

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESSES

+ BRAAMHOEK 400KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE & SUBSTATION INTEGRATION EIAs

+ CONSTRUCTION & UPGRADE OF ACCESS ROADS EIA

FOR THE BRAAMHOEK PUMPED STORAGE SCHEME



The Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme (BPSS) is situated 23 km northeast of Van Reenen on the farms Braamhoek, Zaaifontein and Bedford, on the boundary of KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State. The scheme will comprise two reservoirs, enclosed tunnel systems and pump turbine units for which environmental authorisation have already been obtained in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989.

As part of the BPSS, notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 4(6) of the regulations published in Government Notice No. R1183 under Section 26 of the Environment Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989, of Eskom's intent to carry out the following activities:

400kV Transmission Power Line & Substation Integration (EIAs: 12/12/20/672 & 12/12/20/673 & 12/12/20/674) for the BPSS

The integration project comprises the construction of three separate components:

- The Braamhoek Substation: to receive electricity from the Braamhoek Power Station.
- The Braamhoek-Venus 400kV transmission power line, to provide a second connection to the Transmission National Grid System via a direct connection to the Venus Substation.
- A 'Turn-in' from the existing Majuba-Venus 400kV transmission power line to connect the Substation to the Transmission National Grid System.

The EIAs will investigate alternatives for the siting of the substation and transmission power lines.

Construction & Upgrade of Access Roads (EIA: A24/16/3/110) to the BPSS

This project involves the construction and upgrade of access roads to the Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme. Eskom is currently investigating various alternatives for access road routes that have been identified, in order to ascertain the preferred alternative. It is expected that most of the access roads will follow existing roads, which will have to be upgraded. Of the expected approximately 90 km of access roads, only about 20 km may be new roads.

In terms of the EIA Regulations under Section 21 of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989) environmental authorisation is required from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism for the proposed developments. Scoping for Transmission Power Line Substation Integration EIAs will be conducted by Margen Industrial Services, while scoping for the Access Roads will be conducted by Braamhoek Consultants Joint Venture, both are Independent Environmental Consultants and are appointed by Eskom. ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants has been appointed as the Public Participation Consultants for both EIA processes.

Invitation to Participate:

To obtain a Background Information Document, to register as an Interested or Affected Party, and/or to raise issues, contact either Bongsi Shinga (for Integration) or Debbie McKirdy (for Access Roads) at the Public Participation Office:

► P O Box 503, Mtunzini, 3867

► Tel: 035 340 2715 ► Fax: 035 340 2232

► E-mail: bhkintegration@acerafrica.co.za or bhkroads@acerafrica.co.za or visit Eskom's web site: www.eskom.co.za/eia

Stakeholders are invited to attend one of the public open days that will be held to discuss the projects:

Date: Monday, 29 November 2004

Time: 13h00–18h00 (presentations at 15h00)

Venue: Estcourt, Umtshezi Municipality Public Library

Date: Tuesday, 30 November 2004

Time: 13h00–18h00 (presentations at 15h00)

Venue: Ladysmith Royal Hotel, Sir Reays

Date: Wednesday, 1 December 2004

Time: 10h00–12h00

Venue: Hamilberg School, Van Reenen

Date: Wednesday, 1 December 2004

Time: 14h00–17h00

Venue: Hlomisa School, Van Reenen

Deadline for public comment on the proposed projects: 20 January 2005

