

**ISSUES AND RESPONSE REPORT
FOR THE PROPOSED 400kV ESKOM
TRANSMISSION LINE:
ARIES–GARONA**

**NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM,
CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

**ASSIGNMENT NO: 0608
MARCH 2006**

T s w e l o p e l e



E n v i r o n m e n t a l

Tswelopele Environmental (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123
Tel: (011) 789-7170
Fax: (011) 787-3059

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1. INTRODUCTION4

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS4

 2.1. *METHODOLOGY:*5

 2.2 *IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APs) AND DATABASE*.....5

 2.3 *OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING THE SCOPING PHASE OF THE EIA PROCESS (JANUARY 2006 – MAY 2006)*5

 2.3.1 *Meeting with Ward Councillors, Local Government and Tourism Authorities*5

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROJECT AND INVITATION TO REGISTER6

 3.1 ADVERTISEMENTS6

 3.2 SITE NOTICES6

 3.3 MAPPING OF PROPERTIES AND LINKAGE WITH DATABASE.....6

 3.4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) AND COMMENT SHEETS7

 3.5 PUBLIC MEETINGS AND FOCUS GROUP MEETING.....7

 3.6 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING THE EIR PHASE OF THE EIA PROCESS (NOVEMBER 2006 – DECEMBER 2006)8

 3.7 ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROJECT AND INVITATION TO REGISTER8

 3.7.1 *Advertesments*8

 3.8 COMMENT SHEETS9

 3.9 PUBLIC MEETINGS.....9

 3.10 SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY I&AP’S9

 3.11 SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....11

4. ISSUES RAISED.....13

4.1 ISSUES RELATED TO PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OPERATION.....13

4.2 ISSUES RELATED TO ALTERNATIVES.....13

4.3 ISSUES RELATED TO WATER.....18

4.4 ISSUES RELATED TO FAUNA, FLORA AND SENSITIVE HABITATS.....19

4.5 ISSUES RELATED TO LAND-USE.....23

4.6 ISSUES RELATED TO AESTHETICS24

4.7 ISSUES RELATED TO HEALTH AND SECURITY24

4.8 ISSUES RELATED TO SOCIAL-ECONOMICS25

4.9 ISSUES RELATED TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.....31

4.10 ISSUES RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL / TECHNICAL PROCESS.....31

**5. COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT:
PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD 23 MARCH 2006 –5 MAY 2006.....32**

LIST OF APPENDICES:

- APPENDIX A : Minutes of Public Meeting
- APPENDIX B : Correspondence from Interested and Affected Parties

LIST OF ACRONYMS:

BID	Background Information Document
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
DER	Draft Ecological Report
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs & Forestry
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS	Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
I&APs	Interested & Affected Parties
IRR	Issues & Response Report
PPP	Public Participation Process
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
WESSA	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

DRAFT ISSUES & RESPONSE REPORT FOR THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED ESKOM GARONA – ARIES TRANSMISSION POWER LINE, NORTHERN CAPE

1. INTRODUCTION

This final Issues and Response Report (IRR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by interested and affected parties, stakeholders and authorities during the Scoping Phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment process undertaken for the proposed construction of a transmission power line in the Northern Cape. These issues/ queries/ concerns/ comments were submitted to the environmental consultants, Tswelopele Environmental (Pty) Ltd in the following manner:

- Comment sheets distributed with the Background Information Document (BID) for the project was submitted to the environmental consultant's, Tswelopele Environmental.
- Written queries were submitted to EIMS via e-mail, post and / or fax.

Comments received were processed by Tswelopele Environmental (Pty) Ltd and responses were compiled by Tswelopele and Eskom Transmission. As such, comments contained in this Issues Report include:

- Comments received by fax, email or post;
- Transcribed telephonic conversations;
- Records of the public meetings and focus group meeting.

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

A public participation process (PPP), as required in terms of the EIA Regulations was initiated in January 2006 (draft Scoping Report) as well as in November 2006 (draft EIR). Public participation is a process, which includes members of the public and other stakeholders in the making of decisions and choices that concern them. Interested and affected parties (I&AP's) are classified as a group whose interest a proposal or activity may affect, either positively or negatively, and/or who are concerned with a proposal or activity and its consequences. The public should be adequately engaged in processes that affect their biophysical, social, cultural and economic environment. Democratic governance, the increasing degree of decentralisation in decision-making and the growing influence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations and the private sector, provide increased opportunities for public involvement in decision making.

The objectives of the PPP were to provide an opportunity for the proponent, consultants, relevant authorities, and I&APs to exchange information; and express their views and concerns about the proposal; to identify reasonable alternatives and to identify potential socio-economic and environmental impacts of the proposed activity. This public participation process included various measures to establish contact with and raise

awareness among I&AP's.

2.1. Methodology:

- Print Media advertisements (in English and Afrikaans) were placed in local newspapers for the project announcements.
- Key stakeholders were contacted telephonically and informed about the project. These discussions were confirmed by fax/email.
- A Letter of Invitation was faxed to stakeholders to invite them to the meeting.
- Copies of the background information documents were placed at schools, the local church, the post office and local retail outlets.
- Ward Councillors offered the use of Loudhailers to announce the meeting.

2.2 Identification of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and Database

I&APs with an interest in the project were identified throughout the EIA process. Consultation with ward councillors, farmer's unions and local and regional authorities assisted in identifying I&APs. Names and contact details of all identified persons, groups, organisations and institutions were entered into an electronic database (which was updated throughout the scoping process). All I&AP's contact details were recorded, as was their relationship to the project. The main objective of this task was to prepare a firm foundation for guiding and tracking the PPP.

2.3 Opportunities for Public Participation during the Scoping Phase of The EIA Process (January 2006 – May 2006)

2.3.1 Meeting with Ward Councillors, Local Government and Tourism Authorities

A site visit was held (on 12 July 2005) in order to facilitate preliminary specialist investigations of the study area. During the visit, meetings were held with the ward councillors, local municipalities and tourism authorities. The chairmen of the Kenhardt and Kleinbegin farmers' unions were also consulted as well as the representative of the Wegdraai farming community. A brief explanation of the background and purpose of the proposed project was given and the councillor's queries were addressed. The ward councillors offered to assist with announcement of the public meetings through the use of loudhailers and they also offered to distribute background information documents. The ward councillors and the chairmen

of the farmers' unions advised the project team to inform other key stakeholders (such as the Bynabo Framer's Union (wine farmers)).

