

APPENDIX I:

**NOTES FOR THE RECORD OF FOCUS GROUP
MEETINGS HELD DURING THE PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**GROOTVLEI POWER STATION
RETURN-TO-SERVICE
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH
THE DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY ON 11 OCTOBER 2004 AT THE
MUNICIPALITY BOARD ROOM, BALFOUR
09h30**

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information to the project and process;
- Provide an opportunity for I&APs to raise issues and concerns regarding the proposed project.

1. WELCOME

Ms Diana Welling from Bohlweki Environmental welcomed all to the focus group meeting for the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project. An attendance register was circulated, and is attached in Appendix A.

Ms Welling outlined the agenda for the meeting, which was accepted without amendment.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Ms Diana Welling briefly outlined the background to the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project, Mpumalanga Province. Details were provided on why the return-to-service is needed, what it would entail, and what changes will be seen at the power station. A description was also given as to what impact the proposed project would have on the local social structure of the community and the job opportunities associated with the proposed project. The public participation process was explained to ensure that all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are identified and involved in the process from the outset of the project.

3. DISCUSSION SESSION

Ms Diana Welling opened the discussion session and invited the attendees to raise their views and comments.

- Mr Philip Rosslee (Dipaleseng Municipality) enquired if gas would be used at the Grootvlei Power Station, or only coal.

Ms Irma Dedekind stated that only coal would be used at the Grootvlei Power Station, but that the coal supply to the Power Station has not been finalised.

- Mr Philip Rosslee enquired as to how the coal will be transported and if road transport will be used? He also stated that the current conditions of the roads in Balfour are very bad.

Ms Irma Dedekind explained that road would be used to transport the coal to the power station especially during the beginning stages of the return-to-service. Conveyer belts and/or rail could also be used to deliver coal to the power station in the long-term. This would all be depended on where the suppliers of coal are situated, and the sources of the coal would also determine which roads would be used for transportation.

- Mr Isaac Moshoadiba (Dipaleseng Municipality) enquired as to where the workers from the power station would live and if Eskom could inform the people as to what is available in Balfour. He also enquired if Eskom would do its own township building and development plans.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom's philosophy has changed from the days when the power station last operated and they have removed themselves from the housing market. Eskom does not wish to own any housing or accommodation property or start with such new developments, and most of that type of property owned by Eskom has already been sold. Eskom encourages its employees to own their own homes. He stated that this is an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to see the opportunities which are now available for new development to take place in the area.

- Mr Isaac Moshoadiba enquired if Eskom could consider using the local workers first before considering other workers, especially the unskilled workers that would be required at the power station. If specific skilled workers would be required, this would be understandable if they are brought from somewhere else.

Ms Irma Dedekind explained that Eskom makes use of contractors to do some of their work and these contractors are responsible for recruiting their own workers. But Eskom will encourage all the contractors to make use of the local people. She also stated that all contractors must be on the Eskom vendor list in order to get work from Eskom. At the public meeting (12 October 2004, Eskom Hall Grootvlei) there will be representatives from the Eskom procurement office who will assist the contractors in obtaining information in order to register for the vendor list.

- Mr Philip Rosslee enquired if Grootvlei would continue to provide water to the community (which includes Grootvlei Ext 1 & 2 and Balfour).

Ms Irma Dedekind stated that she could not comment on what the future arrangements would be as this issue was under discussion between the power station and the Municipality. Issues of outstanding accounts were in the process of being discussed.

Mr Isaac Moshoadiba stated that clarity must be obtained as to whether the water pipeline is still active and in use. He also stated that negotiations are currently taking place between Eskom and the Municipality.

- Mr Isaac Moshoadiba stated that the landfill site has been handed over from Eskom and that the Dipaleseng Municipality is operating this site. They do not have a license as yet but negotiations are underway. Details were not available. He also stated that the Municipality is excited about the proposed project and the job opportunities that would become available. He stated that spin-off benefits are envisaged for the Dipaleseng Municipality as more people will be able to pay their rates and taxes and this will ensure that the Municipality is economically active.
- Mr Isaac Moshoadiba enquired if Eskom could provide answers with regards to the roads, water and sewage plant problems currently experienced within this area.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom's core responsibility is the generation and transmission of electricity. He advised that Eskom is not in a position to provide answers to all the problems arising with the area's local infrastructure, but that there could be room for discussion on these matters in the future. Eskom support the building of a good relationship with the Dipaleseng Municipality.

Mr Isaac Moshoadiba agreed and stated that discussions should be initiated around these matters, where appropriate.

