temporary sexual relationships with members of the local community. It can also be expected that sex workers might visit the construction workers at their place of residence. The spread of STI and HIV then becomes a matter of great concern, also in view of the light that construction workers move out of the area into another area where the spread of these STI and HIV continues.

Apart from the obvious health implications, HIV infection in particular also has an economic impact, not only on the local area, but extending to the regional and national context. If viewed within the context of an increase in HIV/AIDS related deaths amongst the economically active individuals, it becomes clear that the workforce might potentially be

reduced and that this in turn will affect basic services, as well as the smooth running of an economy.

It is a complex task to understand the macro-economic impact of HIV/AIDS on a country or region. Not only should one consider the direct and indirect costs, but also the loss of human capital and the natural system of developing a generation through the transference of knowledge and skills necessary for development.

- **Safety and security**

Not only do health issues impact on communities, but the physical safety of communities can also be endangered as a result of the influx of job seekers and construction workers (e.g. potential increase in crime). There is perception that crime increases in an area the moment that construction workers arrive on site. Because of this perception, occurrences of crime during the time of the project are likely to be ascribed to the construction workers. This has a mental health impact, such as fear. However, it should be noted that in most instances it is not the actual construction worker who engage in criminal activities but more likely job seekers who loiter at the site in search of employment.

- **Construction noise**

A constant high level of noise has a prolonged detrimental effect on a person's general well-being and functioning. People living in close proximity to a construction site will be exposed to such a constant level of noise generated by the construction activities taking place.

The experience of the increase in noise levels because of the construction village will differ from person to person. Griffiths (1983) is of the opinion that as long as a stimulus remains the same, the impact of noise would not decrease. He referred to studies on noise pollution where habituation (people getting used to the noise in an area) had not taken place approximately 2 years after a new road had been opened. De Jong (1990) is further of the opinion that people's resistance to noise levels seems to be decreasing, despite the fact that there was no change in their environment that could add to the noise levels. He termed this finding "psychological sensitisation".

An assessment of these category 1 impacts was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3) to determine the significance of each of the identified issues, as per table 9a below.

**Table 9a: Construction & Decommissioning Phase: Socio-Cultural Change Processes Category 1 Impact Assessment**

	Significance	Spatial	Duration	Degree of Probability	Degree of Certainty	Risk	Status					
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>												
Integration with local community	Moderate	3	Local	3	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	1.38	Low	Negative
Health	High	4	National	5	Long term	4	Could happen	3	Possible	2.58	Moderate	Negative
Safety and security	Low	2	Local	3	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	1.38	Low	Negative
Construction noise	Moderate	3	Study area	2	Short term	2	Could happen	3	Possible	1.38	Low	Negative
<b>POST MITIGATION</b>												
Integration with local community	Low	2	Local	3	Incidental	1	Unlikely	2	Possible	0.8	Very low	Negative to Neutral
Health	Moderate	3	National	5	Long term	4	Could happen	3	Possible	2.4	Moderate	Negative
Safety and security	Low	2	Local	3	Short term	2	Unlikely	2	Possible	0.92	Very low	Negative
Construction noise	Low	2	Study area	2	Short term	2	Unlikely	2	Possible	0.8	Very low	Negative
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>												
<p><b>Integration with local community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community should be informed in advance of the influx of construction workers and the time they will spend in the community as well as the activities they will be involved in. This will enable the community to prepare for a possible (temporary) change in functioning.</li> <li>A code of conduct should be established for construction workers in their dealings with the local community. Creating of</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An aggressive STI and HIV/AIDS awareness campaign should be launched, which is not only directed at construction workers but also at the community as a whole.</li> <li>Condoms should be distributed by placing them at centrally located points and by ensuring that construction workers and community members are aware of the availability and location of</li> </ul>	<p><b>Safety and Security:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction workers should be clearly identifiable. Overalls should have the logo of the construction company on it and/or construction workers should wear identification cards.</li> <li>The construction site should be fenced and access should be controlled by means of a security access point.</li> <li>Loitering of outsiders at the either the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Construction noise:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction activities should be restricted to daytime hours between 06:00 and 18:00.</li> <li>Adjacent property owners should be consulted and notified of any construction activities that could lead to excessive noise levels.</li> <li>Adjacent property owners should also be consulted if any night time construction</li> </ul>									

<p>awareness on both sides (community and outsiders) is crucial for the success of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflict situations can be reduced beforehand using a transparent recruitment process, i.e. where labourers would be sourced from the local community.</li> <li>• A labour desk should be implemented where the local community members could register. A rotary system could be used for unskilled labour to ensure that all job seekers have an equal opportunity to employment.</li> <li>• Potential conflict situations within the construction village itself can be managed by means of weekly forum meetings. During these meetings residents should have the opportunity to raise any problems experienced and make suggestions in terms of their living space. Where feasible, these problems and suggestions should be addressed as soon as possible to ensure a conflict-free environment.</li> </ul>	<p>condoms. The distribution of condoms should be approached with the necessary cultural sensitivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access at the construction site should be controlled to prevent sex workers from either visiting and/or loitering at the construction village.</li> <li>• Local women should be empowered. This could be achieved by employing them to work on the project, which in turn would decrease their (financial) vulnerability.</li> </ul>	<p>construction site or at the construction village should not be allowed. Loiterers at the site should be removed in cooperation with the local branch of the South African Police Service (SAPS).</p>	<p>activities were to take place.</p>
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### **3.10.3 Operation & Maintenance Phase**

The geographical change processes that are expected to result in Category 1 impacts, which are defined as those impacts that are not expected to differ between the proposed alternatives, during this phase of the project are as follows:

- Movement of maintenance workers; and
- Physical splintering.