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROJECT AND INVITATION TO REGISTER

3.1 Advertisements

In accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, and as outlined in the Plan of Study for Scoping approved by the environmental authorities, advertisements were placed in the following regional newspapers, as indicated in Table 1

Table 1 (below) is a chronological representation of formal opportunities provided for public participation during the Scoping phase of the EIA process, during January to March 2006.

Table One: Advertisements to announce project and invitation to register

SCOPING PHASE			
ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION	DATE
Announcement of Project	Newspaper Advertisement	Gemsbok (English/Afrikaans)	16 January 2006 (daily newspaper)
		Die Volksblad (Afrikaans)	20 January 2006 (weekly newspaper)

3.2 Site Notices

Site Notices were placed in and around the study area on 16 and 17 January 2006. A2 sized on-site notices were placed at the proposed site. These provided an official announcement of the intent to undertake a listed activity and invited I&APs to comment and/or register as an I&AP's for the EIA process. Site notices were placed on and around the farms in the study area as well as on main roads and at public facilities. These were in English and Afrikaans. An effort was made to place the notices at major intersections of roads as well as in public facilities where locals would most likely see the posters.

3.3 Mapping of Properties and linkage with database

The information in the database was used to prepare maps of the study area and to indicate the farm portions within the study area. The map was used as a vital tool at the public meetings, in order to assist the landowners with indicating their issues of concern.

3.4 Background Information Document (BID) and Comment Sheets

A Background Information Document (BID) was prepared and distributed to all registered I&APs. The document described the key aspects of the project, contained information regarding the EIA and PPP, (as well as an invitation to the public meetings) and provided the contact details of the consultants involved. The document also contained a comment sheet, which enabled I&APs to register their interest in the project as well as to indicate issues of concern and comments. The BID and Comment Sheet were translated into Afrikaans as well. The BID was mailed to all I&APs who registered in response to the newspaper advertisements placed, as well as all individuals and organisations who were identified at the outset of the project. The BID was made available at the public meetings and the focus group meeting and was distributed during the placement of notices and contacting of residents in the area. The purpose of distributing these documents was to increase awareness of the EIA process and the project in the surrounding communities.

3.5 Public Meetings and Focus Group Meeting

Invitations were e-mailed to all I&AP's on the database, and information regarding the public meetings were included in the newspaper advertisements outlining the proposed project. The public meetings were held to provide information to the public regarding the proposed project and the PPP. The public was allowed the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues and concerns. The focus group meeting was held (at Kleinbegin) for the farmers in the study area. At all the meetings, landowners were given the opportunity to raise issues and/ concerns, suggest alternatives and suggest other interested parties to be contacted. The maps proved to be useful to landowners, who were able to indicate alternative routes or to indicate how the proposed line would impact on their properties. Minutes of these meetings were compiled and distributed to all who attended. The schedule of the public meetings are indicated in Table 2 :

Table 2: Public meetings and Focus group Meetings

Location	Type Of Meeting	Date	Venue	Time
Kenhardt	Public Meeting	2 February 2006	NG Kerksaal	13h00 – 14h00
Kleinbegin	Focus group Meeting	2 February 2006	Kleinbegin, Property of Louis Kotze	15h00 –16h00
Wegdraai	Public Meeting	3 February 2006	Wegdraai Community Hall	08h00 – 09h00

3.6 Opportunities for Public Participation during The EIR Phase of The EIA Process (November 2006 – December 2006)

3.7 Announcement of Project and Invitation to register

3.7.1 Advertisements

In accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, and as outlined in the Plan of Study for EIR approved by the environmental authorities, advertisements were placed in the following regional newspapers, as indicated in Table 3

Table 3 (below) is a chronological representation of formal opportunities provided for public participation during the EIR phase of the EIA process, during November to December 2006.

Table 3: Advertisements to announce project and invitation to register

EIR PHASE			
ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION	DATE
Announcement of Project	Newspaper Advertisement	Gemsbok (English/Afrikaans)	01 December 2006 (daily newspaper)
		Die Volksblad (Afrikaans)	27 November 2006 (weekly newspaper)

3.8 Comment Sheets

Comment sheets were distributed at the public meetings, which enabled I&AP's to register their interest in the project as well as to indicate issues of concern and comments. The Comment Sheet was translated into Afrikaans. The BID was made available at the public meetings. The purpose of distributing these documents was to increase awareness of the EIA process and the project in the surrounding communities.

3.9 Public Meetings

Invitations were e-mailed to all I&AP's on the database, and information regarding the public meetings were included in the newspaper advertisements outlining the proposed project. The public meetings were held to provide information to the public regarding the proposed project and the PPP. The public was allowed the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues and concerns. At all the meetings, landowners were given the opportunity to raise issues and/ concerns, suggest alternatives and suggest other interested parties to be contacted. The maps proved to be useful to landowners, who were able to identify alternative routes or to indicate how the proposed line would impact on their properties. Minutes of these meetings were compiled and distributed to all that attended. The schedule of the public meetings are indicated in table 4:

Table 4: Public meetings

Location	Type Of Meeting	Date	Venue	Time
Kenhardt	Public Meeting	27 November 2006	NG Kerksaal	13h00 – 14h00
Wegdraai	Public Meeting	27 November 2006	Wegdraai Community Hall	08h00 – 09h00

3.10 Summary of Issues Raised by I&AP's

Issues received in writing or raised at public meetings during the Scoping Phase and EIR Phase were compiled in an Issues & Response Report (IRR). Issues raised to date include the following:

- Alternatives – Landowners, wishing to protect the visual appeal of their properties requested that rigorous consideration of alternative routes should take place. Additional safety issues were highlighted for the game management of Thuru Lodge by helicopters.
- Request for Power Supply to the farmers and the community of Wegdraai
- Tourism Impact – possible impact of the transmission power line in proximity to game farms and nature reserves
- Safety and Security – impact on security of properties, with the inclusion of construction camps and safety of residents

- Job creation
- Conservation concerns – Concern was expressed over the future of sensitive species located within the study area. Specialist investigation of the proposed pylon positions would be undertaken to ensure that no sensitive vegetation units or species are unnecessarily disturbed by the transmission power line.
- Concern was raised over the potential loss of tourism-based income, particularly regarding alternative 1B. Thuru Lodge represents an existing tourism industry directly south of this alternative while 3 other farmers in the area have additionally voiced concern regarding their business enterprises. These objections must be regarded during the final route proposal.
- Concern raised over the location of the proposed Hartbeesrivier crossing for alternative 2A and 2B highlighted the existence of rare but significant flooding of this river during the wet season. Mr. Wynand Bezuidenhout, the owner of the farm containing the Hartbeesrivier crossing expressed concern over the >1km wide flooding of this river. A pylon structure would be required within this floodplain and as such, an erosion concern is evident as well as potential damage to the pylon resulting possible power cuts. Alternative 2C crosses the river at the railway crossing and therefore represents a safer route option, which Eskom has confirmed.

