

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT
SCOPING/EIA FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE ESSELEN NORTHRAND CHLOORKOP TRANSMISSION POWER LINES AND MODIFICATIONS OF SUBSTATIONS

This Background Information Document (BID) provides stakeholders with information about the proposed project, an opportunity to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and to obtain their initial comments on and contributions to the proposed upgrade and construction of the Esselen Northrand Chloorkop Transmission Power Lines and modifications of Substations

1 ESKOM TRANSMISSION

Transmission Services is a Business Area that was formed on 01 June 2002 to provide services on Network Development, Maintenance Services and Special Projects. Transmission Services business activities are in support of Eskom Holdings' vision of "together building a powerbase for sustainable growth and development". Transmission Services actively supports Transmission Division's mission of sustaining, operating and maintaining reliable transmission networks, primarily in South Africa.

1.1. Location of the Transmission Departments

Transmission Services resources are essentially located at Megawatt Park and Simmerpan. Eskom Live Line teams are based in Witbank, Germiston, Durban and Cape Town.

Transmission Services houses the Power Delivery International (PDI) department whose primary function / role is to operate and maintain Transmission and Distribution (T&D) assets internationally, as defined or approved in the Eskom Holdings investment portfolio.

1.2. Departments

The following departments constitute Transmission services:

- Protection, Measurements & Control (PMC) Design
- Divisional Client Office
- Land and Rights
- Live Line Services
- Business Support
- Power Delivery International (T&D International)
- Transmission Information Management
- Transmission Technology

2. EIA BACKGROUND

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 56 of the EIA Regulations published in Government Notice R 385 in Government Gazette No. 28753 of 21 April 2006 under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, that Eskom Transmission is proposing the upgrade and construction of the Esselen Northrand Chloorkop Transmission Power Lines and modifications to the Substations. In terms of the National Environmental Management Act and Regulation R386 and R387 of 2006 the upgrading of transmission lines and substations are listed activities (1m, 12 & 15 of Regulation R386; 1c, 1l, 2 & 7 of Regulation R387) and thereby require an EIA to be conducted to determine the impact of the activity on the surrounding environment.

This BID document will help stakeholders to:

1. Determine if they are interested and/or affected by the proposed project.
2. Better understand the project in order to be able to provide comment.
3. Understand the environmental authorisation process so that they are able to participate effectively.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The proposed project entails the rebuilding (upgrade) of the 275kV line to 2x 400kV lines from Esselen to Northrand Substation, 16km in length with a 600m loop-in required at Northrand. The construction of 2x132kV new lines from Northrand to Chloorkop substation, 3km in length. The project entails the modification of the Esselen, Northrand and Chloorkop substations to accommodate the new line capacities.

4 LOCATION

The proposed site for the project is from the Esselen to Northrand then to Chloorkop Substation. Tembisa is to the north-west of the proposed lines and Birchleigh to the south.

5 MOTIVATION FOR THE PROJECT

Eskom needs to upgrade the transmission line and substations as the 275/132kV transformers at the Esselen substation are currently uniform. Due to the Esselen substation being dolomitic a need arose to look at the alternative way of resolving uniform conditions. Most of the 132 kV load supplied by Esselen substation is at Northrand and Chloorkop substation with the 132kV line from Esselen constructed at 275kV specification. Since the 88kV cannot be shifted or supplied for neighboring MTS, the only option available was to move the 132kV load. There is

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also a request from City Power for Eskom to supply them with 275kV at Kelvin Power station site which is closer to North Rand substation.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Environmental Impact Assessment is a process by which possible impacts of a proposed project are identified, evaluated/assessed and possible mitigation measures identified and implemented.

Public Participation Process

The aim of Public Participation is to provide sufficient and accessible information to stakeholders in an objective manner to assist them to raise issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefit, and verify that their issues have been captured during the EIA for the proposed development.