In addition, the following change process that would result in a Category 2 impact, which are those impacts that are expected to cause significant changes between the proposed alternatives, are as follows:

- Sense of place; and
- Third party tampering.

These change processes will be discussed separately together with a detailed assessment of the expected impact as a result of the change processes taking place.

- **Movement of maintenance workers**

As is the case with construction workers, a lack of control over the movement patterns of maintenance workers is a source of concern to landowners. Furthermore, landowners are concerned about the fact that they seem to lose control over who has access to their property and who has not. Again, there is perception that crime increases in an area the moment that maintenance workers arrive on site, more so in terms of servitude maintenance workers as with actual Transmission power line maintenance workers. Because of this perception, occurrences of crime during the operational lifetime of the project are likely to be ascribed to the maintenance workers.

- **Physical splintering**

It is unlikely that the presence of a Transmission power line would splinter communities, seeing as people can still move freely underneath a Transmission power line. However, the perception that a Transmission power line is dangerous might prohibit people from moving around or underneath the line, but it is foreseen that this would mostly be on an individual basis based on personal perception and would therefore not affect the collective community.

An assessment of these category 1 impacts was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance of each of the identified issues, as per table 9b below.

**Table 9b: Operation & Maintenance Phase: Socio-Cultural Change Processes Category 1 Impact Assessment**

	Significance	Spatial		Duration		Degree of Probability		Degree of Certainty		Risk	Status	
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>												
Movement of maintenance workers	Moderate	3	Isolated	1	Incidental	1	Could happen	3	Possible	1.02	Low	Negative
Physical splintering	Low	2	Isolated	1	Incidental	1	Unlikely	2	Possible	0.52	Very low	Negative
<b>POST MITIGATION</b>												
Movement of maintenance workers	Low	2	Isolated	1	Incidental	1	Unlikely	2	Possible	0.52	Very low	Negative to Neutral
Physical splintering	Very low	1	Isolated	1	Incidental	1	Unlikely	2	Possible	0.4	Very low	Negative to Neutral
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>												
<p><b>Movement of maintenance workers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance workers should be clearly identifiable, either by wearing overalls and/or identification cards.</li> <li>Consult with local landowners prior to maintenance work taking place, to inform them of when the maintenance team will be on site, for how long, and approximately how many persons the team will consist of.</li> <li>Supply landowners with a contact number to report suspicious persons or persons who loiter around the maintenance team, but that does not form part of the maintenance team. (For example: If Eskom indicated that the maintenance team would consist of 20 people, but the landowner notices that there are 30 people on his property, he should be able to inform Eskom of this fact.)</li> </ul>						<p><b>Physical splintering:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community awareness on the safety mechanisms of a Transmission power line and potential dangers.</li> <li>Such an awareness campaign should be based on and address Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding a Transmission power line, e.g. is it safe to walk underneath a Transmission power line if the surrounding area is wet or it is raining?</li> <li>The awareness campaign should also focus on standard operating procedures when there is a breakdown in the line, e.g. people should steer clear of the area, who to contact, etc.</li> </ul>						

- **Sense of place**

Much of what is valuable in a culture is embedded in place, which cannot be measured in monetary terms. It is because of a sense of place and belonging that some people loath to be moved from their dwelling place, despite the fact that they will be compensated for the inconvenience and impact on their lives.

The potential impact on socio-cultural behaviour and the related perception of environmental changes could either have a positive or a negative impact on sense of place (i.e. peace of mind or frustration/anger). It could be viewed as a positive impact if people perceive the project as a means of job creation, which is true in the case of the tribal authorities, and infrastructural and/or economic development, which is not intrusive on their lives and do not cause them immediate danger. Potential negative impacts include the visual impact and the resultant intrusion on sense of place.

Research on the psychological experience of sense of place suggests that people rapidly discount a landscape as soon as the first scar occurs, rather like a stain ruining a favourite garment (Petrich 1993). Thereafter, any additional impacts on the landscape have a correspondingly smaller effect. Hence, the aesthetic impact of placing a transmission line in a landscape that already bears the marks of development would be less than that of placing it in a relatively unspoilt environment. People overwhelmingly prefer "nature scenes" to urban and built environments, according to research. Zadik (1985) explains "people seem to respond to environments as natural if the areas are predominantly vegetation and do not contain human artefacts such as roads or buildings (Relf 1992)."

Steven Kaplan (1992) attributes the restorative value of participation with nature, particularly wilderness experiences, to the ability to fulfil several criteria: Being away, Extent, Fascination, and Compatibility which is established by an environment that is conducive to meeting personal goals; that is, in a compatible environment, what you want to do and are inclined to attempt are needed and feasible.

