



10 March 2006

Dear I&AP

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NEW COAL-FIRED POWER STATION IN THE LEPHALALE AREA, LIMPOPO PROVINCE:
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the proposed new coal-fired Power Station project in the Limpopo Province, this newsletter aims to further facilitate your understanding of the proposed project and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process being followed. The first phase of the EIA process (i.e. the Environmental Scoping Study) has been completed, and detailed studies are currently being undertaken within Phase 2 of the process (i.e. the EIA). The public participation process has been on-going throughout this process and will continue until the final EIA Report is submitted to the environmental authorities for decision-making.

1. REFRESHER: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

As indicated in previous information documents, Bohlweki Environmental has been appointed by Eskom Generation to conduct an EIA for the proposed new Coal-fired power Station in the Lephalale area. Eskom Holdings Limited proposes to construct a new coal-fired power station in order to be able to adequately provide for the growing electricity demand. The proposed power station will have a maximum capacity of 4 800 MW in Lephalale (previously Ellisras), Limpopo Province, in the vicinity of the existing Matimba Power Station.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

The EIA process currently being undertaken for the proposed project consists of two phases, namely the **Environmental Scoping Phase** and the **Environmental Impact Assessment Phase**. The Environmental Scoping Study, which commenced in May 2005, provided I&APs with the opportunity to participate in the process and raise issues of concern. This consultative process included a widely advertised public meeting held during June 2005 in Lephalale. During this period a draft Environmental Scoping Report was compiled and made available at public places for I&AP review and comment. All the comments, concerns and suggestions received during the Scoping Phase and the draft report review period were included in the final Scoping Report, which was submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) on 21 November 2005.

Based on the specialist studies undertaken during the scoping study, no environmental fatal flaws were identified as a result of the proposed project, although a number of potentially significant environmental impacts were identified as requiring further in-depth study. Therefore, an EIA will be required to be undertaken in order to provide an assessment of these potential impacts and recommend appropriate mitigation measures, where required. The EIA must be undertaken for the preferred sites, namely, the farms Naauwontkome 509 LQ and Eenzaamheid 687 LQ.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN

The Environmental Scoping Report and the Plan of Study for the EIA (indicating which specialist studies must be undertaken) was submitted to, and accepted by DEAT. The EIA Phase and ongoing public participation process is now underway with detailed studies having been undertaken from December 2005 to February 2006. A draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is to be compiled. This draft report will be made available from **16 March 2006** to **21 April 2006** at the following public places for public review and comment:

- Lephale Municipal offices (Corner of Joe Slovo and Douwater Streets)
- Lephale Library (Corner of Joe Slovo and Douwater Streets)
- Eskom Matimba Power Station – Security office
- Co-op Lephale (Offices of Lephale District Agricultural Union - Botha Avenue)
- Marapong Clinic (Tlou Street, Marapong)
- Offices of Bohlweki Environmental (Kyalami Office Park, Kyalami)
- www.bohlweki.co.za

