

## BOHLWEKI ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD

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Dear Interested and Affected Party

24 October 2006

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 765 KV EXTENSION OF THE HYDRA SUBSTATION AND THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 765 KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE BETWEEN THE PROPOSED EXTENDED HYDRA SUBSTATION AND GAMMA SUBSTATION, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

As you may recall, during 2005 Bohlweki Environmental undertook an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the construction of a 765 kV Transmission power line between Hydra and Gamma Substations in the Northern Cape Province. This project received a positive Record of Decision (RoD) in December 2005. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all who contributed comments during the EIA process.

Since then there has been continued high growth in electricity demand in the Eastern and Western Cape Provinces. Using the planning processes in place, Eskom has established that there is a need for a new 765 kV Transmission Power Line from Perseus to Gamma Substations with an extension of Hydra Substation between them. For the above-mentioned EIA the assessment will focus on the extension of the 765 kV Hydra Substation and the proposed construction of the 765 kV Transmission power line between the extended Hydra Substation and Gamma Substation, which will run parallel to the authorised 765 kV Transmission power line between Hydra and Gamma, as mentioned above. This newly proposed additional 765 kV Transmission has been identified in order to meet the projected growth in demand for electricity in the Western and Eastern Cape Provinces as mentioned.

This EIA project, in particular, will address the proposed construction of the additional 765 kV Transmission power line which will run from the proposed extended Hydra Substation into Gamma Substation. This section of the line will be preceded by the line extending from Perseus Substation.

Bohlweki Environmental, as an independent environmental consultant, has been assigned to undertake the required Environmental Impact Assessment and public participation process for this proposed project.

A Background Information Document (BID) is in the process of being compiled and will be distributed to you shortly. This BID will contain additional information regarding the EIA process, for this project in particular and will also include a schematic map indicating the additional 765 kV Transmission power line route.

Should you require any additional information in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

Nicolene Venter  
Public Participation Consultant