4. CLOSURE

All were thanked for their attendance at the meeting. The meeting was closed at 11h00.

**APPENDIX A:
ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

ATTENDANCE REGISTER
GROOTVLEI: RETURN TO SERVICE
FOCUS GROUP MEETING DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY

MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2004

Title	Name	Surname	Company/Organisation	Position/Directorate
Mr	Philip	Rosslee	Dipaleseng Municipality	Acting Manager Corporate service
Mr	Isaac	Moshoadiba	Dipaleseng Municipality	Acting Municipal Manager
Ms	Irma	Dedekind	Eskom	Chemical Service Manager
Mr	Dave	Wynne	Eskom	Project Co ordinator
Ms	Diana	Welling	Bohlweki Environmental	Public Participation Consultant

**GROOTVLEI POWER STATION
RETURN-TO-SERVICE
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH
THE TSHEPEHA COMBINED SCHOOL ON 11 OCTOBER 2004 AT THE
OFFICES OF THE TSHEPEHA COMBINED SCHOOL, GROOTVLEI
12h00**

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information to the project and process;
- Provide an opportunity for I&APs to raise issues and concerns regarding the proposed project.

1. WELCOME

Ms Diana Welling from Bohlweki Environmental welcomed all to the focus group meeting for the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project. An attendance register was circulated, and is attached in Appendix A.

Ms Welling outlined the agenda for the meeting, which was accepted without amendment.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Ms Diana Welling briefly outlined the background to the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project, Mpumalanga Province. Details were provided on why the return-to-service is needed, what it would entail, and what changes will be seen at the power station. A description was also given as to what impact the proposed project would have on the local social structure of the community and the job opportunities associated with the proposed project. The public participation process was explained to ensure that all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are identified and involved in the process from the outset of the project.

3. DISCUSSION SESSION

Ms Diana Welling opened the discussion session and invited the attendees to raise their views and comments.

- Mr James Mokoena (Tshepeha Combined) stated that the school is very excited about the proposed project. They have consulted the rest of the staff

members at the school, and they are very positive and feel that the return-to-service for Grootvlei will create jobs for the community and assist in decreasing poverty. This would then, in turn, up-lift the community.

- Mr Lestopher Neluvhalani (Tshepeha Combined) stated that, before the power station was decommissioned, Springfield Mine owned the school and Eskom provided support and assistance to the school.
- Mr Dave Wynne (Eskom) enquired as to who owns the school now.

Mr Lestopher Neluvhalani stated that the Department owns the school and that it is now a Government school.

- Mr James Mokoena stated that the return-to-service will result in more people returning to Grootvlei and this will have a positive impact on the community. More children will require more schools and more teachers, which will create more jobs.

Mr Dave Wynne agreed and explained that it would not only be the full-time Eskom employees that will make use of the schools in the area, but also the contractors who will come to Grootvlei for a few years. He stated that the role of the local schools is considered to be important in preparing the youth for training. He stated that due to the technical nature of the work at the power station, Eskom require scholars to be schooled in Maths and Science.

4. CLOSURE

All were thanked for their attendance at the meeting. The meeting was closed at 12h45.

**APPENDIX A:
ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

ATTENDANCE REGISTER
GROOTVLEI: RETURN TO SERVICE
FOCUS GROUP MEETING TSHEPEHA COMBINED SCHOOL

MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2004

Title	Name	Surname	Company/Organisation	Position/Directorate
Mr	Lestopher	Neluvhalani	Tshepeha Combined School	Principal
Mr	James	Mokoena	Tshepeha Combined School	Deputy Principal
Mr	Dave	Wynne	Eskom	Project Co ordinator
Ms	Diana	Welling	Bohlweki Environmental	Public Participation Consultant
Ms	Irma	Dedekind	Eskom	Chemical Service Manager

**GROOTVLEI POWER STATION
RETURN-TO-SERVICE
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH
LOCAL FARMERS OF THE GROOTVLEI AREA ON 11 OCTOBER 2004
AT THE GROOTVLEI BOERESAAL, GROOTVLEI
14h00**

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information to the project and process;
- Provide an opportunity for I&APs to raise issues and concerns regarding the proposed project.

1. WELCOME

Ms Diana Welling from Bohlweki Environmental welcomed all to the focus group meeting for the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project. An attendance register was circulated, and is attached in Appendix A.

