



# **ESKOM Transmission Line Mercury to Perseus**

**Template of presentation used during  
alternative corridor investigation phase**



# Project Team

➤ **The Proponent:**  
**ESKOM Transmission**

➤ **Environmental Consultants:**  
**Strategic Environmental Focus**

➤ **Public participation specialist:**  
**Afrosearch**



# Discussion Points

- **Meeting objectives**
- **Public participation process**
- **Background to the project**
- **Study area**
- **Environmental Assessment Process**
- **Issues identified**
- **Potential impacts identified to date**
- **Way forward**
- **Adjournment**

# Meeting Objectives

**Provide feedback on findings of the specialist reports**

- **Obtain comments from Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP'S)**
- **Proactively identify areas of concern**
- **Achieve a synergistic relationship between development, environment and I&AP'S (determination of the corridor)**

# Public Participation

## WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

A process leading to informed decision making through the joint effort of:

- interested and affected parties
- proponent
- technical experts
- authorities

## SCOPING

- **Die Volksblad (07 April 2003),**
- **Bloemnuus (10 April 2003),**
- **Vista (10 April 2003),**
- **Klerksdorp Rekord (11 April 2003),**
- **Noord-Vrystaatse Gazette (11 April 2003), and the**
- **GoldNet News (11 April 2003).**

## EIA PHASE

Reminder notices were placed in newspapers to remind I&APs of the Public Meetings.

- **Die Volksblad ( 03 September 2003),**
- **Bloemnuus ( 2003),**
- **Vista (04 September 2003),**
- **Klerksdorp Rekord (05 September 2003),**
- **Noord-Vrystaatse Gazette (05 September 2003), and the**
- **GoldNet News (05 September 2003).**

# Flyers

**A total of 4 895 flyers (bilingual) were put in the post boxes of the following towns during the Scopin phase:**

- **Bothaville (1 500 flyers),**
- **Allanridge (210 flyers),**
- **Dealesville (250 flyers),**
- **Bultfontein (603 flyers),**
- **Hertzogville (350 flyers),**
- **Wesselsbron (550 flyers),**
- **Viljoenskroon (802 flyers), and**
- **Hoopstad (380 flyers).**



# Posters

**A total of 215 posters were erected in the towns of the study area during the Scoping phase.**

- **Bothaville (50 posters),**
- **Bultfontein (30 posters),**
- **Wesselsbron (30 posters),**
- **Viljoenskroon (30 posters),**
- **Dealesville (15 posters),**
- **Hertzogville (15 posters),**
- **Vierfontein (15 posters),**
- **Allanridge (15 posters), and**
- **Hoopstad (15 posters).**

# Posters

**Amongst others, posters were put up at municipal offices, the Post Office, liquor stores, cafés, video shops, the local Spar, the Senwes Co-operatative and along the main streets. (If required a list where all the posters were erected, as well as a photograph of each poster can be provided.)**



# **Background information document**

**BID was produced and distributed from March 2003.**

**Copies of the BID were:**

- **Disseminated to identified I&APs; and**
- **Provided at Public Open Days and Public Meetings.**

**A set of posters was produced to form part of a mobile display at Public Open Days. The posters provided further detail of the project.**



# Focus groups

**Four Focus Group Meetings were held on 15 and 16 April 2003.**

- **Provincial departments (Tuesday 15 April 2003 at 10:00),**
  - **Free State DEAT,**
  - **Free State Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport,**
  - **Free State Department of Health,**
  - **Free State Provincial Museum Services, and the**
  - **Office of the Premier.**
- **Air Force Base: Bloemspruit (Tuesday 15 April at 13:45)**
- **SA Agric representatives (Thursday 16 April 2003 at 08:00),**
- **District Farmers' Union Representatives (Wednesday 16 April 2003 at 11:00),**

# Focus groups cont.

- **Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and members of the SANDF Air Force, Directorate: Aviation Safety (14 May 2003),**
- **SandVet Water Scheme and National Department of Agriculture (07 August 2003),**
- **SA Agri on 29 August 2003, and**
- **National Department of Agriculture – Parys office (09 September 2003).**

# Individual meetings

**Additional individual meetings were held with a number of I&APs at their request:**

- **Mr SJ Gouws (Farms Magdala and Driehoek),**
- **Mr H Smith (Farm Klein Driefontein and his parents' farm – Aangekocht),**
- **Dr JA Pienaar (Farm Die Denne),**
- **Mr J Grobler (Farm Karookom),**
- **Ms. S. Helm (living in Brits) – 05 September 2003, and**
- **Mr. J van Biljon (living in Pretoria) – 05 September 2003.**