The following processes will be followed during the Scoping and EIA phases:

- Announcement of the project
- Notification and registration of stakeholders;
- Focus group meetings
- Public comment on the draft Scoping report over a 30 day period;
- Public Meeting for the Scoping Phase
- Issues and Responses Report;
- Public comment on the draft EIA report over a 30 day period;
- Public meeting for the EIA Phase
- Notification of Environmental Authorisation; and
- Appeal Period.

EIA Process Approach

BKS envisages approaching the proposed project in line with the process in Figure 2 overleaf.

Meeting or consultation with Environmental Authority

Application forms were submitted to the environmental authority – the Department Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) and the project is registered under number 12/12/20/1152.

Draft Scoping Report

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) will be prepared on the basis of information and issues identified during the scoping phase of the EIA. The DSR will be made available for I&APs to review and make inputs.

Final Scoping Report

The final scoping report will be compiled after all issues have been obtained from the public during the public participation process and will incorporate an issues and responses report prepared during this process. The Final Scoping Report will be submitted, with the Plan of Study for EIA which will provide a clear description of the methodology of the EIA, to DEAT.

Specialist Studies

The following specialist studies will be undertaken for this project:

Topographical and baseline analyses will be undertaken where maps of the key topographical area will be used to determine impact of the project on the local and regional topography.

Geology and soil suitability study will be investigated, but only on a desk-top level, mapped on the GIS, and integrated with other specialist studies. These studies will inform the preferred and alternative routings of the transmission lines.

Biodiversity specialist study including wetland assessment will be undertaken for the project during the scoping phase to identify the floristic community. These communities will be

assessed in terms of its type, location and conservation status. This assessment will allow an understanding of the natural environment at the site and identify sensitive vegetation. During the EIA phase the site will be visited to determine and assess floristic and ecological communities in situ. Findings will be confirmed through consultation with local and regional ecologist of the conservation authorities.

A specialist investigation will be undertaken to identify the faunal aspect, which will assist in determining the sensitive areas where the communities of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates occur.

A geotechnical study will be required as the greater area is situated on dolomite.

A Heritage impact assessment will be undertaken, which will comprise of a desk-top study to compile a background history of the area and surrounds.

A specialist study to determine the agricultural potential of the site will also be undertaken to determine the agricultural potential of the proposed site and its linkage to a wider agricultural resource.

A specialist study will be undertaken to determine the impact the proposed transmission lines will have on the birds (e.g. collision, disturbance of habitat and electrocution).

A social impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure the social impacts are addressed, particularly in terms of health and socio-economic benefits.

EIA Assessment

The specialist studies, public participation process and issues identified will be assessed from an environmental perspective. An assessment of the impact that the proposed

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT **SCOPING/EIA FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE ESSELEN NORTHRAND CHLOORKOP TRANSMISSION POWER LINES** **AND MODIFICATIONS OF SUBSTATIONS**

development may have on the environment includes evaluating the impact according to a series of assessment criteria. The Draft EIA report will be made available to I&APs for comment over a period of 30 days. Thereafter the final EIA report will be submitted to DEAT for consideration.

Environmental Management Plan

The EMP will outline how negative environmental impacts will be managed and minimized; how positive impacts will be maximised; and how the upgrading of the transmission lines and substations will be managed. The plan will provide guidelines for

the planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance and eventual decommissioning of the proposed development, as well as a holistic management and monitoring plan for the entire project.