Ms Welling outlined the agenda for the meeting, which was accepted without amendment.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Ms Diana Welling briefly outlined the background to the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project, Mpumalanga Province. Details were provided on why the return-to-service is needed, what it would entail, and what changes will be seen at the power station. A description was also given as to what impact the proposed project would have on the local social structure of the community and the job opportunities associated with the proposed project. The public participation process was explained to ensure that all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are identified and involved in the process from the outset of the project.

3. DISCUSSION SESSION

Ms Diana Welling opened the discussion session and invited the attendees to raise their views and comments.

- Mr Koos van Jaarsveld (Farmer) stated that he is concerned about acid rain on his farm and enquired about air monitoring at the power station.

Ms Irma Dedekind explained that to ensure a reduction in particulate air emissions from the stacks to meet standards as required by current environmental legislation, particulate abatement equipment will be installed with the return-to-service of the power station. Each of the 2 stacks will be fitted with emission monitors, which shall be maintained in good working condition. It would also involve the replacement of some of the existing electrostatic precipitators with bag filters in order to decrease emissions of particulate matter into the atmosphere. The precipitators of the remaining units will be refurbished to a satisfactory level.

As is the case for other power stations in South Africa, the result from the stack emissions will be sent to the Chief Air Pollution Control Officer (CAPCO) at the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism as per the registration certificate requirements. A monitoring station will be erected a short distance from Grootvlei Power Station to monitor ambient levels of fine particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides such that these levels of emissions can be maintained.

- Mr Theuns Botha (Farmer) enquired if the borders for the Grootvlei Power Station will stay the same or will they be extended.

Ms Irma Dedekind stated that the borders for the Eskom Grootvlei Power Station will stay the same and that it will not be extended.

- Mr Johan van Rooyen (Farmer) enquired as to where the coal that will be used at the power station come from, and which method of transport will be used as this could have a negative impact on the roads?

Mr Dave Wynne explained that the Grootvlei power station is currently in the planning phase of this project, and that the coal supply to the power station has not been finalised at this stage. It is most likely that road transport will be used in the short-term. Should coal be sourced for a mine in close proximity, Eskom could transport the coal via conveyer belts. In the long-term, depending on the price and quality of the coal, it could also be transported by rail. Eskom is in the process of advertising in the media to request proposals for the supply of coal to the power station. All possible supply options within economic distance from the power station would be considered. Coal could be supplied from underground or open-cast mining operations.

- Mr Johan van Rooyen enquired if a traffic/road impact study has been undertaken by Eskom to indicate what impact the return-to-service project will have on the roads in the area.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that a traffic/road impact study is not envisaged for this current stage. This will form part of the negotiations with the coal suppliers (which have not yet started) and the study will consider those roads potentially impacted on by the transport of coal. The study will be defined by the sites of the potential coal supply sources.

- Mr Johan van Rooyen enquired when the mining company that will transport the coal will come and consult with them. They have had serious problems with the construction of the N3, and now they are stuck with the problem of roads in a poor condition.

Mr Dave Wynne stated that coal supply options for the return-to-service of the Grootvlei Power Station are currently in the planning phase of this project, with only internal Eskom discussions having taken place to date. He added that any new mine which might ultimately supply the coal will probably have to go through a similar process of public consultation.

- Mr Johan van Rooyen stated that the community will have to negotiate with three different companies, the contractor, the transport company and the mining company.
- Ms Rosa Buys (Councillor) stated that the roads in the area are a serious problem for the Grootvlei community. Clarification must be given to the community as to who will come and repair these roads when they have been further degraded by the coal trucks.
- Ms Rosa Buys enquired if Eskom will be building houses or will the people be responsible to build their own houses?

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom's housing philosophy has changed and they have removed themselves from the housing market. Eskom encourages its employees to own their own homes. Eskom does not wish to own any property or start with new developments, and most of the property owned by Eskom has already been sold. He stated that this is an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to see the opportunities which are now available for new development to take place in the area.

- Mr Koos van Jaarsveld (Farmer) stated that in the past there were problems with water pollution from the power station. As a farmer he would not like to have these same problems arising with the return-to-service.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that the return to service for the Grootvlei power station will involve the implementation of improved water management

practices at the water treatment plant, ash dams and coal stockpile area. This will result in improved water quality associated with run-off from these areas. Additional plant will be installed to treat cooling water blowdown to reduce effluent volume and improve effluent quality. As part of Grootvlei's commitment to strive towards a Zero Liquid Effluent Discharge (ZLED) policy, the station's water management system will be optimised.

