

- Impacts on sites of possible historical significance;
- Visual impact of the transmission powerline;
- Social Impact Assessment;
- Tourism impacts of the transmission line and substation; and
- Impact on surrounding land uses.

These issues (to be identified during the scoping phase and added to where necessary) will initiate the EIA phase, where specialists will be commissioned, in order to provide for informed decision-making regarding the effect of the proposed activity on the environment.

Specialist Studies

Based on the initial understanding of the study area and the proposed activity as well as previous experience with similar EIA's, the following specialist studies are anticipated:

- Archaeology and Anthropology ;
- Ecology ;
- Agricultural ;
- Visual Impact Assessment;
- Tourism;
- Avifauna; and
- Social Impacts study .

Legal Requirements

In terms of Government Notice No 1182, published on 5 September 1997 and promulgated in terms of the Environment Conservation Act 73 of 1989 (ECA), Eskom Transmission requires authorization from the relevant environmental authority, for the undertaking of the proposed activity. In order to obtain this authorization, a comprehensive independent environmental impact assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations. Eskom Transmission is therefore applying for authorization in terms of the ECA to carry out the construction of the transmission line, and has appointed Tswelopele Environmental (Pty) Ltd, to complete this application in terms of the requirements of Government Notice 1183. Public participation forms an integral component of the scoping phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process.

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What is the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process?

An environmental impact assessment is an effective planning and decision making process, to describe and assess the physical, social and economic impacts which a given development may have.

To be able to inform the decision-making process, it is important for public issues and concerns to be identified timeously, to enable the EIA technical specialists to evaluate them. The various specialists also identify potential negative and positive impacts that could arise as a result of the proposed project. They identify applicable mitigation measures required, to avoid or reduce negative impacts and to enhance positive impacts.

The EIA process allows for the environmental consequences of a proposed project to be identified up-front, investigated throughout the impact assessment process and taken into consideration by the decision-making authorities.

The EIA process functions around two phases: the Scoping Phase and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Phase. During the scoping phase, (site and route) alternatives will be evaluated and a recommendation will be made for the most favourable alternative. This will be further investigated during the EIA phase. During the scoping phase, comments from interested and affected parties will be encouraged so that all potential impacts may be considered.

Where possible, mitigation measures will be proposed. The Scoping Report will identify those aspects, which will require specialist investigation during the EIR phase.

The steps undertaken during this EIA process include:

- Pre-application site-visits with authorities
- Distribution of Background Information Documents to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) in the area
- Notification of the proposed project and the EIA and invitation to attend the public meetings. This includes newspaper advertisements, posters and site notices.
- Public meetings held for all I&AP's
- Record all issues and feedback from I&AP's in an Issues and Response Report (IRR)
- Compile Draft Scoping Report (describes project, evaluates impacts and presents relevant mitigation measures) (the IRR will be attached with this report)
- Availability of a Draft Scoping Report (for public comment)

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- Submission of Final Scoping Report to authorities for decision making.
- After obtaining authority Record of Decision, advise stakeholders of the decision, as well as relevant further processes.

Your Role in Public Participation

Public Participation occurs throughout the EIA process (outlined above) and it includes the following steps:

Advertising

through newspapers, posters, notices and BIDS

Registering

of interested and affected parties (I&AP's) on the database

Consultation

informing I&AP's through public meetings and focus groups

Issues Report

Summary of all issues raised by I&AP's and key stakeholders

Comments on Drafts

Invite I&AP's to comment on draft Scoping and EIA Reports within a 30 day comment period

We do need your contribution

All comments received throughout the EIA process will be captured in detail and incorporated into the Final Reports and issued to the relevant environmental authority for consideration, before they will make a decision, on whether the proposed development should be allowed to go-ahead.

How to Make Contact

Comments can be made in any of the following ways:

- Completing and returning the comment sheet enclosed with this Background Information Document
- Written submissions (by fax or post)
- Comment by email or telephone in order to ensure continued involvement,

Please Ensure That You Are Registered As An Interested Party

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