The above issues have been recorded in this report. Relevant responses to the issues raised, have also been included. As such, this Issues Report provides a summary of the concerns and/ objections raised by interested and affected parties, with respect to the proposed transmission power line. It also includes the profile of the public participation process, as undertaken during the scoping phase and EIR phase of the EIA process. Consequently, the Issues Report (as well as copies of some of the detailed correspondence received from I/APs) were/will be submitted with the Draft as well as the Final Scoping Report (DSR) and the Draft as well as the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

3.11 Summary of Opportunities for Public Participation

Table 5: Summary of Opportunities for Public Participation

DATE	OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMENTS	NOTES
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROJECT		
	Pre-application site-visit with authorities and key stakeholders	
SCOPING PHASE		
16 Jan 06 20 Jan 06	Advertisement in provincial newspaper (Volksblad) and local newspaper (Gemsbok) to advertise availability of Background Information Document and invite participants to register	16 Jan Volksblad 20 Jan Gemsbok
17 Jan 06	Notification of EIA & call to register: Letters sent	Emails, fax and post
17 Jan 06	Background Information Document and comment sheets provided (posted and/or delivered) to identified and registered I&AP's	
2 and 3 February 06	Public Meetings and Focus Group Meeting	Kenhardt NG Kerksaal Kleinbegin Focus Group Wegdraai Community Hall
EIR PHASE		
27 November 06 and 01 December 06	Advertisement in provincial newspaper (Volksblad) and local newspaper (Gemsbok) to advertise availability of Background Information Document and invite participants to register	27 Nov 06 Volksblad 01 Dec 06 Gemsbok
07 November 06	Notification of EIR & call to register: Letters sent	Emails, fax and post

DATE	OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMENTS	NOTES
27 November 06	Comment sheets provided to identified and registered I&AP's	
27 November 06	Public Meetings	Kenhardt NG Kerksaal Wegdraai Community Hall

4. ISSUES RAISED

For improved clarity and overall understanding the issues raised have been categorised into the following categories:

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
4.1 ISSUES RELATED TO PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OPERATION				
1.1 Louis Kotze wanted to know if the consultants could address a problem if it was shown to them.	.J. Kotze	Comment during public meeting 27 November 2006 wegdraai (EIR PHASE)		BW explained that the information should be provided and that the specialists would need to amend their reports accordingly
1.2 With the information made available to us Spoornet Saldanha would like to comment regarding the above-mentioned project as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eskom must ensure that the mast poles are safely positioned from Spoornet's perway and our service road; Permits to use our service road during the construction phase must be obtained from Spoornet Saldanha. 	A Julyan Quality & Environmental Manager Spoornet Iron Ore Line Saldanha	Emailed response sent 27 Feb 06		Eskom will observe the 300 -400m buffer zone along the railway line and no construction will occur within the reserve. Further negotiations regarding the use of permits, will be conducted with Spoornet.
4.2 ISSUES RELATED TO ALTERNATIVES				
2.1 I prefer that the line should be located along the dunes and not traverse the dunes.	W. Bezuidenhout	Comment submitted at public meeting on 2 Feb 06	Sheet	Your comment is noted. Where feasible this option will be investigated.