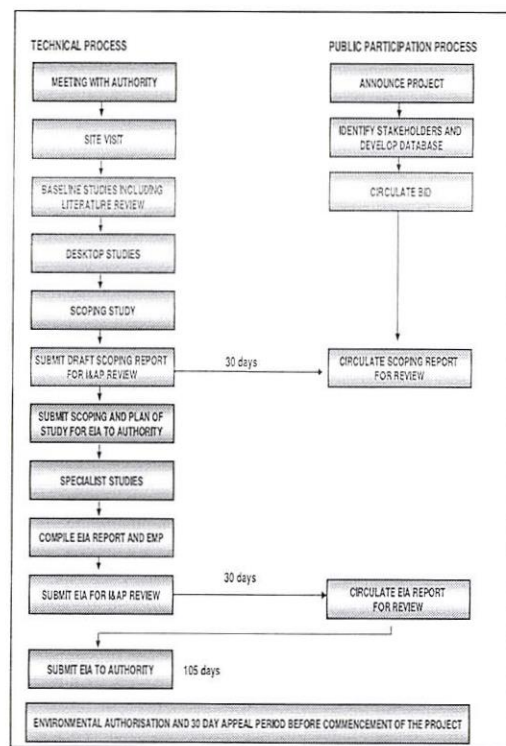


Figure 2: EIA Process

Mr. E. Mashau / Ms Mamokete Maimane
 Block D, cnr Grosvenor & Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0001
 P O Box 3173, Pretoria, 0001
 Tel: (012) 421 3577/3699
 Fax: (012) 421 3698
 Email: eddiem@bks.co.za / mamoketem@bks.co.za

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REGISTRATION FORM

**FOR INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCOPING / EIA FOR THE
PROPOSED UPGRADE AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE ESSELEN NORTHRAND CHLOORKOP
TRANSMISSION POWER LINES AND MODIFICATIONS OF THE SUBSTATIONS**

Please complete this form and return it to Mr. E. Mashau or Ms. M. Maimane of BKS (Pty) Ltd by 22 May 2007.

BKS (Pty) Ltd
Cnr Grosvenor Street & Arcadia
Hatfield Gardens Block D, Hatfield
P.O.Box 3173
Pretoria
0001
Tel: (012) 421 3577/3699
Fax: (012) 421 3698
E-mail: eddiem@bks.co.za /
mamoketem@bks.co.za

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BLOCK:

I want to be directly involved in the public participation process and receive relevant project information
I want to be kept informed on the project public participation process
I am not interested and do not want to participate

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Title.....Initials.....Surname.....
Organisation/Firm (if appropriate):.....
Position/Nature of Involvement, e.g. property owner:.....
Physical address:.....
Postal address:.....Code:.....
Tel & area code: (.....).....Cell.....
Fax & area code: (.....).....e-mail:

COMMENTS

1. Will you be directly affected through the construction of the proposed upgrading of the power lines and substations If Yes, HOW?

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2. Please list any comments, concerns or suggestions, which you would like to contribute regarding the proposed upgrading power lines and substations.

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3. Do you require any specific additional information? If YES, please specify.