In some instances the potential presence of the Transmission power lines might affect residents' sense of place. In the past they might have felt safe and secure in the area and therefore stayed in the area for those specific reasons. As the proposed Transmission power lines might impact on people's *perception* of safety, these people might now feel unsafe in the area knowing that the lines are located within the area. Furthermore, the visibility of the transmission power line might impact on people's quality of life in terms of the aesthetics of the area that they have grown accustomed to.

It is important to note that sense of place has been assessed from a social point of view, which relates to people's perception of the project in relation to the area. Due to the fact that large segments of the affected area live in poverty, have fairly low educational levels coupled with unemployment, it is expected that their expectation of the project would mostly relate to positive impacts (the expectation of being employed), whereas the private landowners

(farmers) are more aware of the potential negative impacts that the installation might have on their current and future land use. Private landowners have described the area as 'pristine' and 'unique' and therefore a change in the environment brought about by the introduction of the proposed project might influence this perception. People who are, for example, unemployed and living in poverty have different needs than preserving the area or the environment and are therefore less likely to oppose the proposed project as they believe it will bring about change in the area in terms of employment and upliftment.

**Western alternative:** In addition to scattered households, the closest human settlements to this corridor include the following areas:

Settlement	Proximity of proposed transmission line to settlement	Potential changes
Lebogang	Approximately 1.1km east	Might limit future development towards the line
Leandra	Approximately 2.5km east	None
<b>Leslie</b>	<b>Approximately 2.8km east</b>	<b>None</b>

**Eastern alternative:** In addition to scattered households, the closest human settlements to this corridor include the following areas:

Settlement	Proximity of proposed transmission line to settlement	Potential changes
eMbalenhle	Approximately 630m west	Might limit future development towards the line
Secunda	Approximately 10.1km west	None
<b>Trichardt</b>	<b>Approximately 18.5km west</b>	<b>None</b>

No human settlements are located in close proximity to the **western sub-alternative**.

An assessment of this category 2 impact was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance the impact per alignment, as per table 9c below.

**Table 9c: Operation & Maintenance Phase: Socio-Cultural Change Processes Category 2 Impact Assessment: Sense of Place**

	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	Moderate	3	High	4	High	4
<b>Spatial</b>	Study area	2	Local	3	Local	3
<b>Duration</b>	Long term	4	Long term	4	Long term	4
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Could happen	3	Very likely	4	Very likely	4
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Probable		Probable		Probable	
<b>Risk</b>	1.8	<b>Low</b>	2.96	<b>Moderate</b>	2.96	<b>Moderate</b>
<b>Status</b>	Negative		Negative		Negative	
<b>POST-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	Low	2	Moderate	3	Moderate	3
<b>Spatial</b>	Isolated	1	Isolated	1	Isolated	1
<b>Duration</b>	Long term	4	Long term	4	Long term	4
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Could happen	3	Could happen	3	Could happen	3
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Possible		Possible		Possible	
<b>Risk</b>	1.38	<b>Low</b>	1.62	<b>Low</b>	1.62	<b>Low</b>
<b>Status</b>	Negative		Negative		Negative	
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient and transparent information should be supplied to local residents within the area to enhance their sense of safety and thereby reducing the negative impact on sense of place.</li> <li>• Due consideration should be given to any visual screening mitigation measures identified and suggested by the Visual Impact Assessment.</li> </ul>						
<b>PREFERRED ALIGNMENT</b>						
The <b>western alignment</b> as it is located next to and in parallel to existing infrastructure of a similar nature and therefore this area would probably already be regarded as 'spoilt'.						

• **Third party tampering**

If third party tampering occurs, it would most probably be in the form of cable theft, which is an extremely high risk criminal activity with the probability and occurrences of accidental electrocution. Although cable theft, from a technical point of view, is not possible on a 400kV line, the possibility that someone would attempt cable theft out of ignorance cannot be

excluded. An uninformed person only sees a Transmission power line and does not necessarily take cognisance of the size of the Transmission power line.

According to the Opportunity Model of Cohen, Kleugel and Land (in Snyman, 2007), there are five factors that indicate the probability of risk of victimisation. The basic underlying principle of the Opportunity Model is that the daily operations and physical location of the Transmission power line not only brings it into direct contact with potential offenders, but that capable guardians are also absent. To curb such vulnerability it is further important that Eskom establish a trusting relationship with residents as these residents can act as informants and social protectors of the Transmission power line.

The Opportunity Model moves away from the characteristics of the potential offender and his/her motivation, to the characteristics of the situation in which the crime may occur. The risk rate is not dependent on the number of factors that are present or absent, but rather on the combination of factors that are present or absent. The five factors are:

- \* **Exposure:** The physical visibility and accessibility of the Transmission power lines to persons who may vandalise or sabotage it. On the other hand the Transmission power line is also visible to informers and social protectors (residents).
- \* **Proximity:** The physical distance between the Transmission power line and potential offenders. Some sections of the Transmission power line on the western alternative pass in close proximity to settlements, both formal and informal.
- \* **Guardianship:** Guardianship is determined by the number of persons and devices that prevent contact between the Transmission power line and potential offenders. However, it is important to note that guardianship does not relate to the quantity of the guardian elements, but to the quality and surety of response. Again it is not only important for Eskom to have a fully operational and effective Disaster Management Plan, but also to establish a trusting relationship with the residents to act as “informal” guardians of the Transmission power lines.
- \* **Target attractiveness:** The inherent value and symbolism of the target have a direct bearing on the risk of the target.
- \* **Property of committing the offence:** The specialisation in skills level to commit the crime decreases the risk of victimisation. Despite this, it does not decrease the risk of an opportunistic (or ignorant) offender to attempt cable theft.