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>2.2 The entire farm south of the substation is covered with wildlife and consequently it is difficult to indicate a suggested route. The impact on the wildlife will not be as harsh, if you follow the route along the railway line instead. I suggest that you utilise the service road. I suggest that you follow the route along the existing power line running from east to west, until the border of my farm – thereafter you may follow your own route</p>	<p>C. Honniball</p>	<p>Emailed comment sheet sent 23 Feb 06</p>		<p>At this stage the route is only a proposed route, and the final route has not been determined as yet. This will only be determined in the Environmental Impact assessment Phase, when more detailed studies of impact and alternatives will be considered.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>2.3 As owner of Thuru Lodge Private Game Reserve, I seriously want to object to the above mentioned power line which is proposed to adjoin the border of the game reserve.</p> <p>According to me, the visual impact study has not been done sufficiently and although the power line cannot be seen from the lodge camp, it can be seen for 12km adjoining our borderline. It must be taken into consideration that the tourists visiting my 5-star lodge, is in the veld for the whole day and only returns to the lodge camp for lunch and evenings. That means that they will be in visual contact of the power line for 80 % of the day.</p> <p>The argument that there is already a railway line adjoining our border, and that the power line will not have a negative impact, is not valid due to following three reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The railway line is much lower than the proposed power line, 2. The railway line has been sunk into the ground for long distances to keep it as level as possible, <p>Two wrongs do not make a right.</p> <p>I trust that you will give this letter serious consideration and I trust you will understand my legitimate reasons why the alternative route should be used.</p> <p>This issue is of utmost importance for Thuru Lodge and myself and we will fight the process to the very end. I do however trust that you share our passion to make this part of the Northern Cape available to the tourists from all over the world, but most importantly to the descendants of our wonderful South Africa.</p>	<p>Wessel van Wyk Thuru Lodge</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase by letter (06 December 2006) and at public meeting (27 November 2006) Wegdraai</p>		<p>This issue will be highlighted in the Final EIR as a significant objection to alternative 1B. The potential economic impact on Thuru Lodge will be compared to the potential bio-physical impacts of rather selecting alternative 1A. This issue must be carefully considered by the relevant authority during the decision making process.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>2.4 It has come to our attention that Eskom proposes to build a high voltage power line on the boundary fence of Thuru Game Lodge. This would be a decision that will definitely have a negative influence on the area and will pose a very serious aviation risk for our company, doing a great deal of helicopter operation on Thuru Lodge. We do a great deal of game counting, surveys, game darting and capture a low level. We always operate below the height of power lines when operating in the area. The power lines are very difficult to see at times by even highly experienced pilots and especially when concentrating on game capture operations. This could lead to very serious consequences and even death.</p> <p>We as a helicopter company would please ask Eskom to move their proposed power line to another area, as this will create a very hazardous area for helicopter operations. Thuru Lodge breeds endangered species and has a huge tourism business and this power line would visually pollute this wildlife area.</p> <p>Overseas tourists do not want to see power lines crossing game farms or for that matter on the boundary fence of beautiful game farms.</p>	<p>Dr. J.C. Kriek</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase by letter (30 November 2006)</p>		<p>This issue is potentially detrimental to the life of the helicopter pilot and any passengers during game management activities and as such has been highlighted in the final EIR for the authorities to base their preferred route selection on.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>2.5 Louis Kotze indicated that the birds do not frequent the north, but are rather found to the south (near alternative 1B).</p> <p>I, L.J Kotze herewith object strongly to the proposed route 1B as member from the Kleinbegin farmers union.</p> <p>Firstly my view towards the mountain will be spoiled. I am planning to build a guesthouse but if the powerline runs in front of it; it will surely influence the tourist value negatively. The proposed line will also cross my game camp which myself and Thuru Lodge wants to manage together. Game is caught with helicopters and the line crossing the game farm will make it more difficult to do so.</p> <p>Secondly, I already have an Eskom powerline crossing my farm and another will result in to many access roads to and from my farm.</p> <p>Thirdly, the powerline will cause erosion to the ridges and open space to the west of my house.</p> <p>Louis Kotze mentioned that there is 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.</p>	<p>Mr. L.J. Kotze</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase by fax (05 December 2006) and during public meeting (27 November 2006) Wegdraai</p>		<p>Brian Whitfield explained that the raptors uses the mountains, therefore this location is regarded as sensitive. Additionally, alternative 1A traverses a small portion (1.2km) 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.</p> <p>The information provided by Mr. Kotze as well as his well founded objections have been included in the final EIR for decision making by the authorities.</p> <p>Should alternative 1A be authorised, this route must be carefully routed so as not to impact negatively on the dormant asbestos mine.</p>
<p>2.6 Charel Strauss recommended that the line should be located as close to the railway line as possible – the service road should be shared.</p>	<p>Mr. C Strauss</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase at public meeting (27 November 2006)</p>		<p>Brian Whitfield informed Mr. Strauss that this was the intended outcome of positioning the line adjacent to the railway line in the central section of the study area.</p>
<p>2.7 The line would run north of the farm house, bur Ernest Connor's house is very close to the road. The biggest impact will be on Mr. Connor, since he lives on the property. The visual impact on town would be limited if the straight route is followed – there is other infrastructure already. The shortest route should be followed.</p>	<p>Mr. Strauss and Mr. Bezuidenhout</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase at public meeting (27 November 06)</p>		<p>These recommendations have been highlighted in the final EIR for decision making by the relevant authorities.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>2.8 My farm will be impacted by the proposed power line. Would it be possible for farmers to be able to obtain power supply from the proposed power line.? It would be preferable for the proposed power line to be constructed along the existing railway line as there would then be no need to construct a new road, since there is an existing service road.</p>	<p>F. Steyn</p>	<p>Comments at public meeting, 2 Feb 06 at Kenhardt</p>		<p>Construction along the railway line cannot occur within the reserve i.e a buffer zone of 300 to 400m is required around the railway line. The existing railway line maintenance road will be utilised as far as possible. Power supply to the affected farms will not be possible due to the nature of the transmission power line (not a distribution power line) and therefore a very large and expensive transformer would be required to lower the voltage to usable levels.</p>
<p>4.3 ISSUES RELATED TO WATER</p>				
<p>3.1 The power line and service road to be constructed will run in the opposite direction to the natural water flow of the area. It is the water of the catchment area down to the floodplain under the catchment area. In this case it can happen that the water flows with the service road but flows in the wrong direction. Thus some of the areas will not receive enough surface water, which will lead to a reduction in vegetation cover and a loss in carrying capacity. The ground water table can also drop and cause bore holes to dry up due to the shift of the water source not even to mention the possibility of brackish water. Some places on my farm are inaccessible with a vehicle for weeks after it has rained, I am concerned that those parts on my farm will not be able to support the powerline and in due time collapse. There is also a big channel which floods on an annual basis leaving half of the plains wet.</p>	<p>Mr. D.R Fourie</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase by fax (04 December 06)</p>		<p>These comments and associated objection to alternative 1B are highlighted in the final EIR for decision making by the relevant authorities.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>3.2 There are some dams and drainage lines that might require that the line be moved somewhat.</p> <p>There are big pans close to Mr. Connors house, if it rains the areas flood and become inaccessible.</p> <p>The service road is the biggest issue, as it will run through very sensitive areas (particularly pans).</p>	<p>Mr. Sirauss and Bezuidenhout</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase at public meeting (27 November 2006)</p>		<p>Wimpie Henning indicated that a servitude would be authorised by the environmental authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and the Northern Cape Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation) and thereafter the exact line position would be determined and shifted around sensitive areas.</p> <p>The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will specify that no roads may be build – only tracks and that the tracks must not impact negatively on the pans or other sensitive features.</p>
<p>3.3 We would like to see the Draft Scoping Report, in order to verify that the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) have been complied with.</p>	<p>B. Conradie DWAF</p>	<p>Faxed comment sheet sent 20 Jan 06</p>		<p>The Draft Scoping Report was made available at public venues for review and consideration, as well as on the Eskom website.</p> <p>No further comments were received from DWAF.</p>
<p>4.4 ISSUES RELATED TO FAUNA, FLORA AND SENSITIVE HABITATS</p>				
<p>4.1 WESSA NC is an interested party due to its involvement in promoting biodiversity conservation. We would like to receive a BID and a route map indicating the proposed power line route and alternatives, so that we can determine whether there are issues or concerns for the areas it will impact upon. Will archaeological and ecological specialists with local knowledge be appointed for the EIA?</p>	<p>T. Anderson WESSA NC</p>	<p>Faxed comment sheet sent 18 Jan 06</p>		<p>A Background Information Document (BID) as well as a route map (with the proposed route) was submitted to WESSA, NC. An indication of the appointed heritage and ecology specialist was also provided.</p>
<p>4.2 Concern is whether the intended project will have an impact on any Heritage Site, Graves or Archaeological sites. Heritage Impact Assessment conducted. Please send through a copy of Scoping Report for comment and approval.</p>	<p>E. Manong SAHRA</p>	<p>Faxed comment sheet sent 18 Jan 06</p>		<p>SAHRA NC has been informed that a heritage impact assessment has been included as part of the scoping phase. More comprehensive response from SAHRA may be provided, upon review of the Draft Scoping Report.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>4.3 My concern is that the proposed route 1B of the power line is located adjacent to my game reserve. Specifically, Thuru Lodge contains 28 animal species, of which 3 are sensitive species (White rhino, Buffalo, Sable) and one endangered (Roan). The cheetah (also an endangered species) will soon be introduced into the reserve. A 'Vulture Restaurant' is currently operating from the game reserve and as such, power lines are a significant threat to the vultures. With respect to the existing landing strip located on the game reserve, the presence of the power line may pose a problem for resultant air traffic. On an annual basis, some of the animals receive medication, and as such, may need to be captured and relocated. In order to avoid stress to the animals, this procedure is accomplished with the aid of a helicopter, as darting of the animals is accessible from above them. Consequently, power lines could hinder this process</p>	<p>W. Van Wyk</p>	<p>Comments public meeting, Feb 06 at Kleinbegin</p>	<p>at Tourism 2 assessment at</p>	<p>There is the potential that construction activities carried out in close proximity to tourism enterprises or to places where tourists visit will negatively impact on and detract from the tourist experience. Such impacts could include noise, site disturbance during the construction phase, dust from vehicles and visual and aesthetic impacts from such construction and crew camps on the feeling of tourists having a serene and secluded nature experience. The location of work camps in close proximity to tourism enterprises can also be a potential issue in terms of noise, light, and feelings of solitude which tourists are seeking out. These comments have been incorporated into the final EIR for decision making by the relevant authorities.</p>
<p>4.4 The proximity of the power line to the nature reserve is of concern.</p>	<p>W. van Wyk Thuru Lodge</p>	<p>Faxed comment sheet sent 20 Jan 06</p>		<p>See comment 4.3 above</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>4.5 The Ganna bush (<i>Passerina vulgaris</i>) is a very sensitive plant. This bush supplies nutrition for the livestock and if damaged (by vehicles or construction activities), it takes years to rehabilitate and reach maturity.</p>	<p>J.Steenkamp and I.Kotze</p>	<p>Comments public meeting, Feb 06 at Kleinbegin</p>	<p>at Ecology Impact 2Assessment at</p>	<p>The following measures are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avoid sensitive habitats, ▪ Avoid populations of species of special concern, e.g. <i>Aloe dichotoma</i>, <i>Passerina vulgaris</i>. ▪ Using existing access routes as much as possible during construction and maintenance of the powerline. ▪ Limit disturbance to vegetation and rehabilitate disturbed vegetation as quickly as possible. ▪ Ensure effective fire control at camp and construction sites during construction.
<p>4.6 I am concerned about the breeding of the Blackeagles, whose habitat is the mountains, located on my farm, Kleinbegin. The Blackeagles are located approximately 400m east of the cell-phone mast, located on the mountain, on Kleinbegin.</p>	<p>L. Kotze</p>	<p>Comments public meeting, Feb 06 at Kleinbegin</p>	<p>at Bird Impact 2Assessment report at section 6</p>	<p>At this stage, the most significant anticipated impact of this line on birds is that of collision with the earth wire. The most sensitive areas in this respect are the Hartbeesrivier crossing, the "wetland" or pan areas, the arable lands adjacent to the Orange River, and the Orange River crossing itself. Fortunately the alignment currently crosses the rivers and arable lands at relatively good, narrow points. These sections of line will be recommended to be marked with a suitable marking device on the earth wire in order to further reduce collisions.</p> <p>Once the final route alignment is presented, a detailed investigation of sensitive areas will be undertaken by the relevant specialists and mitigation measures implemented on these spans of line to reduce the perceived impact.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>4.7 Red dunes are located on my farm and run parallel with the Hartbeest river. The proposed route will cross these dunes. My concern is the damage to the existing state of the dunes, by construction vehicles. Owing to conservation reasons, I am concerned with the impact of vehicles travelling across the dunes.</p>	<p>W. Bezuidenhout</p>	<p>Comments at Ecology Impact Assessment public meeting, 2 Feb 06 at Kenhardt</p>		<p>The following measures are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avoid sensitive habitats, ▪ Avoid populations of species of special concern, e.g. <i>Aloe dichotoma</i>. ▪ Using existing access routes as much as possible during construction and maintenance of the powerline. ▪ Limit disturbance to vegetation and rehabilitate disturbed vegetation as quickly as possible. ▪ Ensure effective fire control at camp and construction sites during construction.
<p>4.8 At present the lodge is home to some 28 species of game which includes the White Rhino, Buffalo and Sable. Thuru Lodge is also assisting the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation with a project to relocate the Cheetah at Thuru Lodge Private Game Reserve. You are welcome to contact Mr Julius Koen at the Northern Cape Nature Conservation to confirm this.</p>	<p>Wessel van Wyk Thuru Lodge</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase by letter (06 December 2006)</p>		
<p>Thuru Lodge is also involved in the rehabilitation of Vultures and we have a Vulture Restaurant which is operational whenever Mr Abri Maritz entrusts us with injured vultures.</p>	<p>Mr. D.R. Fourie and Mr. J.H. Fourie</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase by fax (04 December 2006) and during the public meeting 27 November 2006</p>		<p>Stringent measures for access control to farms during maintenance operations will be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Line spans in areas containing sensitive species will be marked with suitable marking devices to reduce the potential impacts of these species with the earth wire.</p>
<p>4.9 There are many ridges along the proposed route and during heavy rains the service roads will be washed away and erosion gullies will be created. Will you maintain the roads and areas affected? Even the railway guys struggle to maintain their roads, do not know if you will be able to? There are also many endangered bird and animals on my farm, especially on the route for construction exp. Kori Bustard, Eagles, mountain tortoise, mountain hare, hawks.</p>				