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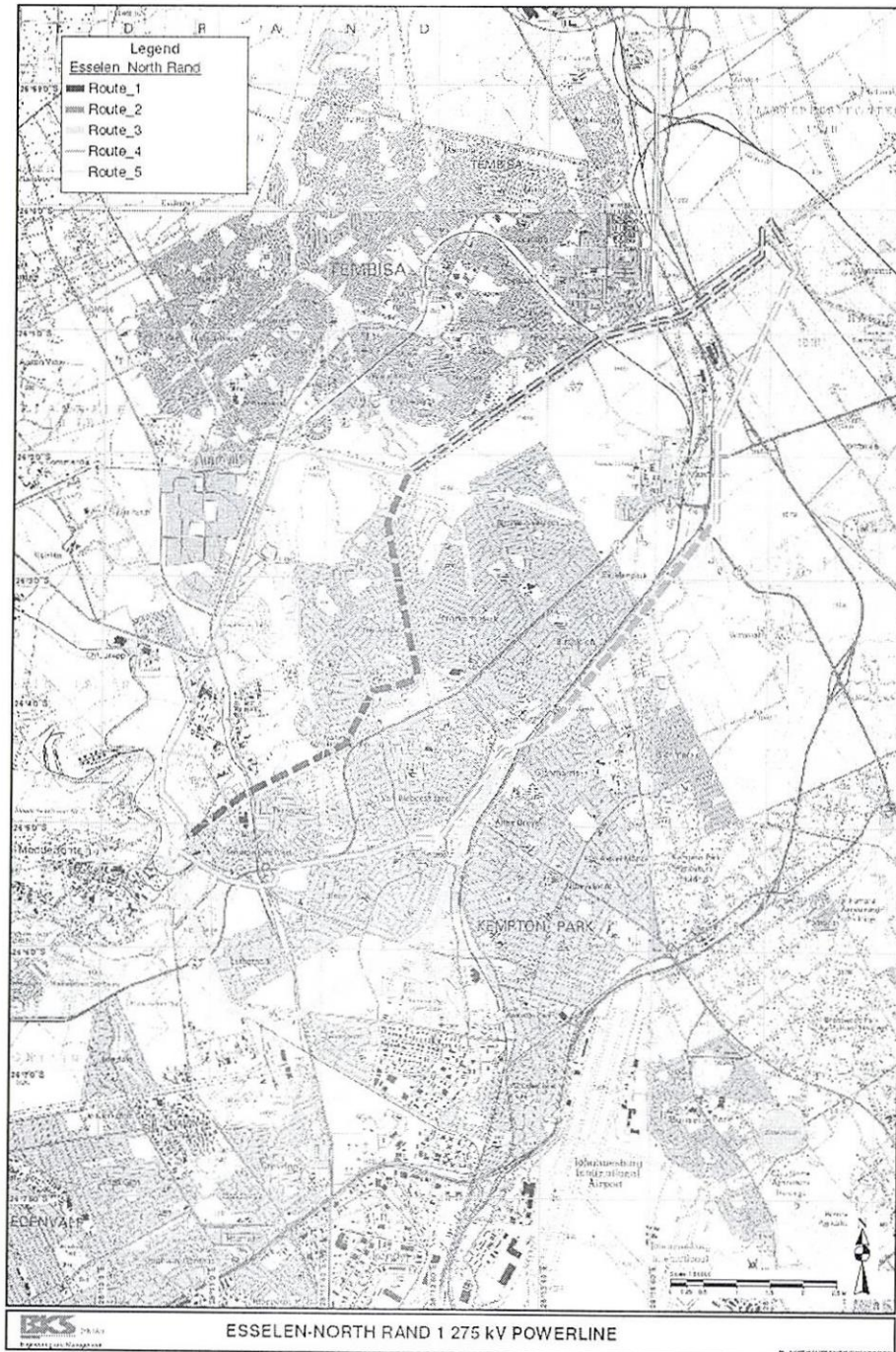
4. Are there any specific role-players who you feel should be involved in the EIA process? If Yes, please state their names, contact details and organization and/or position in the organization.

.....
.....

(Please attach any further comments you wish to make)

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**NOTICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

(DEAT Reference no: 12/12/20/1152)

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 56 of the regulations published in terms of Government Notice R385, published in terms of Section 24 and 24(D) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, that the applicant is applying for Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, with a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment procedure, for the upgrade of the Esselen to Northrand and the construction of the new Northrand to Chloorkop Transmission Power Lines and modifications of the Substations.

Applicant: Eskom Transmission: Land and Rights

Independent Environmental Consultant: BKS (Pty) Ltd

Date of publication of advertisement: 10 April 2008

Site locality: The proposed area for the project is from the Esselen to Northrand then to Chloorkop Substation. Tembisa is to the North-West of the propose lines and Birchleigh to the South.

Project description: The proposed project entails the rebuilding (upgrade) of the 275kV line to 2x 400kV lines from Esselen to Northrand Substation, 16km in length with a 600m loop-in required at Northrand. The construction of 2x132kV new lines from Northrand to Chloorkop substation, 3km in length. The project entails the modification of the Esselen, Northrand and Chloorkop substations to accommodate the new line capacities.