Any third party tampering on the Transmission power lines could increase the vulnerability of communities in close proximity to the Transmission power lines, which in turn would impact on their health and safety. Sabotage will have an immediate impact on safety and security as it is a wilful act intended to deliberately damage or destroy the Transmission power line. Cable theft will also compromise the functionality of the Transmission power line, resulting in power failures possibly at a national level.

Apart from the impact on safety on the surrounding area, there will also be an immediate safety impact on the offender, resulting in possible death as a result of high voltage electrocution.

An assessment of this category 2 impact was conducted through the use of the assessment criteria (outlined in section 1.3.1) to determine the significance the impact per alignment, as per table 9d below.

**Table 9d: Operation & Maintenance Phase: Socio-Cultural Change Processes Category 2 Impact Assessment: Third Party Tampering**

	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>PRE-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	Low	2	Moderate	3	Moderate	3
<b>Spatial</b>	Study area	2	Study area	2	Study area	2
<b>Duration</b>	Long term	3	Long term	3	Long term	3
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Could happen	3	Could happen	3	Could happen	3
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Possible		Possible		Possible	
<b>Risk</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Status</b>	Negative		Negative		Negative	
<b>POST-MITIGATION</b>						
<b>Significance</b>	Very low	1	Low	2	Low	2
<b>Spatial</b>	Study area	2	Study area	2	Study area	2
<b>Duration</b>	Long term	3	Long term	3	Long term	3
<b>Degree of Probability</b>	Could happen	3	Could happen	3	Could happen	3
<b>Degree of Certainty</b>	Possible		Possible		Possible	
<b>Risk</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Status</b>	Negative		Negative		Negative	
<b>MITIGATION MEASURES</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify essential portions and dimensions of the Transmission power line that is particularly vulnerable to wilful damage.</li> <li>• Ensure that physical security systems and emergency tactical response measures are adequate and effective.</li> <li>• Increase random aerial and ground surveillance of the entire length of the Transmission power line or sections thereof.</li> <li>• Fence off and control access to towers and other key facilities on the Transmission power line.</li> </ul>						

Western Alternative	Eastern Alternative	Western Sub-Alternative
<b>PREFERRED ALIGNMENT</b>		
<p>The <b>western alignment</b> as it is located further away from human settlement that might pose a threat in terms of the Opportunity Model.</p>		

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Summary

The change processes are grouped per project phase in Table 10a (expected category 1 impacts) and in Table 10b (expected category 2 impacts) with an indication of the significance of these potential impacts before and after mitigation. The significance of potential category 1 impacts is then grouped per change process in Table 11a, while Table 11b reflects a summary of the potential category 2 impacts per change process.

*Table 10a: Summary of Category 1 Impacts per Project Phase*

CHANGE PROCESS	ASSESSMENT AREA	SIGNIFICANCE (pre-mitigation)	SIGNIFICANCE (post-mitigation)
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; DECOMMISSIONING</b>			
<b>Demographic</b>	Influx of construction workers	Very Low -	Very low ±
	Influx of job seekers	Low -	Very low ±
<b>Geographic</b>	Temporary loss of cultivated land	Moderate -	<b>Low -</b>
	Temporary loss of grazing land	Low -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
<b>Economic</b>	Compensation for servitude	Low +	n/a
	Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low +	Low +
	Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low +	Low +
<b>Institutional and Empowerment</b>	Negotiation process	Moderate	Moderate +
	Additional demand on municipal services	Low -	Low -
<b>Socio-Cultural</b>	Integration with local community	Low -	Very low -
	Health	Moderate -	Moderate -

<b>CHANGE PROCESS</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT AREA</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE (pre-mitigation)</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE (post-mitigation)</b>
	Safety and security	Low -	Very low -
	Construction noise	Low -	Very low -
<b>OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>			
<b>Demographic</b>	None	n/a	n/a
<b>Geographic</b>	Permanent loss of grazing land	Very low – to ±	<b>Very low ±</b>
	Spatial development	Low -	<b>Very low -</b>
	Presence of transmission power line	Moderate -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
<b>Economic</b>	Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low +	Low +
	Electricity supply and economic growth	Moderate +	n/a
<b>Institutional and Empowerment</b>	None	n/a	n/a
<b>Socio-Cultural</b>	Movement of maintenance workers	Low -	Very low -
	Physical splintering	Very low -	Very low -

**Table 10b: Summary of Category 2 Impacts per Project Phase**

Change Process	Assessment Area	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; DECOMMISSIONING</b>							
<b>Demographical</b>	Relocation	Low -	Low -	Moderate -	Low -	Low -	Low -
<b>Geographical</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Economical</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Empowerment and Institutional</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Na
<b>Socio-Cultural</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>							
<b>Demographical</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Geographical</b>	Cultivated land and irrigation	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	Low – to ±
	Mining	Moderate -	Low – to ±	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	Low – to ±
<b>Economical</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Empowerment and Institutional</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Socio-Cultural</b>	Sense of place	Low -	Low -	Moderate -	Low -	Moderate -	Low -
	Third party tampering	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -

The pre-construction and construction phase of the proposed project is characterised by a number of negative impacts. This is mainly due to the nature of the activities that take place during these phases. The same holds true for the operational phase of the proposed project. Most of the negative impacts within these various phases can be mitigated successfully.