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
4.10 Mita Bromkamp wanted to know if there will be an impact on her animals – she uses the communal land.	Mita Bromkamp	Comments during public meeting 27 November 2006 (EIR PHASE)		WH explained that there would 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.
4.11 The impact of the powerline on my farm is as follows: the wildlife which I currently tend to, is of such a nature that I have to dart them (from time to time) via helicopter. The presence of the power line will make the use of helicopters difficult. The animals are unaccustomed to the machines used to construct the power line and this will result in stress to the animals. As a result, I could lose income. I do not want to hinder progress and development, but the route of the proposed line does not meet with my approval. I would appreciate it if you do not utilise the land south of the existing substation.	C.Honniball	Emailed comment sheet sent 23 Feb 06		For now the route is a proposed route and the final route will be determined during the EIA Phase. Once a route has been selected, then Eskom will appoint a negotiator to formally consult with landowners regarding the route and associated impacts.
4.5 ISSUES RELATED TO LAND-USE				
5.1 We are not able to comment due to insufficient information.	A. Julyan Spoornet environ. Manager	Emailed comment sheet sent 18 Jan 06		Your comment is noted. The Draft Scoping Report will be available at public venues for review and consideration, as well as on the company website. Following a meeting between Tswelopele Environmental, Eskom and Spoornet, comment was obtained which outlined mitigation measures to include in the EMP.