Contact Persons: Mr. E. Mashau/ Ms. M. Maimane; BKS (Pty) Ltd; PO Box 3173, Pretoria, 0001; Tel: (012) 421 3577/3699; Fax: (012) 421 3698; E-mail: eddiem@bks.co.za / mamoketem@bks.co.za

To register as an interested and affected party, to receive information, and/or to object, please submit your name, contact information, and substantiated interest in the project to the above contact persons no later than thirty (30) days after the publication of this advertisement.

This project is conducted of behalf of Eskom Transmission

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KENNISGEWING VAN OMGEWINGS IMPAKSTUDIE PROSES

(DEAT Verwysingsnommer: 12/12/20/1152)

KENNIS geskied hiermee ingevolge Regulasie 56 van die regulasies uitgevaardig in terme van Goewermentskennisgewing R385, kragtens Artikel 24 en 24 (D) van die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuurswet, 1998 (Wet No. 107 van 1998), soos hersien, dat die applikant aansoek doen vir Omgewingsgoedkeuring van die Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerisme, d.m.v 'n Bestekopname en Omgewingsimpakstudie prosedure, vir die opgradering van die Esselen Northrand en opbou van 'n nuwe Northrand Chloorkop Transmissie kraglyne en modifiering van Substasies.

Applikant: Eskom Transmissie: Grond en Regte

Onafhanklike Omgewingskonsultant: BKS (Edms) Bpk.

Datum van publikasie van advertensie: Datum

Terrrein ligging: Die voorgestelde area vir die projek sluit 'n area vanaf die Esselen teen Northrand tot by Chloorkop Substasie in. Tembisa is noordwes en Birchleigh is suid vanaf die voorgestelde lyne geleë.

Projekbeskrywing: Die voorgestelde projek bestaan uit die herbouing (opgradering) van die 275kV lyne tot 2x 400kV lyne vanaf Esselen tot Northrand Substasie. Die lyne is 16km in lengte en vereis 'n 600m lus by Northrand. Nuwe lyne sluit die konstruksie van 2 x 132kV lyne met 'n lengte van 3km vanaf Northrand tot Chloorkop substasie in. Die projek sluit ook die verandering van die substasies in om die nuwe lyne se kapasiteit te akkommodeer.

Kontakpersone: Mnr. E. Mashau/ Me. M. Maimane; BKS (Edms) Bpk.; Posbus 3173, Pretoria, 0001; Tel: (012) 421 3577/3699; Faks: (012) 421 3698; E-pos: eddiem@bks.co.za / mamoketem@bks.co.za

Om as geïnteresseerde en geaffekteerde party te registreer, om projekinligting te ontvang en/of om beswaar aan te teken, versoek ons u om u naam, kontakinligting, en bewysbare belang by die projek, nie later as dertig dae (30) na publikasie van die advertensie, na die bogenoemde persone te stuur.

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The following processes will be followed during the Scoping and EIA phases:

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- Public Meeting
- Focus group meetings (if required);
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Meeting or consultation with Environmental Authority

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specialist studies. These studies will inform the preferred and alternative routings of the transmission lines.

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A specialist investigation will be undertaken to identify the faunal aspect, which will assist in determining the sensitive areas where the communities of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates occur.

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Heritage impact assessment will be undertaken, which will comprise of a desk-top study to compile a background history of the area and surrounds.

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Environmental Management Plan

