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<b>Client Name</b>	Eskom Holdings Limited Transmission Services	
<b>Project Name</b>	Eskom Aries-Garona 400kV Transmission Power Line and Extension of the Garona Substation, Northern Cape Province	
<b>TE Project No:</b>	0608	<b>Date:</b> 27 November 2006
<b>Purpose</b>	Public meetings held in Wegdraai Community Hall to gain feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Report	
<b>Attendees</b>	Ilse Aucamp (IA) Brian Whitfield (BW) Mamokete Mafumo (MM) Wimpie Henning (WH)	Ptersa Environmental Management Consultants Tswelopele Environmental Eskom Holdings Limited Transmission Services Eskom Holdings Limited Transmission Services See attached attendance register for Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) that attended the public meeting
<b>Apologies</b>	None	

## 1. WELCOME

- 1.1. Ilse Aucamp (IA) welcomed all parties to the meeting and proceeded to introduce herself as the public participation consultant, Brian Whitfield (BW) as the environmental consultant with Tswelopele Environmental and Mamokete Mafumo (MM) and Wimpie Henning (WH) from Eskom Transmission.
- 1.2. IA informed the attendees that the presentation would be presented by BW in English with IA translating into Afrikaans following each slide presentation. Thereafter, a discussion would follow.

## 2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1. Wessel van Wyk wanted to know by whom the visual assessment was done. He explained that the tourists of Thuru Lodge are in the field 80% of the time, and the visibility from the house is not the only issue. He also expressed concern that work with the helicopter e.g. darting and counting of game is dangerous with power lines in the vicinity. Mr. van Wyk additionally informed Tswelopele Environmental of a proposal to introduce cheetahs to the farm in the near future.
- 2.2. Louis Kotze wanted to know if the consultants could address a problem if it was shown to them. BW explained that the information should be provided and that the specialists would need to amend their reports accordingly.
- 2.3. Louis Kotze explained that he has a problem with the visual impacts, as the line will spoil his view of the mountain – that is where the line forks for alternative 1B. In addition, alternative A1 will not pass through the steep hills and will therefore not cause erosion by water when it rains. Alternative B1 may cause damage by water when it rains – certain drainage lines (wetlands) are not visible during the dry months/years.
- 2.4. BW explained that the raptors use the mountains, therefore this location is regarded as sensitive. Additionally, alternative 1A traverses a small portion of vegetation (Lower Gariep Broken Veld) that is classified as having a high sensitivity. Alternative B1 will have a lesser impact on the birds and sensitive vegetation as it is located in an already impacted area (railway line). Eskom can technically build the line through either of the alternatives, 1A or 1B, however Eskom Transmission did convey the risk of erosion on the steeper slopes along alternative 1B.
- 2.5. Louis Kotze indicated that the birds do not frequent the north, but are rather found to the south (near alternative 1B). Alternative B1 will go right through the new proposed game camp, as there is a proposal to extend Thuru Lodge to include Mr. Kotze's farm. If B1 is built, no expansion can take place.
- 2.6. J.H. Fourie said that he trains horses for other people. The line will be built where he takes people to go horse riding. Horses tend to jump under power lines, which is dangerous to the riders. The line will destroy his industry. The horses are also used to prevent cattle theft.
- 2.7. Josef Fourie mentioned that the Kleinbegin road and railway track already traverse his farm. If the power line also crosses his farm, there will be nothing left to farm on.
- 2.8. J.H. Fourie said that the re-sale value of the farm would diminish with the presence of the transmission line on the farm.

- 2.9. Joseph Fourie pointed out that the farmers are experiencing problems with Spoortnet who don't close the gates during maintenance, and requested that Eskom ensure that they do close the gates during maintenance procedures. He has a problem with providing yet another key to Eskom. He lost 33 ewes last year because fences were cut.
- 2.10. Wessel van Wyk supported Josef Fourie by reiterating that Josef's farm is already divided.
- 2.11. J.H. Fourie said that no specialist came to his farm to do any studies. BW explained that specialists do not visit every single farm on the route, but if there are special issues, the information must be provided and will be forwarded to the specialists for further clarification.
- 2.12. Louis Kotze mentioned that there is a dormant asbestos mine on his farm. Alternative A1 will run quite close to that area, but it impacts on a small area and will not therefore be of significant concern.
- 2.13. Louis Kotze enquired about the impact of static electricity. Wimpie Henning (Eskom's Technical representative) explained that it has a minimum impact, as the lines will be very high. To really have an impact the lines would have to be very close to the building.
- 2.14. Clyde Kella wanted to know what the economic impact of the project would be. Will there be jobs created, and will Eskom employ local people? Will there be sustainable job creation? IA and WH explained that the project is not labour intensive, and that just a few jobs would be created for a short period during the construction phase. The jobs will not be sustainable. Technical teams will do the majority of the work, as it is highly specialised.
- 2.15. Mita Bromkamp wanted to know if there will be an impact on her animals – she uses the communal land. WH explained that there will be no impact, as the line will not cross the communal land and in any event, the land below the lines will still be available for grazing purposes.
- 2.16. Josef Fourie warned that if it rains a lot, many of the dry rivers start running, and the area is inaccessible for days. Louis Kotze confirmed this.

### **3. CLOSURE**

- 3.1. The meeting was closed and all were thanked for their time and comments.

### **4. THANK YOU**