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
4.6 ISSUES RELATED TO AESTHETICS				
6.1 The visual impact of the power line will impact negatively on the tourists visiting the lodge. Thuru Lodge, is also a member of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). The current size of the game reserve is 12 000 ha however, in the next year or two, WW intends to expand the lodge by an additional 8 000 ha, in a northwesterly direction.	W Van Wyk Thuru Lodge	Comments at public meeting, 2 Feb 06 at Kleinbegin	DSR section 4.10	In areas with no such infrastructure, such as pristine areas as found in national parks, infrastructure development such as transmission lines may have significant impacts on the tourism experience and tourism value of an area and pose a threat to local and regional tourism industries. For other areas, where the scenic integrity has already been affected by other developments, the impacts may be acceptable. The interested and Affected Parties, specifically those owners and managers of existing and emerging tourism facilities, must be consulted as to their sentiments about possible detrimental or acceptable impacts on their businesses. Refer to comment 4.3 above.
4.7 ISSUES RELATED TO HEALTH AND SECURITY				
7.1 Will care be taken to ensure that gates on farms are securely closed? With previous developments in the area, farm gates have been left open (owing to indiscretion of construction workers) and livestock have gone astray as a result.	J.Fourie	Comments at public meeting, 27 Feb 06 at Kleinbegin	SIA Report section 27.2	The Community Management and Monitoring Committee (CMMC) must work with ESKOM to negotiate access to farms for service purposes. ESKOM must liaise with the farmer's unions and a protocol for gaining access to farms should be established and distributed to all parties involved. Construction teams should be clearly identified by wearing uniforms of identification cards that should be exhibited in a visible place on their body.

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
7.2 I have enjoyed a favourable relationship with my neighbours and a secure environment has been maintained by close contact with neighbouring farms. My concern is that I face a security risk, as I do not have electrified fencing (owing to lack of power supply) to protect me. As I reside alone, I am concerned that the influx of workers (with whom the host community is not familiar) into the area will increase the security risk. How will I be able to protect myself, since I do not have access to vital services?	M. Venter	Comments public meeting, Feb 06 at Kleinbegin	at SIA Report section 27.2	The Community Management and Monitoring Committee (CMMC) must work with ESKOM to negotiate access to farms for service purposes. ESKOM must liaise with the farmer's unions and a protocol for gaining access to farms should be established and distributed to all parties involved. Construction teams should be clearly identified by wearing uniforms of identification cards that should be exhibited in a visible place on their body.
7.3 Louis Kotze enquired about the impact of static electricity.	L.J. Kotze	Comment during the public meeting 27 November 2006 (EIR PHASE)		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.
7.4 My concern is that the proposed route of the powerline will cut a 15-30 ha section through my farm on the eastern corner. In this regard, Safety is a major concern as there are two extra gates to my property; these gates are 5km away from my farmhouse. As such, this makes it difficult for me to monitor that section of my farm. Theft of my live stock can easily occur from this area, owing to the difficulty of monitoring this area. In addition, with the service road being built, this will also traverse my farm and will result in me allocating additional water points for my live stock; this will in turn escalate my operating costs.	J. Steenkamp	Comments public meeting, Feb 06 at Kleinbegin	at SIA Report section 27.2	The Community Management and Monitoring Committee (CMMC) must work with ESKOM to negotiate access to farms for service purposes. ESKOM must liaise with the farmer's unions and a protocol for gaining access to farms should be established and distributed to all parties involved. Construction teams should be clearly identified by wearing uniforms of identification cards that should be exhibited in a visible place on their body.
4.8 ISSUES RELATED TO SOCIAL-ECONOMICS				
8.1 I would like to know more about the precise route of the transmission line and whether my farm will be affected. I would also like to see a contract if the line crosses my farm.	H. Viviers	Faxed comment sheet 17 Jan 06		For now the route is a proposed route and the final route will be determined during the EIA Phase. Once a route has been selected, then Eskom will appoint a negotiator to formally consult with landowners regarding the route and associated impacts.

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
8.2 Is this in the interest of the disadvantaged White Community or in the interest of the brown community?	E. Connan (Manager: Connan Brothers)	Faxed comment sheet 26 Jan 06	SIA Report Section 9 Conclusions and recommendations	ESKOM Distribution must be made aware of the needs of the community and engage in discussions about possible solutions with the local municipality to ensure that the impacted community will share in the benefits of the project. Electricity supply to farms and the surrounding community should be a priority given the fact that these people are directly impacted on without receiving any benefits.
8.3 Seeing that the proposed project affects many of our farms, as such, it does affect our union.	M. van Niekerk (Farmer's Union)	Faxed comment sheet 18 Jan 06		Thank you for your comment and participation in the EIA Process.
8.4 My property is adjacent to the existing line. Why is it not possible to upgrade the existing powerline? Any abnormal developments will have a negative impact on all farming aspects in this vicinity.	A.G. Le Roux	Faxed comment sheet 27 Jan 06		The existing lines are required to boost the national grid. Moreover, the proposed line is a high voltage transmission power line and not a distribution line.
8.5 Where will the power line run? Will we get power? What will it cost?	S. Mathewson	Faxed comment sheet 02 Feb 06		At this stage the route is only a proposed route, and the final route has not been determined as yet. This will only be determined in the Environmental Impact assessment Phase, when more detailed studies of impact and alternatives will be considered. The proposed line is intended to boost the national grid and thereby improve overall power supply.
8.6 I am interested in the proposed development. I am a farmer and I farm on Alleenstaan Trust (Spes Bona). I do not accept the powerline to cross my property. I expect possible extensions in the future.	A.N. Van Niekerk and J.S. Van Niekerk	Comment sheet submitted at public meeting 02 Feb 06		For now the route is a proposed route and the final route will be determined during the EIA Phase. Once a route has been selected, then Eskom will appoint a negotiator to formally consult with landowners regarding the route and associated impacts.