All industrial effluent and polluted stormwater from the station terrace (including the coal stockpile drains area) is currently pumped to pollution control dams situated outside the security fence to the south-east of the station. Stormwater run-off will be diverted around polluted areas and the effluent collection system by means of a series of berms and canals to the surrounding area. Mitigation measures such as bunding around all transformers, and at the fuel oil and diesel plant will be implemented to prevent oil pollution of the groundwater.

Ms Irma Dedekind explained that water licenses would also be obtained from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) which will state certain conditions with which Eskom will be required to comply.

- Mr Gert Viljoen (Grootvlei Pharmacy) enquired if the new labour which will be required at the power station could have an impact on the farming community, and in particular he is concerned about the farm workers walking over their properties to access the power station.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom will directly employ predominantly skilled workers because of the level of technology involved in the equipment that would be installed at the power station. Contractors will employ all levels of workers. Contractors are not allowed to recruit at the power station gates. He also stated that there is an opportunity for the community to develop local facilities for the additional short-term and long-term employees.

- Mr Gert Viljoen (Grootvlei Pharmacy) enquired as to how the Grootvlei community could ensure that the contractors that come and do the work are also looking after the environment.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that the contractors must also adhere to all the environmental specifications associated with a project. An environmental control officer would be required to be present on the construction site to ensure that the workers are taking the environment into account.

- Mr Theuns Botha stated that when the power station returns to service he is concerned that his farm will be affected by acid rain.

Ms Irma Dedekind stated that Eskom could visit the farmers if so desired to discuss the issue of acid rain as a result of the operation of the power station.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that certain new equipment would be installed at the power station to ensure that Eskom comply with all environmental requirements. Eskom is serious about producing electricity in an environmentally sustainable manner. Eskom will ensure that all the current environmental legislation is adhered to.

4. CLOSURE

All were thanked for their attendance at the meeting. The meeting was closed at 15h15.

**APPENDIX A:
ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

ATTENDANCE REGISTER
GROOTVLEI: RETURN TO SERVICE
FOCUS GROUP MEETING FARMERS

MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2004

Title	Name	Surname	Company/Organisation	Position/Directorate
Mr	Cary	Cairncross	Cairncross Ecological Supplies	Owner
Mr	Henk	Holtzhausen	Farmer	Owner
Mr	Christof	Nel	Farmer	Owner
Mr	Tjaart	de Bruyn	Farmer	Owner
Mr	Johan	van Rooyen	Farmer	Owner
Mr	Koos	van Jaarsveld	Rusfontein	Owner
Mr	Theuns	Botha	Panfontein	Owner
Mr	Daan	Pretorius	Modderfontein	Owner
Mrs	Rosa	Buys	Beerlaagte	Councilor G.S.W
Mr	Gert	Viljoen	Grootvlei Apteek	Owner
s	Irma	Dedekind	Eskom	Chemical Service Manager
Mr	Dave	Wynne	Eskom	Project Co ordinator
s	Diana	Welling	Bohlweki Environmental	Public Participation Consultant

**GROOTVLEI POWER STATION
RETURN-TO-SERVICE
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH
THE GROOTVLEI PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 11 OCTOBER 2004 AT THE
OFFICES OF THE GROOTVLEI PRIMARY SCHOOL, GROOTVLEI
16h00**

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information to the project and process;
- Provide an opportunity for I&APs to raise issues and concerns regarding the proposed project.

1. WELCOME

Ms Diana Welling from Bohlweki Environmental welcomed all to the focus group meeting for the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project. An attendance register was circulated, and is attached in Appendix A.

Ms Welling outlined the agenda for the meeting, which was accepted without amendment.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Ms Diana Welling briefly outlined the background to the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project, Mpumalanga Province. Details were provided on why the return-to-service is needed, what it would entail, and what changes will be seen at the power station. A description was also given as to what impact the proposed project would have on the local social structure of the community and the job opportunities associated with the proposed project. The public participation process was explained to ensure that all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are identified and involved in the process from the outset of the project.

3. DISCUSSION SESSION

Ms Diana Welling opened the discussion session and invited the attendees to raise their views and comments.

- Mr Albertus Joubert (Grootvlei Primary) enquired as to why Grootvlei Power Station was decommissioned?

Mr Dave Wynne explained that the power station ceased operations approximately 15 years ago (between 1988 and 1990) when the lower than expected growth in demand for electricity at that time resulted in surplus generating capacity within the electricity network. The economics, unit sizes, fuel supplies and cost profiles of the stations were compared. Therefore, Eskom decommissioned a number of older power stations (including Ingagane at Newcastle and Kragbron at Vereeniging), and placed other power stations (including Grootvlei Power Station) in cold reserve storage and later into deep reserve storage ("mothballed") (i.e. these were "switched off" and reserved for future use, when required).