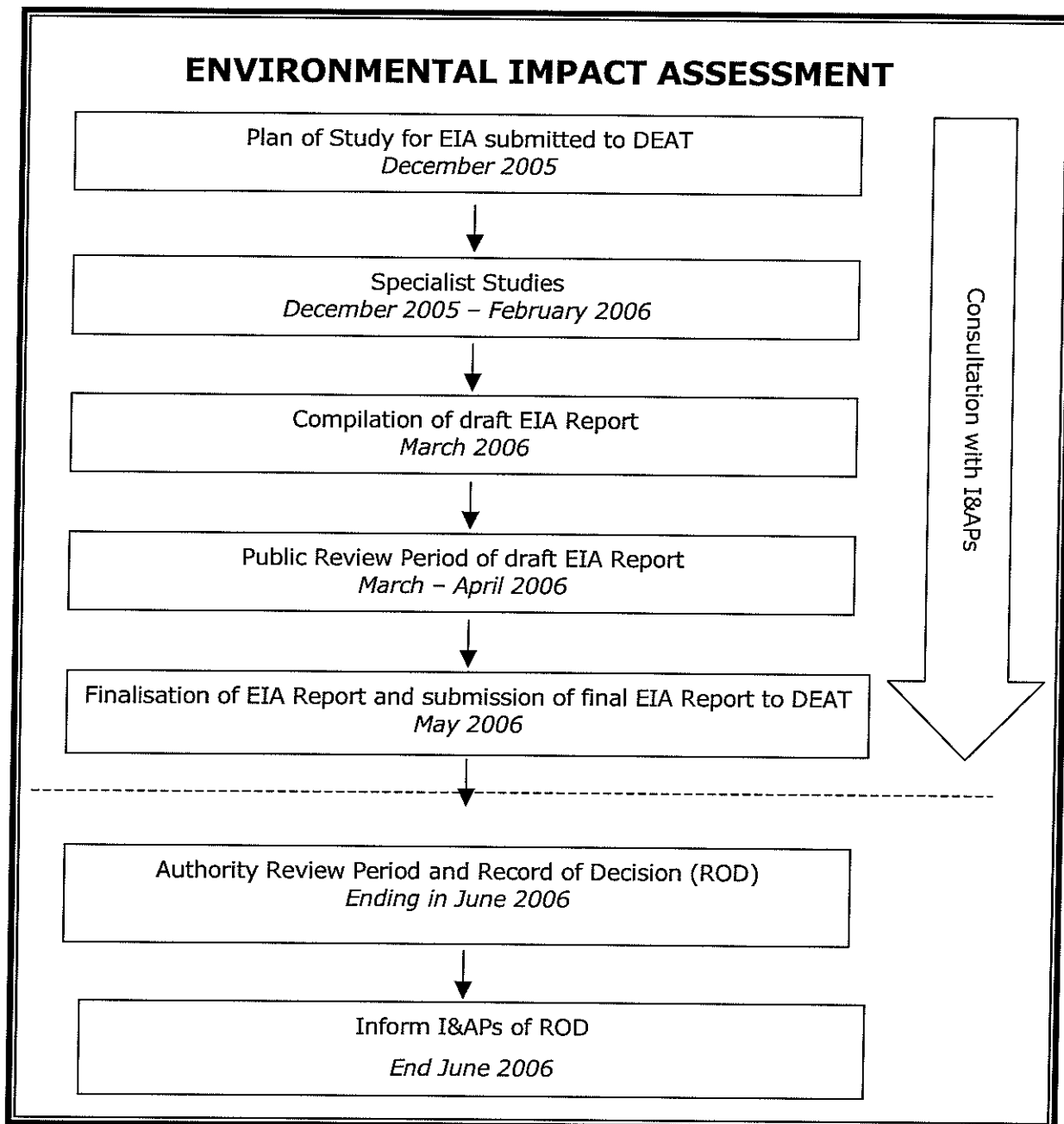
The availability of this report will again be advertised in the Mogol Pos, the Capricorn Voice and this letter serves to inform you of the availability of the report. A public meeting during the review period is also planned for **29 March 2006** at the **Mogol Club Conference Room**, Onverwacht. The public meeting will commence at **17h30** for **18h00**. On completion of the review period, I&AP comments will be integrated into the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and submitted to DEAT for their review and decision-making. Following the review period (and amendment of the reports as per public input), DEAT will take an official decision regarding the proposed project which is referred to as a Record of Decision (ROD). As part of the public consultation process, you will also be informed of the ROD.

The specialist studies, which are to be included in the EIA report, are:

- Ecological assessment (flora & fauna)
- Air quality assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment and GIS mapping
- Surface and Groundwater Impacts
- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Soils and Agricultural Potential
- Heritage Impact Assessment

- Noise Impact Assessment
- Social Impact Assessment
- Tourism Impact Assessment

An outline of the EIA process is as follows:



Bohlweki Environmental are responsible for the management of the specialist studies, the public participation process, and the compilation of the EIA Report. The public participation process has continued throughout the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Phase. The consultants have contacted I&APs during this period to obtain further comments. If you still require a meeting, please liaise with Ms. Ingrid Snyman as soon as possible to determine a suitable date and time before **21 April 2006**.