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
8.7 Wegdraai does not enjoy adequate power supply. Will the transmission power line supply power to the community of Wegdraai?	Will J van Wyk	Comments at public meeting, Feb 06 Wegdraai	Response from Aucamp, the facilitating public meeting	The voltage of the line (400Kv) is too high and as such, cannot be utilised on a local level. In addition, the proposed line is a transmission line and not a distribution line, which is usually used to provide power supply, locally. The proposed transmission line is an Eskom Transmission initiative and not Eskom Distribution, which is the relevant division, which is responsible for direct power supply. However, although the proposed power line will not supply power directly to the community, the overall improvement in the electricity network, will result in benefits to the community.
8.8 What job opportunities will be created from the proposed development, for the community of Wegdraai?	C.Persent	Comments at public meeting, Feb 06 Wegdraai	Response from Aucamp, the facilitating public meeting	With respect to jobs, the nature of the work for the proposed project will require specialised labour. However, there will be positive spin-offs (from construction activities) such as catering for the workers. During the construction of the power line there will be opportunities for local labour, which could be required during construction to assist with digging the foundations. However, those jobs will be temporary and will last during the construction phase.

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>8.9 The area is poorly serviced with regard to power supply and telephones. According to regulations, all residents are entitled to power supply, however, this is not the case as some farmers in the Groblershoop area, are still without power supply. I have to purchase diesel for the generator which I use. I have established a working relationship with Spoornet, as they notify me timeously about arrangements over my property (such as closing of gates), during infrastructure changes. However, in this regard, the service and correspondence from Eskom, has been poor. Since power supply is a problem, it is difficult for me to be positive about something from which I do not directly benefit. Neighbouring stakeholders such as Eskom and Spoornet, should establish a reciprocal relationship with farmers in the area, in order to establish mutual benefit.</p>	<p>E Connan</p>	<p>Comments at public meeting, 2 Feb 06 at Kleinbegin</p>	<p>at SIA Report 2, Section 9 Conclusions and recommendations</p>	<p>ESKOM Distribution must be made aware of the needs of the community and engage in discussions about possible solutions with the local municipality to ensure that the impacted community will share in the benefits of the project. Electricity supply to farms and the surrounding community should be a priority given the fact that these people are directly impacted on without receiving any benefits.</p>
<p>8.10 All those farms which have direct power supply have been able to supply power to workers residing on those farms. As such, those farms with power supply offer a better lifestyle to workers as well. Those farmers who have no direct power supply on their farms are at a disadvantage as they are not easily able to attract employees.</p>	<p>E Connan</p>	<p>Comments at public meeting, 2 Feb 06 at Kleinbegin</p>		<p>See comment to 8.9 above</p>
<p>8.11 Will farmers be compensated for the use of their land?</p>	<p>M van Niekerk</p>	<p>Comments at public meeting, 2 Feb 06 at Kenhardt Kleinbegin</p>	<p>at Nkopodi (Eskom negotiator, 2 Feb 06 at Kenhardt</p>	<p>Once the EIA is completed and a RoD is obtained, Eskom will return to stakeholders to conduct negotiation. Eskom is compelled (by law) to appoint an independent land valuer, to establish the land values (according to market related values) in the area, and that based on that, the negotiation will be undertaken. The land valuer will need to be registered (with the council) and only when the price is established will the negotiation commence.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>8.12 The value of my property will decrease due to another structure crossing my property, as farmers do not get rewarded for loosing grazing for their cattle. Further the crime will increase by building another service road as the existing service road already contributes to crime. This is nearly the only places on Blous and Sonop were you can farm with sheep and by building the powerlines it will only make the grazing area smaller.</p> <p>I am a young farmer that loves horses and trains them for other people. You can not train a horse if you can not ride him. I also use my horses to patrol my fence for any crime. Due to the fact that the powerline creates a unfamiliar environment the horses does not want to cross underneath it and some will start to jump which makes it very dangerous for the horse and the person riding it. There are also steel structures and support wires that the horses can run into. My activities on the farm are thus limited and contribute to my loss of income and time.</p> <p>If I decide to join Mr L. Kotze and Mr Van Wyk in their Gaming business they will not accept me cause of the visual intrusion of the powerline.</p> <p>Who will contribute to my losses if a gate is left open and my cattle wanders off. Who will be held responsible for cattle that are stolen during the construction of the powerline. 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.</p> <p>Metal structures are good conductors for lightning, which can lead to field fires and cattle that are struck by lightning under or close to the structures. The lightning can damage the powerline and then the powerline can fall on the ground and shock the cattle or burn the field. Whose responsibility will that be?</p> <p>What about the field that will be damaged by the vehicles while building is progress. The mountain and ridges field is a very sensitive environment and is damaged easily and recovers very difficult.</p>	<p>Mr. D.R. Fourie and J.H. Fourie</p>	<p>Comments during EIR phase by fax (04 December 06) and during public meeting 27 November 2006</p>		

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
8.13 Riana van Zyl queried whether the town (Kenhardt) would benefit from the construction camps? Where will the people stay – will they add to the local economy?	Ms. Riana van Zyl	Comments during the EIR phase (27 November 06)		Wimpie Henning indicated that accommodation would be required for a limited number of the construction personnel and that the construction phase would add to the local economy to some extent. The majority of the construction workers will stay in construction camps, but it is foreseen that they will utilise the facilities in town after hours and to do shopping.
8.14 The farmers wanted power from the railway line, but it was not possible, the loads dip too often. Will cell phone reception and television signals be impacted on? Another issue is the crossing of camps – he farms with breeding animals so gates must be closed. Tremendous financial impacts are caused if the animals produce offspring with the wrong partner. At the moment, the railway maintenance crews are the biggest culprits – they accidentally start fires when they weld and conduct other maintenance work. Another issue is the crossing of camps – he farms with breeding animals so gates must be closed. Tremendous financial impacts are caused if the animals produce offspring with the wrong partner.	Mr. Strauss and Mr. Bezuidenhout	Comments during EIR phase at public meeting (27 November 2006) Kenhardt		Wimpie Henning informed Mr. Strauss that the farmers would not be able to get power from the transmission line, as the loads are too high. Wimpie Henning indicated that the line would only impact on electronic reception if the receiver were within 300 m or less from the line.
8.15 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?	Clyde Kella	Comments during public meeting Wegdraai 27 November 2006 (EIR PHASE)		JA 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.
8.16 Will the community would benefit from compensation for the use of the land.	Mr. T. Claassen	Comments public meeting, 06 Feb 06 at Wegdraai	at Nkopodi (Eskom negotiator, appointed to evaluate the land and as such, will set a price. A negotiator from Eskom will then engage in negotiation with affected farmers, who will be compensated for the servitude.	The community will be compensated for the servitude; An independent evaluator will be appointed to evaluate the land and as such, will set a price. A negotiator from Eskom will then engage in negotiation with affected farmers, who will be compensated for the servitude.