- Mr Albertus Joubert enquired if Eskom knows from where they will source the coal.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that the coal supply to the Grootvlei Power Station has not been finalised at this stage of the project. Eskom is in the process of advertising in the media to request proposals for the supply of coal to the power station. All possible supply options at economical distance from the power station would be considered. Coal could be supplied from underground or open-cast mining operations, and could be delivered to the power station by either conveyer belt, trucking, or by rail.

- Mr Albertus Joubert enquired if Eskom will be giving houses to their employees.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom's philosophy has changed and they have removed themselves from the housing market. Eskom does not wish to own any property or start with new developments, and most of the property owned by Eskom has already been sold. He stated that this is an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to see the opportunities which are now available for new development to take place in the area.

- Mr Albertus Joubert stated that the roads are a problem in Grootvlei, and that they are in a very bad condition. He also stated that if the traffic is to increase in and around Grootvlei (particularly truck traffic) this could have a further negative impact on the roads, as well as the safety of the local children.

Mr Dave Wynne stated that Eskom would take the current status of the roads into consideration. The use of the roads will largely depend on the location of the coal supply.

- Mr Albertus Joubert raised the issue of air pollution associated with the power station.

Ms Irma Dedekind explained that to ensure a reduction in particulate air emissions from the stacks to meet standards as required by current environmental legislation, particulate abatement equipment will be installed with the return-to-service of the power station. Each of the 2 stacks will be fitted with emission monitors, which shall be maintained in good working condition. As is the case for other power stations in South Africa, the result from the stack emissions will be sent to the Chief Air Pollution Control Officer (CAPCO) at the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism as per the registration certificate requirements.

- Mr Albertus Joubert stated that the Grootvlei Primary School has approximately 120 children at this stage but that it can accommodate more than 400 children. He also stated that it would not be a problem for the school to become dual-medium school, but at this stage the black and white parents prefer that the classes be given in Afrikaans. The proposed project will have a positive impact on the community and development should also come from the Municipality and the community.

4. CLOSURE

All were thanked for their attendance at the meeting. The meeting was closed at 16h50.

**APPENDIX A:
ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

ATTENDANCE REGISTER
GROOTVLEI: RETURN TO SERVICE
FOCUS GROUP MEETING GROOTVLEI PRIMARY

MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2004

Title	Name	Surname	Company/Organisation	Position/Directorate
Mr	Albertus	Joubert	Grootvlei Primary	Principal
Ms	Irma	Dedekind	Eskom	Chemical Service Manager
Mr	Dave	Wynne	Eskom	Project Co ordinator
Ms	Diana	Welling	Bohlweki Environmental	Public Participation Consultant

**GROOTVLEI POWER STATION
RETURN-TO-SERVICE
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS FOCUS GROUP MEETING HELD WITH
THE COUNCILLORS OF DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY ON
12 OCTOBER 2004 AT
THE MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BALFOUR
09h30**

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with background information to the project and process;
- Provide an opportunity for I&APs to raise issues and concerns regarding the proposed project.

1. WELCOME

Ms Diana Welling from Bohlweki Environmental welcomed all to the focus group meeting for the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project. An attendance register was circulated, and is attached in Appendix A.

Ms Welling outlined the agenda for the meeting, which was accepted without amendment.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Ms Diana Welling briefly outlined the background to the Grootvlei Power Station Return-to-Service project, Mpumalanga Province. Details were provided on why the return-to-service is needed, what it would entail, and what changes will be seen at the power station. A description was also given as to what impact the proposed project would have on the local social structure of the community and the job opportunities associated with the proposed project. The public participation process was explained to ensure that all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are identified and involved in the process from the outset of the project.

3. DISCUSSION SESSION

Ms Diana Welling opened the discussion session and invited the attendees to raise their views and comments.

- Mr Esau Makhoba (Speaker of Dipaleseng Municipality) enquired as to why a Public Meeting would be held in the Eskom Hall, Grootvlei. He further asked why the Siyathemba community and surrounding areas seems to be excluded.

Ms Diana Welling stated that the Eskom Hall was chosen because it is centrally located and is close to the Power Station (which is the focus for the discussions). She advised that the meetings were advertised in local and national newspapers and that all I&APs are encouraged to attend the open day and public meeting.