4. MORE INFORMATION

Should you, during this phase, require any additional information or wish to submit comments on the specialist studies or the proposed project, you are welcome to forward your inputs to the following consultants at Bohlweki Environmental:

Ingrid Snyman or Ashlea Strong
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, Vorna Valley
Midrand, 1686
Phone: (011) 466 3841
Fax: (011) 466 3849
E-mail: matimba-b@bohlweki.co.za



10 Maart 2006

Geagte Geïnteresseerde en Belanghebbende Party

**OMGEWINGSINVLOEDSTUDIE PROSES VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE NUWE
STEENKOOI AANGEDREWE KRAGSTASIE IN DIE LEPHALALE AREA, LIMPOPO
PROVINSIE:
OPENBARE DEELNAME PROSES**

Die nuusbrieff het ten doel om aan u, as geregistreerde Geïnteresseerde en Belanghebbende Party (G&BP), meer inligting rakende die voorgestelde nuwe steenkool aangedrewe kragstasie in die Limpopo Provinsie en die Omgewingsinvloedstudie (OIS) proses te verskaf. Die eerste fase van die OIS proses, naamlik die Omgewingsbestekopname is voltooi en in-diepte studies word nou ten tyde van fase 2 (die detail OIS) van die proses onderneem. Die openbare deelname proses gaan dus voortduur totdat die finale OIS Verslag aan die owerhede oorhandig word vir hul besluitneming,

1. OPDATERING: KORT OORSIG OOR DIE VOORGESTELDE PROJEK

Soos in vorige dokumentasie aangedui, is Bohlweki Environmental deur Eskom aangestel om die OIS vir die voorgestelde nuwe steenkool aangedrewe kragstasie in die Lephalale area te onderneem. Eskom Holdings beoog om 'n nuwe steenkool aangedrewe kragstasie in Lephalale (voorheen Ellisras), Limpopo Provinsie in die omgewing van die bestaande Matimba kragstasie op te rig om sodoende aan die groeiende elektrisiteitsbehoefte te voorsien. Die voorgestelde kragstasie sal 'n maksimum kapasiteit van 4 800 MW hê.

2. OMGEWINGSSTUDIES WAT TOT OP HEDE ONDERNEEM IS

Die OIS wat onderneem word bestaan uit twee fases, naamlik die **Omgewingsbestekopname** fase en die **detail Omgewingsinvloedstudieproses**. Die Omgewingsbestekopname, wat in Mei 2005 begin het, het aan G&BP die geleentheid gebied om aan die proses deel te neem en om aspekte van belang en kommer te opper. Die openbare deelname proses het 'n wyd geadverteerde openbare vergadering wat in Junie 2005 in Lephalale gehou is, ingesluit. Tydens die periode is 'n voorlopige Omgewingsbestekopname Verslag saamgestel en by openbare plekke beskikbaar gestel vir openbare evaluering en kommentaar. Al die kommentaar en voorstelle wat tydens die Omgewingsbestekopname fase en die verslagevalueringfase ontvang is, is by die finale Bestekopnameverslag wat op 21 November 2005 by die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerimse ingehandig is, ingesluit.

Op grond van die spesialisstudies wat tydens die bestekopname fase onderneem is, is daar geen kritiese probleme ("fatal flaws") as gevolg van die voorgestelde projek geïdentifiseer nie, alhoewel 'n aantal potensiële gewigtige omgewingsimpakte geïdentifiseer is wat verdere in-diepte ondersoek vereis. Daarom moet daar 'n OIS onderneem word om hierdie potensiële impakte verder te ondersoek en om geskikte mitigerende maatreëls voor te stel, waar nodig. Die OIS moet vir die verkose terreine, naamlik die plase Naauwontkome 509 LQ en Eenzaamheid 687 LQ onderneem word.