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
4.9 ISSUES RELATED TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS				
9.1 There were no specialist investigations done on my farm or on the neighbouring farms that I am aware of. Thus I do not know on which grounds they can base the construction of the power line.	Mr. D.R. Fourie and J.H. Fourie	Comments during EIR phase by letter (04 December 2006) and during public meeting 27 November 2006		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.
9.2 TC queried whether the Wegdraai Community would be able to determine whether their issues would be raised in the report.	T. Claasen	Comments at public meeting, 2 Feb 06 at Wegdraai	Aucamp SIA Specialist, comments at public meeting, 2 February 2006, at Wegdraai.	The environmental team is the spokesperson for the community and, having listened to the issues raised by the Wegdraai community, the team will ensure that those will be included in the report. We wish to assure the community that the team have appreciated the problem of inadequate power supply, but the purpose of the proposed power line, is to improve the network in the region, and as such, will not directly benefit the community. We wish to appeal to the community to forward issues and comments to the environmental team.
4.10 ISSUES RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL / TECHNICAL PROCESS				
10.1 What is the timeframe for the scoping phase and when will it be completed?	M Van Niekerk	Comments at public meeting, 2 Feb 06 at Kenhardt	A SIA specialist, comments at public meeting, 2 February 2006, at Kenhardt	By the end of February (or the end of March) the Draft Scoping Report will be completed and made available for the public to review. I&APs will be informed about the availability of the report and the review period will last 30 days, after which the report will be finalised and submitted to the relevant authority. We wish to caution that the specialist studies could take longer and the authorities could take up to 6 months to decide on the outcome. Consequently, the report could take up until May/June before being finalised and submitted to the authority for decision making, after which it could take up to a year for an outcome or Record of Decision (RoD). Please note, that no construction will be allowed to take place, without a RoD.

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
5. COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT: PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD 23 MARCH 2006 –5 MAY 2006				
<p>11.1 This report is a desktop survey supported by a limited field inspection of the route of the proposed transmission line from Garone to Aries with alternative routes considered at the western end near Kenhardt. The report describes various locales where archaeological resources may occur. There are no grounds presently, based on archaeological considerations, for deciding between the northern and southern alternative routes at the southwestern end of the line near Kenhardt. The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite unit supports the recommendations of the specialist that, once the final route is decided and tower positions known, a selection of the latter which are deemed to be in potentially more sensitive locales should be inspected more closely.</p>	<p>S.Wurz (Sahra,N Cape)</p>	<p>Emailed comment sent 30 Mar 06</p>		<p>Your comment is noted. The heritage potential of each pylon position will be thoroughly investigated once the final pylon positions are known. Mitigation measures will be recommended and implemented accordingly.</p>
<p>11.2 Your proposed Eskom Aries - Garona Transmission and substation extension in the Northern Cape does not traverse and criss-cross Spoornet Property. There is no need for us to provide you with comments as this proposed activity does not affect us directly.</p>	<p>Elekanyani Phundulu Spoornet Environmental Division</p>	<p>Emailed comment sent 12 May 2006</p>		<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<p>The proposed line with its alternatives transverse Spoornet railway line at the following different points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alternate Route 2B situated west of Kenhardt traverses Spoornet railway line twice. • The shorter Route 1A go across Spoornet railway line first before it traverses Orange River and secondly at the Garona substation. • The shorter Route 2C crosses Spoornet railway line twice in the vicinity of Aries situated southwest and also near Kenhardt. <p>In light of the above, Spoornet Corporate Environmental Management recommends that the following be adequately considered and addressed in the EMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire prevention measures during the welding process. • Designation of previously disturbed areas where materials and equipment will be stored during construction phases especially where the proposed power line crosses the railway line. • Provision of layout plans indicating location of temporary material storage sites and access routes to the point of intersections preferably in disturbed areas. • Identification and fencing off of any critically sensitive natural habitats of flora and fauna within Spoornet property where the power line will traverse the railway line. 	<p>Elekanyani Phundulu Environmental Officer Spoornet Environmental Management Division</p>	<p>Emailed response sent 6 Sep 06</p>		<p>The recommendations proposed by Spoornet will be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan</p>

ISSUE / COMMENT RAISED	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENT SOURCE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of project closure and rehabilitation plan including but not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A rehabilitation method statement for each site where the power line traverses the railway line, before the commencement of construction of the proposed power line. ▪ Rehabilitation of all disturbed areas, including access and haul roads. ▪ The use of vegetation occurring in the area naturally during rehabilitation. • Provision of environmental management awareness and training to contractors. • Placement of appropriate road signages and signage men during construction phase • Compliance of temporary hazardous and flammable materials storage facilities to the relevant SABS codes • Setting up of a central communication hotline where future complaints from interested and affected parties can be lodged • Waste management and provision of trash bins and ablution facilities. 	<p>Eiekanyani Phundulu Environmental Officer Spoomet Environmental Management Division</p>	<p>Emailed response sent 6 Sep 06</p>		
<p>11.3 I require details in connection with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will there be any pylons built within the 1:50 and 1:100 year floodlines of the Oranje river. 2. Will the streamflow or riverbanks be disturbed or interfered with. Details on the height with which the proposed Transmission line will cross above the Oranje river due to flood occurrences. The distance which the proposed Transmission lines will be from the railway line and relevant information. 3. 	<p>Dr HA Abbot DWA Assistant Director: Water Quality</p>	<p>Faxed Comment sheet sent 30 August 2006</p>		<p>This information will be distributed to Dr Abbot shortly. An attempt has been made to prevent the erection of any structures within the floodlines which would alter stream flows. It is not anticipated that the river streamflow or riverbanks will be interfered with. The exact height above the river will be determined once the final survey data is available, but there will be sufficient clearance for these types of circumstances (floods). The powerline conductors will also be clearly marked for aircraft flying along the river. The powerline will cross the Orange river about 750m upstream from the railway bridge.</p>