# Open days & public meetings

## Invitations - Scoping Phase ( 23 & 24 April 2003):

- Letters 27
- Faxes 58
- Emails 49

## Invitations - EIR Phase ( 10 & 11 September 2003):

- Letters 369
- Faxes 53
- Emails 68

# Landowner workshops

**Invitations - ( 6 & 7 August 2003):**

➤ **Letters      233**

**(3 July 2003 – 150)**

**(16 July 2003 – 22)**

**(29 July 2003 – 61 also contacted telephonically)**





# Draft Report

**The Draft Scoping Report was made available for public perusal and comment for a period of two weeks (26 May to 12 June 2003).**

**Registered I&APs was informed of this via fax, letter, e-mail or telephonically. Hard copies of the report were made available at:**

- **Dealesville Library,**
- **Bultfontein Library,**
- **Hoopstad Library,**
- **Hertzogville Library,**
- **Wesselsbron Library,**
- **Bothaville Library,**
- **Viljoenskroon Library, and**
- **Vierfontein Police Station.**

# Issues and concerns

- **All issues recorded at meetings, over the telephone or in written comment were taken up in an Issues Register.**
- **This document formed part of the Final Scoping Report.**
- **This document is being extended for the EIA phase.**
- **The Issues Register document also provides a response or cross-reference to another part of the document.**

# How to participate

- **Be courteous at all times**
- **One at a time**
- **Introduce yourself**
- **Focus on the issue not the individual**
- **Participate through the chairperson**
- **Nominate by show of hands**
- **No interruptions**
- **No long debates**
- **Give a fair chance to all**
- **Three questions then a response**

# Background to project

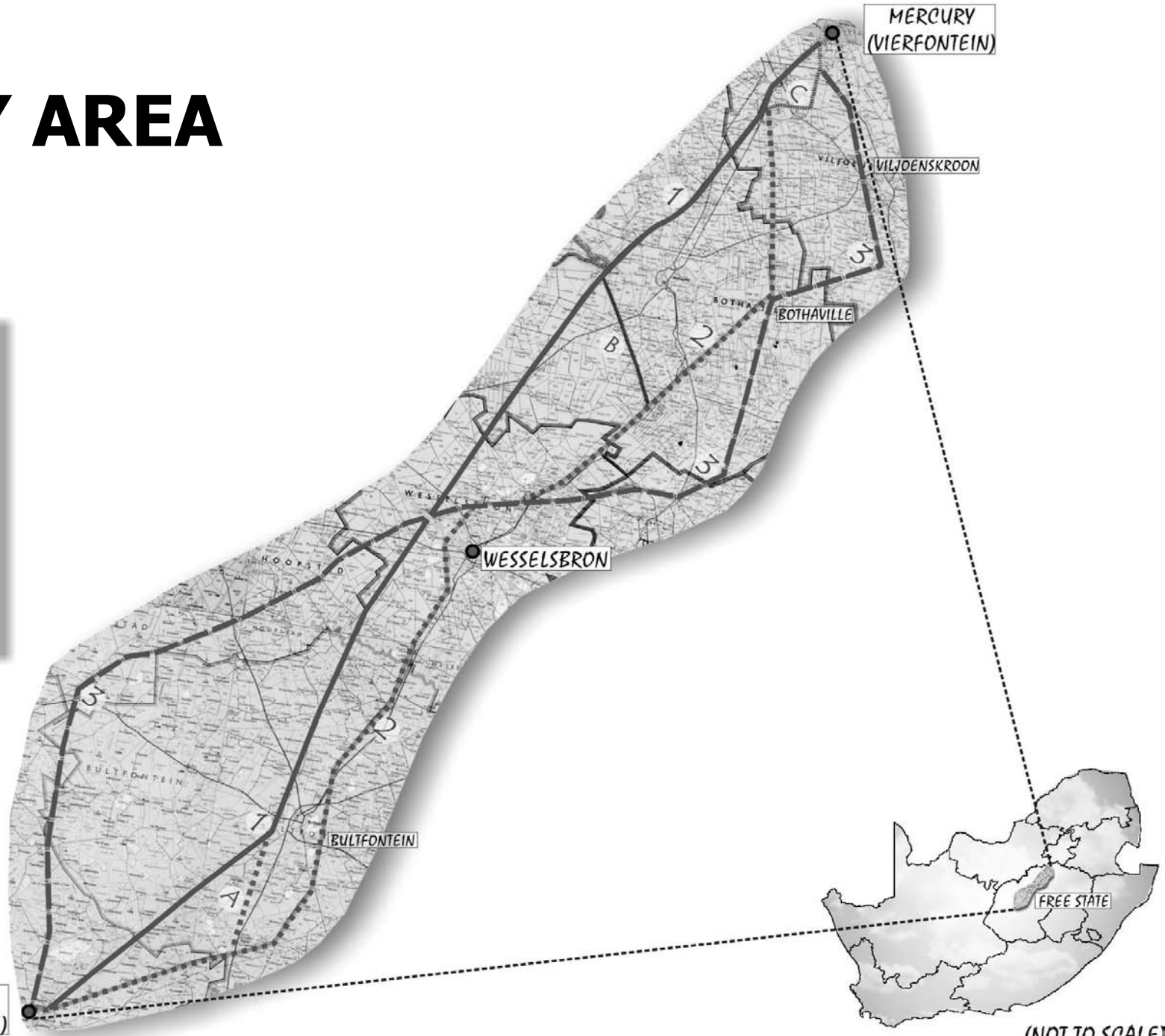
- **Eskom proposes to develop a 400kV transmission line to provide additional capacity to support the network supplying the Greater Cape Region south of Bloemfontein**
- **The proposed transmission line will be 300 – 350km in length**