There are also a number of positive impacts, which could be further enhanced if managed effectively (as outlined in the enhancement measures for the various impacts and summarised in section 5). These impacts mostly relate to a temporary change in the employment and economic profile of the local area by means of employment opportunities, which in turn leads to a positive economic impact on local households.

**Table 11a: Summary of Category 1 Impacts per Change Process**

<b>CHANGE PROCESS</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT AREA</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE (pre-mitigation)</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANCE (post-mitigation)</b>
<b>DEMOGRAPHICAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Influx of construction workers	Very Low -	Very low ±
	Influx of job seekers	Low -	Very low ±
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	n/a
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Temporary loss of cultivated land	Moderate -	<b>Low -</b>
	Temporary loss of grazing land	Low -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Permanent loss of grazing land	Very low – to ±	<b>Very low ±</b>
	Spatial development	Low -	<b>Very low -</b>
	Presence of transmission power line	Moderate -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
<b>ECONOMICAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Compensation for servitude	Low +	n/a
	Direct formal employment opportunities to local	Low +	Low +

CHANGE PROCESS	ASSESSMENT AREA	SIGNIFICANCE (pre-mitigation)	SIGNIFICANCE (post-mitigation)
	individuals		
	Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low +	Low +
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Direct formal employment opportunities to local individuals	Low +	<b>Low +</b>
	Electricity supply and economic growth	Moderate +	<b>n/a</b>
<b>EMPOWERMENT &amp; INSTITUTIONAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Negotiation process	Moderate	Moderate +
	Additional demand on municipal services	Low -	Low -
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	<b>n/a</b>
<b>SOCIO-CULTURAL</b>			
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Integration with local community	Low -	Very low -
	Health	Moderate -	Moderate -
	Safety and security	Low -	Very low -
	Construction noise	Low -	Very low -
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Movement of maintenance workers	Low -	<b>Very low -</b>
	<b>Physical splintering</b>	<b>Very low -</b>	<b>Very low -</b>

**Table 11b: Summary of Category 2 Impacts per Project Phase**

Change Process	Assessment Area	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
<b>DEMOGRAPHICAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	Relocation	Low -	Low -	Moderate -	Low -	Low -	Low -
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>n/a</b>
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	Cultivated land and irrigation	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
	Mining	Moderate -	Low – to ±	Low -	Low – to ±	Low -	<b>Low – to ±</b>
<b>ECONOMICAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>n/a</b>
<b>EMPOWERMENT &amp; INSTITUTIONAL</b>							
<b>Construction &amp; De-commissioning</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Na
<b>Operation &amp;</b>	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>n/a</b>

Change Process	Assessment Area	Western Alternative		Eastern Alternative		Western Sub-Alternative	
Maintenance							
<b>SOCIO-CULTURAL</b>							
Construction & De-commissioning	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Operation & Maintenance	Sense of place	Low -	Low -	Moderate -	Low -	Moderate -	Low -
	Third party tampering	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -	Low -

The geographic, demographic and socio-cultural processes all have a number of negative impacts. However all of these impacts can be mitigated successfully if effectively managed. Economic impacts as a result of the project are for the most part positive in nature, which is mainly due to the economic investment and development that will take place in the community as a result of the project.

Although the expected construction impacts across all the change processes are mostly negative, these impacts are for the most part only temporary in nature and only expected to last over the construction period. In comparison, operational impacts are expected to last over the longer term and therefore would have a prolonged effect on especially the geographical environment in terms of the presence of the Transmission power lines in the area. People are more inclined to get “used” to the infrastructure in their area if servitude and line maintenance are applied effectively and with due diligence. The regular monitoring and evaluation of the Transmission power lines as a whole would also ensure that corrective measures can be taken immediately to prevent adverse effects either on the infrastructure itself, or on the local area.

## 4.2 Preferred Route Corridor

To come up with a preferred corridor, a comparison among the alternative corridor alignments was conducted by assessing all of the category 2 impacts identified with a certain change process. A summary of the outcome of this brief assessment is as per table 12 below, where:

	Sensitive area, not recommended from a social perspective (high to very high significance impact rating prior to mitigation).
	Acceptable area neither ideal nor flawed from a social perspective (moderate significance impact rating prior to mitigation).
	Ideal area, from a social perspective (low to very low significance impact rating prior to mitigation).

*Please note that a ‘red site’ does not constitute a fatal flaw, but does however imply that careful consideration should be given to the development and implementation of mitigation measures in the event that such a site is selected.*

Also note that category 1 impacts have not been included in this table, as it is believed that these impacts would occur regardless of which site is selected in the end.