3. OMGEWINGSSTUDIES WAT ONDERNEEM GAAN WORD

Die Omgewingsbestekopname Verslag en Studieplan vir die OIS (wat aandui watter spesialisstudies onderneem moet word) is by die Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerisme ingehandig en deur hulle aanvaar. Die OIS en voortgesette openbare deelname proses is nou aan die gang met gedetailleerde studies wat vanaf Desember 2005 tot Februarie 2006 onderneem word. Die voorlopige Omgewingsinvloedstudie Verslag moet dus saamgestel word. Die voorlopige verslag sal vanaf **16 Maart 2006 tot 21 April 2006** by die volgende openbare plekke vir evaluering en kommentaar beskikbaar gestel word:

- Kantoor van die Lephalale Munisipaliteit (hoek van Joe Slovo en Douwater Strate)
- Lephalale Biblioteek (hoek van Joe Slovo en Douwater Strate)
- Eskom Matimba Kragstasie – Sekuriteitskantoor
- Koöperasie in Lephalale (Kantoor van die Lephalale Distriks Landbou Unie – Bothalaan)
- Marapong Kliniek (Tloustraat, Marapong)
- Kantoor van Bohlweki Environmental (Kyalami Kantoorpark, Kyalami)
- www.bohlweki.co.za

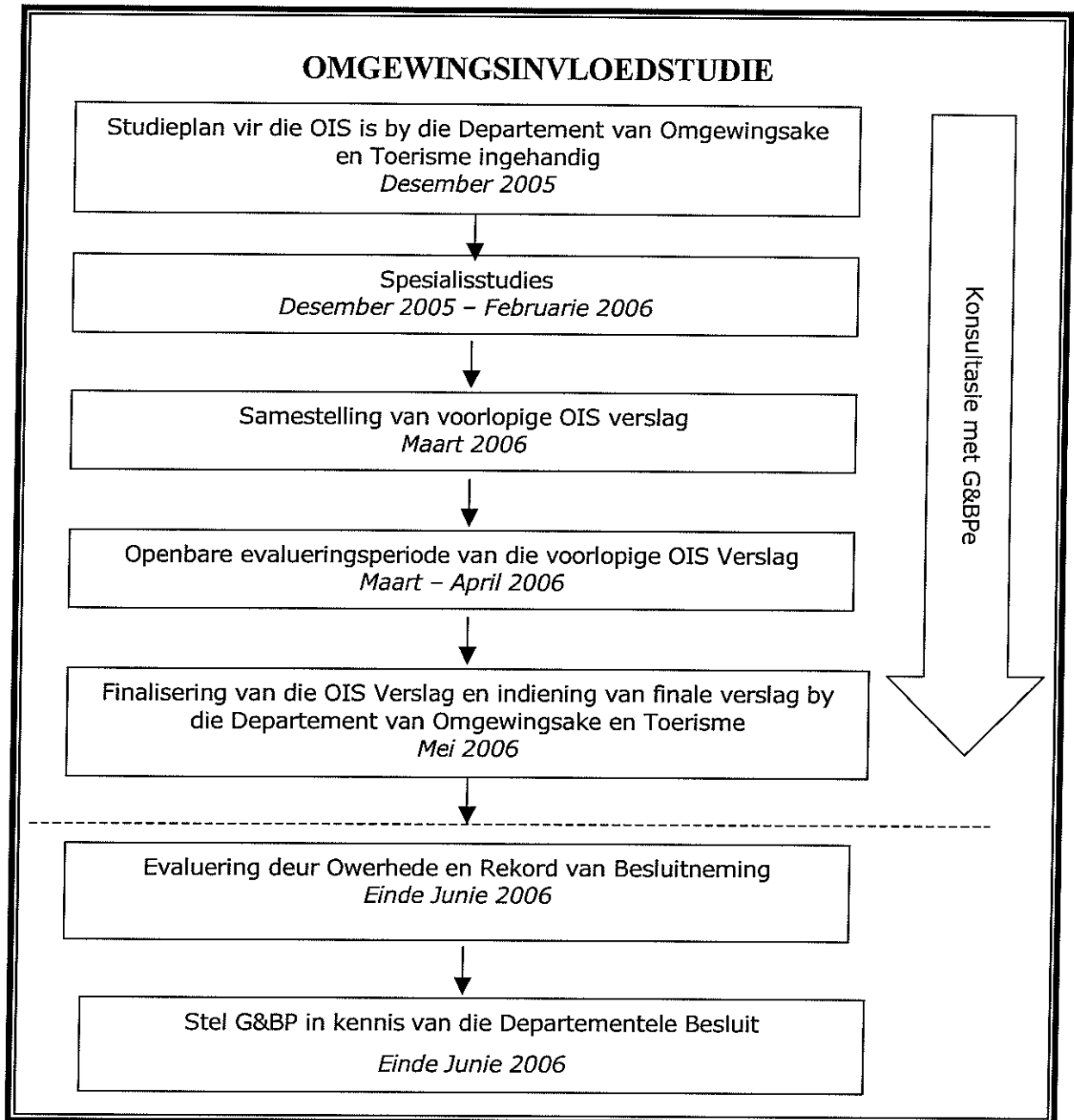
Die beskikbaarheid van die verslag sal weer in die Mogol Pos en die Capricorn Voice geadverteer word en die brief dien dus ook om u in kennis te stel van die beskikbaarheid van die verslag. 'n Openbare vergadering gaan ook tydens die evalueringsperiode op **29 Maart 2006** by die **Mogolklub se Konferensiekamer, Onverwacht** gehou word. Die openbare vergadering sal om **17h30 vir 18h00** begin. Nadat die evalueringsperiode verby is, sal al die kommentaar van G&BP in die finale Omgewingsinvloedstudie Verslag geïnkorporeer word en aan die Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerisme oorhandig word vir hul evaluering en besluitneming. Die Departement sal dan na die evalueringsperiode (en verandering van die verslae op grond van die publiek se insette) 'n amptelike besluit neem aangaande die voorgestelde projek waarna verwys word as die Rekord van Besluitneming. As deel van die openbare deelname proses sal u in kennis gestel word van die besluit van die Departement.