# STUDY AREA

**LEGEND**

- PROPOSED ROUTE 1
- PROPOSED ROUTE 2
- PROPOSED ROUTE 3
- ALTERNATIVE A
- ALTERNATIVE B
- ALTERNATIVE C



(NOT TO SCALE)

# **Introduction to Environmental Assessment Process**

**In terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989), the development falls within the ambit of listed activities (Section 1 of Reg. 1183) and is therefore subject to an environmental impact assessment**

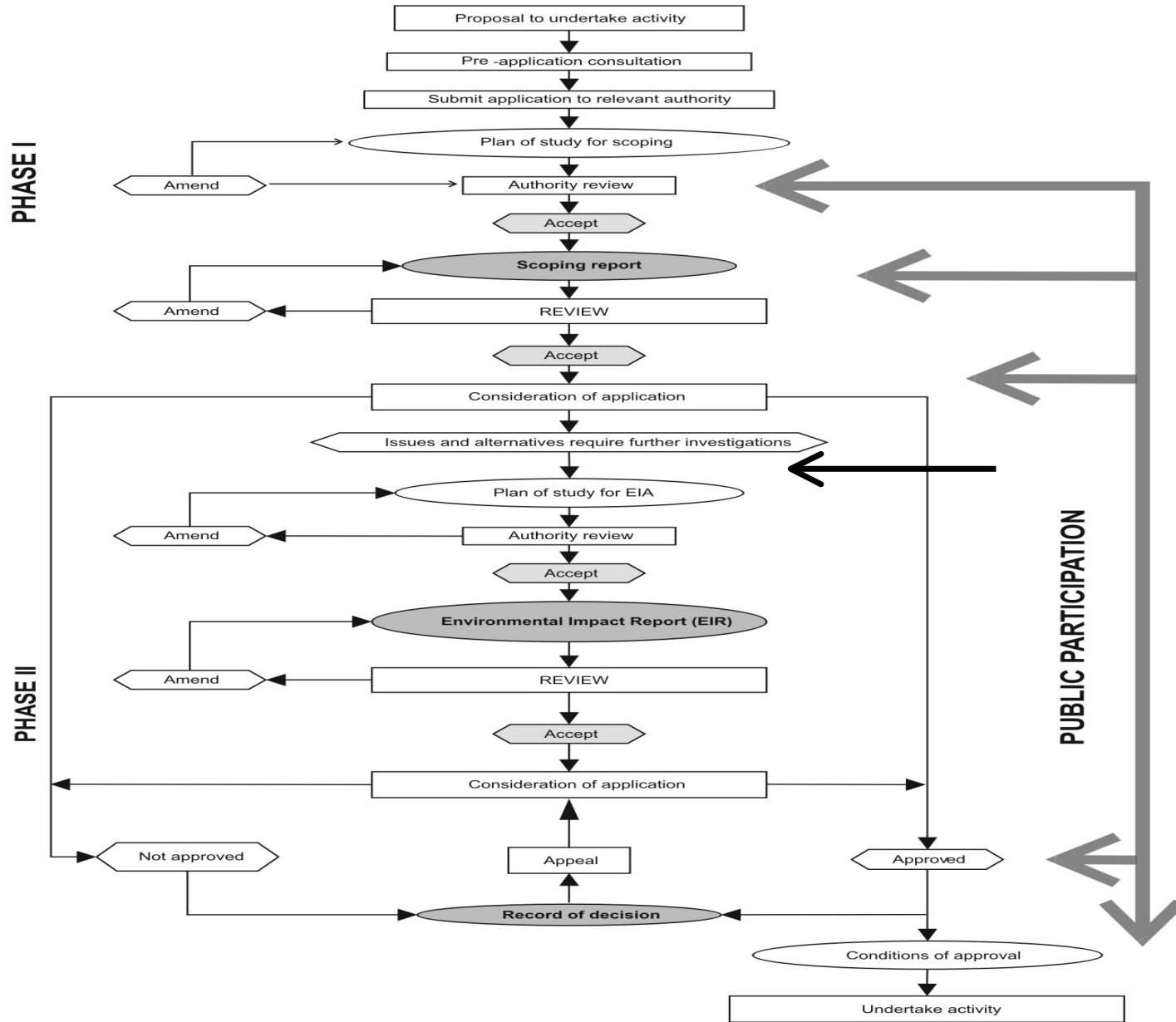
***Section 26: Listed Activity Schedule 1 cl 1a, “the construction or upgrading of facilities for commercial electricity generation and supply”***