**Table 12: Summary of Assessments (category 2 impacts)**

Process	Change Process	Western	Eastern	Western Sub
<b>Demographical</b>	Relocation of households and/or population segments	1.48	2.22	1.48
<b>Geographical</b>	Permanent loss of cultivated land (including irrigation)	1.84	1.6	1.6
	Mining operations	2.16	1.98	1.98
<b>Economical</b>	No category 2 impacts	-	-	-
<b>Institutional &amp; Empowerment</b>	No category 2 impacts	-	-	-
<b>Socio-Cultural</b>	Sense of place	1.8	2.96	2.96
	Third party tampering	1.38	1.62	1.62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8.66</b>	<b>10.38</b>	<b>9.64</b>

Based on the comparison of category 2 impacts prior to mitigation, overall the **western alternative** emerged as the preferred route corridor from a social perspective. This is based on the fact that the potential impacts as a result of the expected change process taking place, significantly decreases as outlined below:

- **Inhabited areas:** The eastern alternative passes in close proximity to inhabited formal and informal settlements, which in some cases (such as eMbalahle) have high population densities. It is believed that, as the western alternative is located further away from such areas, the expected impact on the demographic change process would be less.
- **Irrigation (centre pivots):** Although the current alignments are all located a safe distance away from centre pivots, the western alternative encroaches upon a number of irrigation schemes, which would be further compounded if transmission power lines are placed in parallel. Also, transmission power lines in parallel on the western alternatives would mean that farmers along this corridor would lose more land (most of these farms already have registered servitudes due to the existing transmission power line) – and in some cases an additional 110m of servitude might render some of these farms economically unviable.
- **Mining operations:** Again the western alternative pass in close proximity to open cast mining areas (collieries), which would be further compounded if more than one

transmission power line is placed in parallel to the existing transmission power line. If this alternative is chosen as the preferred alignment, it is believed that some realignment would be required to bypass the open cast mining areas to ensure the safe operation of both the transmission power lines as well as that of the mining operation itself.

- **Sense of place:** The area surrounding the eastern alternative is still quite pristine and unspoilt, whereas the area surrounding the western alternative is regarded as 'spoilt' due to the presence of the existing transmission power line.
- **Third party tampering:** Reflecting on the Opportunity Model of Cohen, Kleugel and Land (in Snyman, 2007), the basic underlying principle of the Opportunity Model is that the daily operations and physical location of the Transmission power line brings it into direct contact with potential offenders, more so on the eastern alternative that is located in close proximity to human settlements where unemployment and poverty is rife. This increases the risk for victimisation, even though it has been stated that it is technically not possible for cable theft to occur on a 400kV Transmission power line – the risk still exists as a result of ignorance or the attempt at an opportunistic crime. The risk of third party tampering significantly decreases with the use of the western alignment as this alternative is located away from human settlement.

### 4.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this report, it can be concluded that the social environment in general pose no fatal flaws to the development of the proposed transmission power lines known as Bravo 4, under the condition that the identified mitigation measures in this document and as recommended for inclusion in the EMP, are implemented and adhered to, particularly where construction activities either takes place in close proximity to or passes through residential areas that could affect the quality of live of these households in terms of noise, dust, safety and security.

This recommendation was based on the specialist's:

- Understanding of the proposed project, including the alternative route alignments and the nature and timeframe of the proposed activities;
- Assessment of the affected communities, settlements and institutions in terms of:
  - \* Demographic processes: the number and composition of people;
  - \* Geographical processes: land use patterns – including tourism;
  - \* Economic processes: the way in which people make a living and the economic activities in society – including tourism;

- \* Institutional and Empowerment processes: the ability of people to be involved and influence decision making processes; and the role, efficiency and operation of governments and other organisations; and
  - \* Socio-cultural processes: the way in which humans behave, interact and relate to each other and their environment and the belief and value systems which guide these interactions, including physical and mental health processes.
- Assessment of potential change processes that might occur as a result of the project.

## **5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

From a social perspective, it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be included in the EMP.

### **5.1 Demographical Change Processes**

#### **5.1.1 *Influx of Construction Workers***

- Raise awareness amongst construction workers about local traditions and practices.
- Inform local businesses that construction workers will move into the area to enable local businesses to plan for the extra demand.
- Ensure that the local community communicate their expectations of construction workers' behaviour with them.
- Construction workers should be clearly identifiable by wearing proper construction uniforms displaying the logo of the construction company. Construction workers could also be issued with identification tags.

#### **5.1.2 *Influx of Job Seekers***

- Ensure that employment procedures / policy are communicated to local stakeholders, especially community representative organisations and ward councillors.
- Have clear rules and regulations for access to the camp / site office to control loitering. Consult with the local SAPS to establish standard operating procedures for the control and/or removal of loiterers at the construction site.
- Eskom (or its appointed contractor) should monitor areas where people gather in the field on a regular basis as this is normally the first indication that settlement might take place in the area. These people should be removed in co-operation with the local SAPS to prevent the formation and/or expansion of informal settlements in such an area, especially if it encroaches upon the servitude.

#### **5.1.3 *Relocation of households and/or Population segments***

- Avoid the resettlement and/or displacement of households as far as possible.
- If resettlement is unavoidable, residents should be sufficiently compensated and assisted with the relocation process.