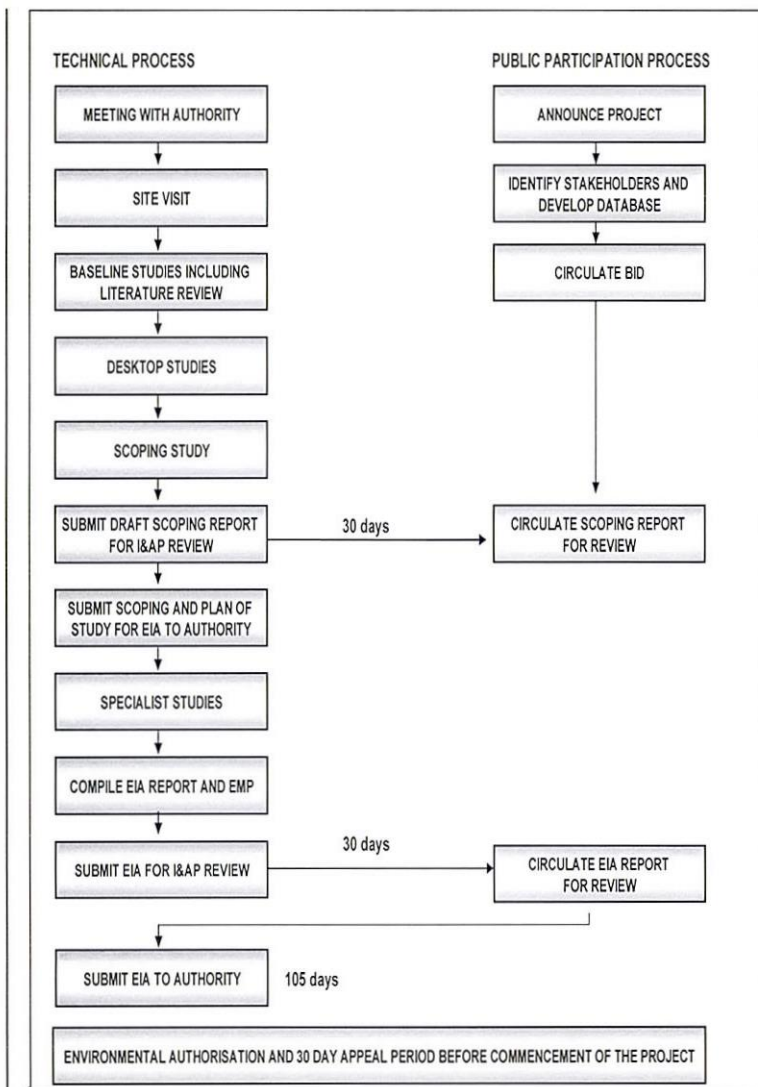
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Mr. E. Mashau / Ms Mamokete Maimane
Block D, cnr Grosvenor & Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0001
P O Box 3173, Pretoria, 0001
Tel: (012) 421 3577/3699
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Figure 2: EIA Process

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REGISTRATION FORM

FOR INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCOPING / EIA FOR THE
PROPOSED UPGRADE AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE ESSELEN NORTHRAND CHLOORKOP
TRANSMISSION POWER LINES AND MODIFICATIONS OF THE SUBSTATIONS

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Please complete this form and return it to Mr. E. Mashau or Ms. M. Maimane of BKS (Pty) Ltd by 16 May 2007.

BKS (Pty) Ltd
Cnr Grosvenor Street & Arcadia
Hatfield Gardens Block D, Hatfield
P.O.Box 3173
Pretoria
0001
Tel: (012) 421 3577/3699
Fax: (012) 421 3698
E-mail: eddiem@bks.co.za /
mamoketem@bks.co.za

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BLOCK:

I want to be directly involved in the public participation process and receive relevant project information

I want to be kept informed on the project public participation process

I am not interested and do not want to participate

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Title.....Initials.....Surname.....
Organisation/Firm (if appropriate):.....
Position/Nature of Involvement, e.g. property owner:.....
Physical address.....
Postal address:.....Code:.....
Tel & area code: (.....).....Cell.....
Fax & area code: (.....).....e-mail:.....

COMMENTS

1. Will you be directly affected through the construction of the proposed upgrading of the power lines and substations If Yes, HOW?

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2. Please list any comments, concerns or suggestions, which you would like to contribute regarding the proposed upgrading power lines and substations.

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(Please attach any further comments you wish to make)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2006

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 56 of the regulations published in terms of Government Notice R385, published in terms of Section 24 and 24(D) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, that the applicant is applying for Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, with a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment procedure, for the upgrade of the Esselen to Northrand and the construction of the new Northrand to Chloorkop Transmission Power Lines and modifications of the Substations.