# Process followed...

- i. The first step in the process was to identify various alternatives to accomplish the said objective**
- ii. This lead to the creation of a study area**
- iii. The feasibility of each alternative was investigated in terms of the physical, biological and social environment**
- iv. The most feasible alternative has been selected**
- v. More detailed investigations of the selected alternative**
- vi. And to ultimately secure a servitude for the said transmission line**

# Environmental process





# Environmental process to date

- **Project registration with DEAT/DTEEA:**

**27 February 2003**

- **Approval of Plan of Study for Scoping:**

**12 March 2003**

- **Scoping Report: submitted & approved:**

**25 June 2003**

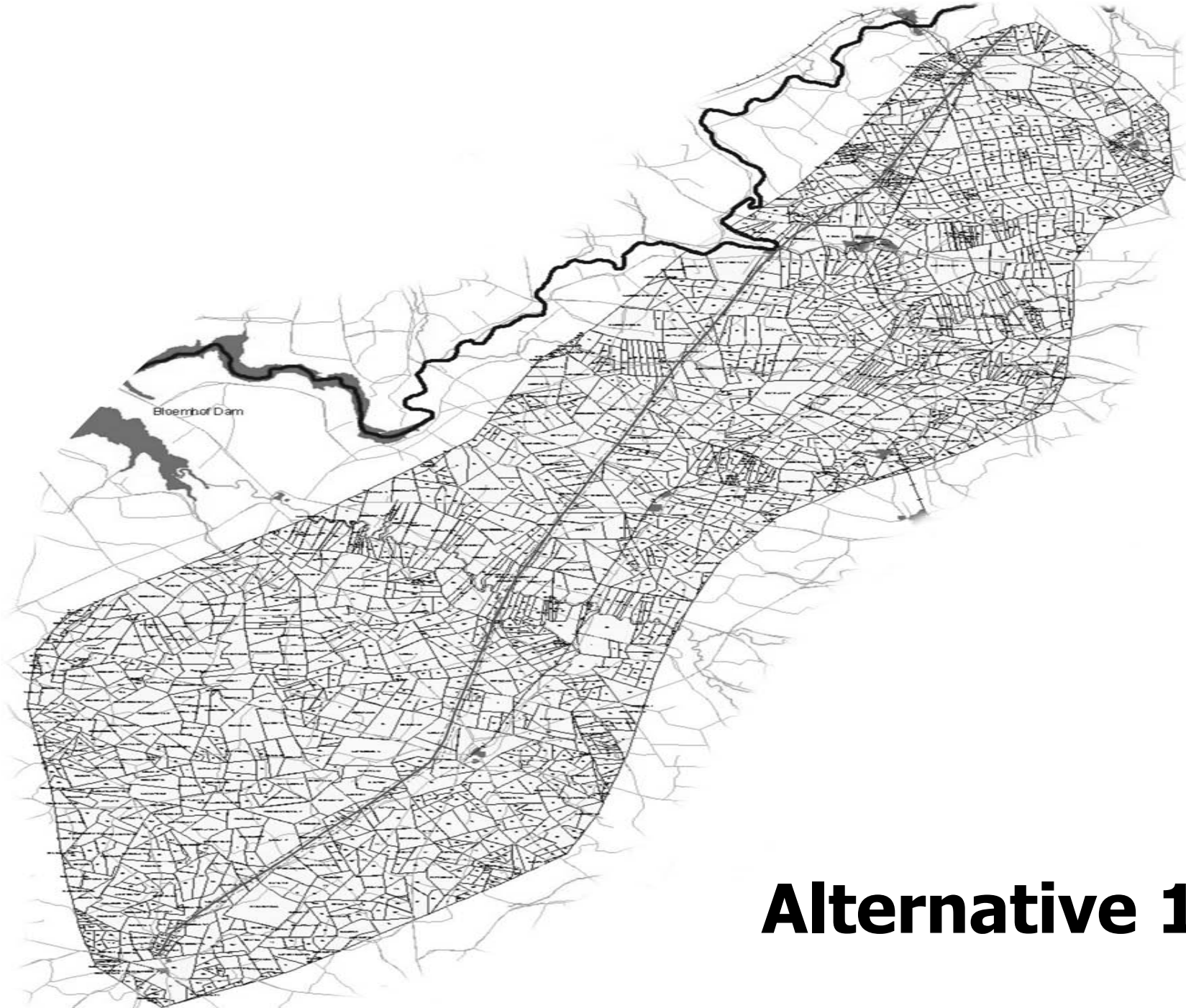
**18 August 2003**

- **Submission of Plan of Study for EIR**

**28 August 2003**

- **Public participation process (ongoing)**

**April 2003 & September 2003**



# Alternative 1



# Alternative 4

# Specialists on the team...

- **Geo-Technical**
- **Soils (Pedologist)**
- **Fauna & Flora**
- **Bird Specialist (Ornithologist)**
- **Aquatic**
- **Visual Impact**
- **Heritage**
- **Tourism**
- **Social Impact**

# Issues to be investigated...

## ➤ **Physical & biological environment**

- **Soils, Geo-Technical Aspects, Topography etc.**
- **Hydrology**
- **Fauna & Flora**

## ➤ **Social environment**

- **Social assessment**
- **Tourism**
- **Heritage Resources**



# Geo-technical

## Construction & Operation:

- **Soil erosion,**
- **Soil heave,**
- **Foundation collapse,**
- **Aggressive surface water,**
- **Subsidence: dolimitic and undermined areas**

# Soils

## Construction & operational phase:

- **Wind erosion,**
- **Soil compaction,**
- **Water erosion,**
- **Arable potential,**

# Fauna & Flora

## Construction & operational phase:

- **Erosion,**
- **Habitat destruction,**
- **Veld fires,**
- **Bird collisions (operational phase)**



# Bird Study

## Construction & operational phase:

- **Destruction of habitat,**
- **Disturbance of sensitive species,**
- **Mortality of birds**

# Surface water resources & wetlands

## Construction & operational phase:

- **Erosion of stream banks, floodplains and pans,**
- **Sedimentation of streams, rivers and pans,**
- **Faunal disturbance,**
- **Floral disturbance,**
- **Surface water pollution,**