- A form of compensation should also be granted to individuals who are residing in informal settlements within the servitude.
- A formal grievance procedure should be implemented and communicated to landowners to ensure a fair and transparent process.
- Eskom (or its appointed contractor) should monitor areas where people gather in the field on a regular basis as this is normally the first indication that settlement might take place in the area. These people should be removed in co-operation with the local SAPS to prevent the formation and/or expansion of informal settlements in such an area, especially if it encroaches upon the servitude.
- The servitude should be inspected on a regular basis to determine whether any settlement has taken place, either within the servitude, or encroaching upon the servitude.
- Households that encroach upon or settle within the servitude have to be relocated as soon as possible.
- Eskom or its appointed contractors should assist these households with the relocation process.
- Educate surrounding communities about the dangers of living in the servitude.
- A form of signage on the towers should also indicate that it is dangerous.
- In some way, a barrier (psychological and/or physical) should indicate that no structures should be built in the servitude. One way of achieving such a barrier is to educate community leaders on the health and safety aspects of the servitude, who then in turn can ensure that settlement does not take place within the servitude.

## **5.2 Geographical Change Processes**

### **5.2.1 *Temporary loss of cultivated land***

- Compensation for the temporary loss of cultivated land should be included in the negotiation process with the landowner.
- Initial servitude clearing on the farmland should take place after the harvesting season, as far as possible. Landowners should be compensated for the loss of cultivated land.
- The area should be rehabilitated upon completion of the construction activities to ensure that the land is returned in the same condition as prior to the construction activities.

### **5.2.2 Temporary loss of grazing land**

- Mitigation measures should be implemented to avoid any negative impact on animals (e.g. fencing off the construction area).
- Eskom or its appointed contractor(s) should assist with the temporary relocation of livestock during construction, as well as relocating cattle back to their original grazing area once construction in an area is completed.
- Grazing areas should be rehabilitated to their original grazing conditions to ensure that cattle can continue to graze in the area once they are returned to that area.
- Where the area cannot be rehabilitated to its original condition within a reasonable period of time, Eskom or its appointed contractor(s) should provide funding to obtain alternative food sources to the farmer for the time period required for natural rehabilitation to occur within the grazing area.

### **5.2.3 Permanent loss of grazing land**

- Where possible, towers should be located on the boundary of the farmland to lessen the loss of grazing land.

### **5.2.4 Spatial development**

- Route alignment should avoid both existing and planned settlements, where possible.
- Route alignment should take cognisance of local development plans.

### **5.2.5 Presence of the transmission power line**

- Education local residents on the real and perceived dangers of living close to a Transmission power line.
- Maintenance of the servitude in terms of restrictions associated with residences within this area.

### **5.2.6 Permanent loss of cultivated land, including irrigation**

- Consultation should take place between the landowner and Eskom to determine the extent of permanent loss of land for cultivation due to the presence of the tower(s).
- Upon agreement between the landowner and Eskom, landowners should be compensated for the permanent loss of portions of the land that is unreachable due to the presence of the tower(s).

- Where possible, pylons should be located on the border of the farmland to lessen the potential loss of cultivated land.
- Alignment should be done in such a way that it is located a safe distance away from centre pivots.

### **5.2.7 Mining operations**

- The location of the Transmission power line should be determined in consultation with mining companies.
- It is preferable to avoid mining operations at these plants altogether.

## **5.3 Economical Change Processes**

### **5.3.1 Compensation for servitude**

- Compensation (not necessarily in the form of monetary compensation) to individuals who are residing in informal settlements within the servitude should be considered. However, this issue should be approached with caution as this might set a precedent for future projects (people might deliberately move onto the servitude for the purpose of receiving compensation).
- The land valuator should be experienced in valuating the land in question.
- The process should be conducted with the necessary respect, and the negotiator should be transparent about the process and expectations (do not engage in “empty promises”).
- The negotiation should be done for the whole servitude and not part of the servitude.
- Contracts should be reviewed by an independent body.
- Land owners should be made aware that a pre- and post evaluation of their land value is possible.

### **5.3.2 Direct formal employment to local individuals**

- Unskilled job opportunities should be afforded to local residents. Local trade unions could assist with the recruitment process to counteract the potential for social mobilisation.
- Equal opportunities for employment should be created to ensure that the local female population also have access to these opportunities. Females should be encouraged to apply for positions.
- Individuals with the potential to develop their skills should be afforded training opportunities. Eskom or its appointed contractors should be involved in this process.

- Mechanisms should be developed to provide alternative solutions for creating job security upon completion of the project. This could include formal and/or informal training on how to look for alternative employment, information on career progression, etc. to ensure that people are equipped to seek other jobs with the skills that they have gained.
- Payment should comply with applicable Labour Law legislation in terms of minimum wages.
- Where local labourers are employed on a more permanent basis, cognisance should be taken of the Labour Law in terms of registering the worker with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), Pay as You Earn (PAYE), workman's compensation and all other official bodies as required by law. This would enable the worker to claim UIF as a means of continuous financial support when the worker's position on the construction team has either become redundant or once the construction phase comes to an end.
- Avoid employing foreign labour on the project. Immigrants are seen to be "taking" jobs or trading opportunities needed by South Africans - often at lower rates of pay or by evading trading regulations.
- Individuals with the potential to develop their skills should be afforded training opportunities. Eskom should be involved in this process.
- Make use of local labour on unskilled maintenance components, such as servitude maintenance.