- Mr Ahmed Amod (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality) enquired as to how Eskom would deal with the deteriorating condition of infrastructure, especially with regards to roads?

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom's core responsibility is the generation and transmission of electricity. He advised that Eskom are not in a position to provide answers to the problems arising with the area's local infrastructure, but that there could be room for discussion on these matters in the future. He advised that Eskom would no longer provide houses for its employees, but they make provision for a rental subsidy and/or a home ownership scheme. He further mentioned that the Dipaleseng Municipality would continue to operate the domestic refuse landfill site and, in the near future the sewage plant adjacent to the power station.

- Mr Meshack Sithebe (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality) enquired as to where Eskom would source employees. He enquired what level of education Eskom would be looking for in individuals, and enquired if Eskom will give local residents preference in employment.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom will make use of contractors to complete the short-term refurbishment and modification work at the power station, as well as some of the long-term operations, maintenance and services work. These contractors will be responsible for the recruitment of their own workers (i.e. Eskom will not employ this labour force directly). The new Power Station Manager (Mr Jason Hector) would deal with the employment and recruitment of the long-term Eskom employees. He advised that possible qualifications or skills needed for employees at the Power Station could include Maths and Science, and especially tertiary education as the Power Station would be using new technology and equipment. He added that there would be learnership programmes for persons with appropriate skills.

- Mr Meshack Sithebe enquired as to what would happen to Mr Loots.

Mr Dave Wynne stated that Mr Loots is currently leading the Simunye Business Unit as the station mothballing process caretaker and still has some work to do at Grootvlei and Komati.

- Mr Meshack Sithebe enquired as to how Eskom would improve the ashing system.

Mr Dave Wynne stated that the ash will be disposed of at the existing ash dams. The ash will be pumped to the ash dams in a slurry form and the water will be returned for reuse.

- Mr Ahmed Amod requested for Eskom to assist by employing local labour, especially the unskilled labour.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom makes use of contractors to undertake certain activities and these contractors are responsible for their own workers. But Eskom will encourage all the contractors to make use of the local people. He also stated that all contractors must be on the Eskom vendor list in order to get work from Eskom. At the public meeting (12 October 2004, Eskom Hall Grootvlei) there will be representatives from the Eskom procurement office who will assist the contractors in obtaining information in order to register for the vendor list.

- Mr Esau Makhoba requested for Eskom to assist the Dipaleseng Municipality youth with career guidance.

Mr Dave Wynne stated that Eskom has a career guidance and recruiting section for this Return-to-Service Project headed by Mr Joseph Mashaba.

- Mr Meshack Sithebe enquired about details of the sections/functions that Eskom would outsource, enquiring if this would include Human Resource Management.

Mr Dave Wynne explained that Eskom's core responsibility is the generation and transmission of electricity. Other functions/activities (for example transport, housing, catering, transport, certain training) would be outsourced. Management of the Eskom employees would be an Eskom function.

- Mr Mohlaleng Lebotha (PA to Mayor of Dipaleseng Municipality) enquired if the Grootvlei return-to-service would mean that the Springfield Colliery would reopen again?

Mr Dave Wynne stated that it is unlikely that the Springfield Colliery would reopen, however coal supply investigations are not yet complete.

- Ms Sbongile Nhlapo (Councillor of Dipaleseng Municipality) enquired if Eskom would be able to offer graduates some practical training to provide hands-on experience.

Mr Dave Wynne stated that there would be learnership programmes initiated by Eskom for persons with appropriate skills. He explained that graduates would be sought, and they could benefit from training opportunities presented by Eskom.

- Mr Esau Makhoba thanked Bohlweki Environmental and Eskom for consulting them and he said the Dipaleseng Municipality supports the project.

4. CLOSURE

All were thanked for their attendance at the meeting. The meeting was closed at 11h00.

**APPENDIX A:
ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

ATTENDANCE REGISTER
GROOTVLEI: RETURN TO SERVICE
FOCUS GROUP MEETING COUNCIL DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2004

Title	Name	Surname	Company/Organisation	Position/Directorate
Mr	Ahmed	Amod	Dipaleseng Municipality	Councillor
Mr	Meshack	Sithebe	Dipaleseng Municipality	Councillor
Mr	Mohlaleng	Lebotha	Dipaleseng Municipality	PA to Mayor
Mr	Pap	Tsotetsi	Dipaleseng Municipality	Councillor
Mr	Esau	Makhoba	Dipaleseng Municipality	Councillor
Ms	Sbongile	Nhlapo	Dipaleseng Municipality	Councillor
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