- **Disturbance of the hydrological regime in floodplains, riparian zones and pans**

# **Sensitivity of the pans...**

**The pans are unique and have an ecological integrity that needs to be maintained due to:**

- their unique biodiversity brought about by the physical environmental conditions**
- habitat for a variety of fauna & flora (important for breeding and feeding)**
- the fact that pans are sensitive ecological systems (symbiotic relationships)**

# Visual impact

## Construction & operational phase:

- **Negative impact on sense of place,**
- **High visibility,**
- **High visual impact due to low absorption capacity,**
- **Negative impact in areas with critical views.**

# Heritage

**Construction & operational phase:**

- **Looting,**
- **Damage to sites.**



# Tourism

**Construction & operational phase:**

- **Impact on game farms**



# Social Impact

## Construction & operational phase:

- **Sanitation,**
- **Prevention of disease,**
- **Interaction with landowners,**
- **Litter control.**

# **Agricultural Economist**

**Has been appointed and findings will be incorporated into the environmental impact report.**





# **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**

- **Drafted for the construction and operational phase,**
- **Aim of this document is to ensure that the impact of the construction and operation of the transmission line is minimized,**
- **Includes the conditions captured in the signed option,**
- **Adherence thereto is monitored by the environmental officer.**

# **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**

**It addresses items such as:**

- **Physical issues and their control ,**
- **Biological issues and their control,**
- **Social issues and their control.**



# Way forward...

- **The meeting will be minuted and concerns raised addressed in the EIR Report**
- **The EIR Report will be made available for public comment in January 2004 for 30 days at libraries, on the internet, and on CD by request**
- **Once all I&AP comments have been received within the timeframe, the report will be submitted to the national and provincial environmental departments**

# Way forward...

- **A final record of decision will be obtained from DEAT (national)**
- **The record of decision will be advertised (anticipated to be in May 2004).**



# Adjournment

**Please submit further issues by 17 September 2003**

**to:**

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