### ***5.3.3 Indirect formal and/or informal employment opportunities to local individuals***

- Where possible, formalise informal job opportunities (e.g. the provision of services such as food) at the construction site and/or camp. The formalisation process could include issuing permits to vendors and removing non-permitted individuals as a way to reduce the potential for conflict amongst vendors and to curb loitering at the site and/or camp.
- Identify the segment of the local community that might benefit from informal indirect opportunities, and assist them with skills development and subsidise sustainable initiatives.
- Encourage construction workers to use local services.

## **5.4 Empowerment and Institutional Change Processes**

### ***5.4.1 Negotiation process***

- The implementation of a fair and transparent negotiation process, as discussed under Section 2.4.
- Negotiations in should be approached with the necessary cultural sensitivity.

- Eskom should consider making use of an approved interpreter during the negotiation process to ensure that there are no misunderstandings as a result of language barriers.

#### **5.4.2 Additional demand on municipal services**

- Construction workers should be made aware of the limited capacity of the municipal services network.
- Negotiations with the affected local municipalities must be conducted and a “demand-side management” should be implemented.
- Sufficient portable chemical toilets should be provided on site and at the construction village. These must be regularly maintained and serviced.
- Contractors should ensure adequate sanitation services (e.g. showers) at the construction village with effective drainage facilities to ensure that used water is appropriately treated and carried away from the site.

### **5.5 Socio-Cultural Change Processes**

#### **5.5.1 Integration with local community**

- The community should be informed in advance of the influx of construction workers and the time they will spend in the community as well as the activities they will be involved in. This will enable the community to prepare for a possible (temporary) change in functioning.
- A code of conduct should be established for construction workers in their dealings with the local community. Creating of awareness on both sides (community and outsiders) is crucial for the success of the project.
- Potential conflict situations can be reduced beforehand using a transparent recruitment process, i.e. where labourers would be sourced from the local community.
- A labour desk should be implemented where the local community members could register. A rotary system could be used for unskilled labour to ensure that all job seekers have an equal opportunity to employment.
- Potential conflict situations within the construction village itself can be managed by means of weekly forum meetings. During these meetings residents should have the opportunity to raise any problems experienced and make suggestions in terms of their living space. Where feasible, these problems and suggestions should be addressed as soon as possible to ensure a conflict-free environment.

### **5.5.2 Health**

- An aggressive STI and HIV/AIDS awareness campaign should be launched, which is not only directed at construction workers but also at the community as a whole.
- Condoms should be distributed by placing them at centrally located points and by ensuring that construction workers and community members are aware of the availability and location of condoms. The distribution of condoms should be approached with the necessary cultural sensitivity.
- Access at the construction site should be controlled to prevent sex workers from either visiting and/or loitering at the construction village.
- Local women should be empowered. This could be achieved by employing them to work on the project, which in turn would decrease their (financial) vulnerability.

### **5.5.3 Safety and Security**

- Construction workers should be clearly identifiable. Overalls should have the logo of the construction company on it and/or construction workers should wear identification cards.
- The construction site should be fenced and access should be controlled by means of a security access point.
- Loitering of outsiders at the either the construction site or at the construction village should not be allowed. Loiterers at the site should be removed in cooperation with the local branch of the South African Police Service (SAPS).

### **5.5.4 Construction noise**

- Construction activities should be restricted to daytime hours between 06:00 and 18:00.
- Adjacent property owners should be consulted and notified of any construction activities that could lead to excessive noise levels.
- Adjacent property owners should also be consulted if any night time construction activities were to take place.

### **5.5.5 Movement of maintenance workers**

- Maintenance workers should be clearly identifiable, either by wearing overalls and/or identification cards.
- Consult with local landowners prior to maintenance work taking place, to inform them of when the maintenance team will be on site, for how long, and approximately how many persons the team will consist of.

- Supply landowners with a contact number to report suspicious persons or persons who loiter around the maintenance team, but that does not form part of the maintenance team. (For example: If Eskom indicated that the maintenance team would consist of 20 people, but the landowner notices that there are 30 people on his property, he should be able to inform Eskom of this fact.)

#### **5.5.6 Physical splintering**

- Community awareness on the safety mechanisms of a Transmission power line and potential dangers.
- Such an awareness campaign should be based on and address Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding a Transmission power line, e.g. is it safe to walk underneath a Transmission power line if the surrounding area is wet or it is raining?
- The awareness campaign should also focus on standard operating procedures when there is a breakdown in the line, e.g. people should steer clear of the area, who to contact, etc.

#### **5.5.7 Sense of Place**

- Sufficient and transparent information should be supplied to local residents within the area to enhance their sense of safety and thereby reducing the negative impact on sense of place.
- Due consideration should be given to any visual screening mitigation measures identified and suggested by the Visual Impact Assessment.

#### **5.5.8 Third party tampering**

- Conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify essential portions and dimensions of the Transmission power line that is particularly vulnerable to wilful damage.
- Ensure that physical security systems and emergency tactical response measures are adequate and effective.
- Increase random aerial and ground surveillance of the entire length of the Transmission power line or sections thereof.
- Fence off and control access to towers and other key facilities on the Transmission power line.

## **6. SOURCES**

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- Municipal Demarcation Board. ([www.demarcation.org.za](http://www.demarcation.org.za))
- [www.arrod.co.uk](http://www.arrod.co.uk).
- [www.greatriverenergy.com/community/power\\_line\\_safety.html](http://www.greatriverenergy.com/community/power_line_safety.html).
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