Applicant: Eskom Transmission: Land and Rights

Independent Environmental Consultant: BKS (Pty) Ltd

Project description: The proposed project entails the rebuilding (upgrade) of the 275kV line to 2x 400kV lines from Esselen to Northrand Substation, 16km in length with a 600m loop-in required at Northrand. The construction of 2x132kV new lines from Northrand to Chloorkop substation, 3km in length. The project entails the modification of the Esselen, Northrand and Chloorkop substations to accommodate the new line capacities.

Site locality: The proposed site for the project is from the Esselen to Northrand to Chloorkop Substation. Tembisa is to the North-West of the propose lines and Birchleigh to the South.

To register as an interested and affected party, to receive information, and/or to object, please submit your name, contact information, and substantiated interest in the project to:

Mr. E. Mashau/ Ms. M. Maimane
BKS (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 3173, Pretoria, 0001
Tel: (012) 421 3577/3699
Fax: (012) 421 3698
E-mail: eddiem@bks.co.za / mamoketem@bks.co.za

Date of placement of notice: 10 April 2008

Date of closure for registering as an Interested and Affected Party: **No later than thirty (30) days from the date of placement of the notice.**

Note: in terms of EIA Regulations, 2006 if you want to be provided with the reports and be given notices of meetings and the outcome of the project then you are required to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP)

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ISAZISO NGEZIGABA ZOKUHLOLWA KWEZWMVELO

(DEAT Reference no: 12/12/20/1152)

Isaziso siphuma ngaphantsi koMbandela 56 wemibandela eshicilelwe neSaziso R385 sikaHulumeni, ngaphantsi kweSigaba 24 kanye no 24(D) kwiNational Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 ka 1998) njengokushicilelwe, ukuthi ofaka isicelo ufuna Imvume kweZemvelo Kumnyango weZemvelo neZokuvakasha, kanye nezigaba Zokwahlulelwa kweZemvelo, zokulungiswa kwe Esselen-Northrand nokwakha kabusha kwe Northrand-Chloorkop Transmission Power Lines ku lungiswe futhi nama Substations.

Abangeneli: Eskom Transmission: Zendawo namaLungelo

Umeluleki Wezemvelo Ozimeleyo: BKS (Pty) Ltd

Usuku Lokukhishwa Kwesaziso: 10 April 2008

Izindawo: Indawo ibekiwe yomsebenzi isuka eEsselen ukuya eNorthrand ize ifike eChloorkop Substation. Tembisa ingase Nyakatho-Ntshonalanga kwalemigqa ebekiwe kanti iBirchleigh iseNingizimu.

Okumeyalana Nomsebenzi: Lomsebenzi uqukethe ukulungiswa, komugqa oyi 275kV ukuya kwimigqa 2x 400kV kusukela eEsselen ukuya eNorthrand, nesigaba esisha esingaba ngu 600m ngobude. Ukwakhiwa kwemigqa 2x 132kV emisha kusukela eNorthrand ukuya eChloorkop Substation, 3km ngobude. Lomsebenzi uqukethe ukuguqulwa kwe Esselen, Northrand neChloorkop Substations ukuze kuvuleke indawo yemigqa emisha.

Ongaxhumana Nabo: Mr. E. Mashau/Ms. M. Maimane; BKS (Pty) Ltd; P O Box 3173, Pretoria, 0001; Tel: (012) 421 3577/3699; Fax: (012) 421 3698; E-mail: eddiem@bks.co.za/mamoketem@bks.co.za.

Ukubhalisa njengequmbu elinogqozo nelithintekayo, ukuthola ulwazi, noma ukuphikisa, sicela ubhalise igama lakho, imininingwane yocingo, nogqozo lwakho kulomsebenzi ngokwanele, kulabantu ababhalile ngenhla kungakandluli izinsuku ezingu 30 ngemva kokukhishwa kwalesaziso.

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