Die spesialisstudies wat in die OIS Verslag ingesluit sal word is:

- Ekologiese invloedstudie (Fauna en flora)
- Invloedstudie rakende die lugkwaliteit
- Visuele invloedstudie en GIS kartering
- Oppervlak en Grondwater invloedstudie
- Verkeersinvloedstudie
- Grond en Landboupotensiaal

- Erfenisinvloedstudie
- Geraasinvoedstudie
- Sosiale invloedstudie
- Toerisme invloedstudie

'n Uiteensetting van die OIS proses wat gevolg gaan word, is as volg:



Bohlweki Environmental is verantwoordelik vir die bestuur van die spesialisstudies, die openbare deelname proses en die samestelling van die OIS Verslag. Die openbare deelname proses het tydens die gedetailleerde OIS fase voortgeduur. Die konsultante het G&BPs gedurende hierdie tyd gekontak om verdere kommentaar te ontvang. Indien u steeds 'n vergadering verlang, kontak Me. Ingrid Snyman so gou as moontlik om 'n geskikte datum en tyd voor 21 April 2006 te bepaal.

4. VERDERE INLIGTING

Indien u, gedurende die fase, enige verdere inligting verlang of indien u spesifieke kommentaar rakende die spesialisstudies en die voorgestelde projek wil opper, is u welkom om dit na die volgende konsultante by Bohlweki Environmental te stuur:

Ingrid Snyman of Ashlea Strong

Bohlweki Environmental

Posbus 11784, Vorna Valley

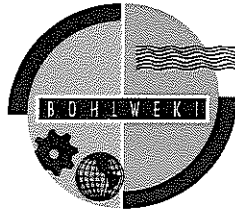
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16 March 2006

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

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The change in review period will be advertised in the Mogol Pos, the Capricorn Voice and this letter serves to inform you of the change in availability of the report.

The public meeting arranged during the review period will be held on **29 March 2006** at the **Mogol Club Conference Room**, Onverwacht. The public meeting will commence at **17h30** for **18h00**.

On completion of the review period, I&AP comments will be integrated into the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and submitted to DEAT for their review and decision-making.

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