

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

**PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE 765kV TRANSMISSION HYDRA SUBSTATION
AND THE ADDITIONAL 765kV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE BETWEEN HYDRA
SUBSTATION AND GAMMA SUBSTATION: NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS/ISSUES/CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS
RAISED BY INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTIES**

NOVEMBER 2006

(including comments on the draft ESR: February 2007)

Stakeholders who contributed issues range across all sectors of society. A full record of every issue raised is available from the public participation offices. Many stakeholders raised the same issue. This list of issues does not focus solely on the specific route corridor. Instead, it lists all the issues raised by I&APs within the study area.

The issues have been arranged into groups of similar issues, and are listed alphabetically (according to surname). The name, affiliation and date of the commentator are also indicated. The affiliation, where indicated, of the person who raised the comment is indicated; as it was at the time the comment was raised. The issues raised by technical specialists and the project proponents are not included in the list below.

INDEX TO ISSUES IN THIS TABLE

1.	GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.....	1
2.	FAUNA & FLORA ISSUES	4
3.	AVIFAUNA ISSUES	4
4.	TOURISM ISSUES	6
5.	SOCIAL ISSUES	8
6.	PROPOSED ROUTES & ROUTE ALTERNATIVES	10
7.	SERVITUDE ISSUES.....	10
8.	TECHNICAL ISSUES.....	10
9.	CONSTRUCTION ISSUES	11
10.	COMMENTS & CONCERNS – ESKOM EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE/SERVITUDE	13
11.	HYDRA-GAMMA 1 RELATED ISSUES	13
12.	COMMUNICATION ISSUES	13
13.	GENERAL COMMENTS & ISSUES RAISED	18
14.	COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ESR	21

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE ISSUES TRAIL:

FGM: Focus Group Meeting

EMP: Environmental Management Plan

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
1. GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES			
Comments on draft Environmental Scoping Report			
Requested the EIA for this proposed project assess and address the accumulative impacts of an additional transmission power line.	Mr S Marais, Farm: Nuwejaarsfontein Telephone discussion: 16.01.2007	The cumulative impacts have been addressed within the final Scoping Report.	
The visual impact of a transmission power line on the tourism industry was not addressed satisfactory during during the previous EIA process for the first Hydra-Gamma transmission power line project.		Comment acknowledged.	
Comments raised during Environmental Scoping Phase			
During construction litter is a problem. Eskom must ensure clean up is conducted on completion.	Mr Hendrik de Jager: Property Owner, De Put Trust Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006 Piet Schoeman: Property Owner, Niewfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted. This matter will be included into the EMP.	X
Contract makes no provision for rehabilitation and contract must specify rehabilitation	Mr A Duthie: Property Owner, Wodehouse Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	
There is no compensation for damage to natural vegetation and crops.			

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>Eskom has embarked on bush cutting on his property which has led to soil erosion occurring and does not want any further bush cutting to take place. Has contacted Eskom about erosion and Eskom agreed to put gabions in at needed areas. Awaits a quote.</p>	<p>Marius Esterhuizen: Property Owners, Wynandsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>	<p>Comment noted and will be addressed during the impact phase</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Eskom must ensure that no erosion takes place and must put preventative measure in place.</p>	<p>Danny Hugo: Property Owner, Burgersfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p> <p>Peter Kock: Property Owners, Lemoenkloof Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p> <p>Piet Schoeman: Property Owner, Niewfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p> <p>Pikkie van den Heever: Property Owner, Grootaar CC Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p> <p>Frans van der Merwe: Property Owner, Rondavel & Annex Rondawel Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>	<p>Comment and concern noted.</p>	<p>X</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
Roads must not be scraped or graded as this promotes erosion. The two track roads must remain.	F J de Vries: Property Owners, Bult & Rietfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	
Erosion to be avoided at all times. Roads must not be scraped or graded as this promotes erosion. The two track roads must remain.	Registration and Comment Form: 06.12.2006	Comment noted.	
It was indicated that he is not in favour of construction if current erosion problem has not been adequately repaired. Local Eskom representative informed him that there is no budget for erosion control.	Sterrie Marais: Property Owner, Nuwejaarsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	
Erosion is currently being attended to.	Fred Van Zyl: Property Owner, Fred van Zyl Trust Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
2. FAUNA & FLORA ISSUES			
Comments on draft Environmental Scoping Report			
The impact during construction on mammals such as maanhaard jackals and the black-footed cat (<i>Felis nigripes</i>) was not taken into consideration during the previous EIA process.	Mr S Marais, Farm: Nuwejaarsfontein Telephone discussion: 16.01.2007	Comment acknowledged.	
Comments raised during Environmental Scoping Phase			
What the status of the vegetation will be after the expansion of the Hydra Substation and will that site be rehabilitated?	Mr Alexander, Municipal Manager: Emthanjeni Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006	The vegetation at the substation site will be permanently removed, and were possible any indigenous species will be relocated within the nearby vicinity. It was explained that in order for the construction of the substation site to be approved, the ecological studies need to show that the vegetation at that site is either in abundance elsewhere, such that the population of that species will not suffer, or alternatively the vegetation can be relocated elsewhere to ensure the survival of the species.	
It takes 4 years for any significant rehabilitation to occur and therefore care must be taken during construction to not unnecessarily destroy vegetation.	Mr Hendrik de Jager: Property Owner, De Put Trust Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	
What action will be in place should plants or trees be affected by the proposed Transmission power line?	Mr Faas, Emthanjeni Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006	Should red data plant species be identified within the study area, and those species cannot be relocated, the final route alignment would have to be aligned to avoid those species.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
Eskom and contractors must not drive in the veld but remain on designated roads to minimize vegetation impact.	Luke Kock: Property Owner, Lemoenkloof Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Concern noted and forwarded to specialist.	X

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
3. AVIFAUNA ISSUES			
Comments on draft Environmental Scoping Report			
The bird flappers on the existing transmission power line, which traverses his property, are not affective as there are more bird fatality at the section where the bird flappers are erected than on the sections of the power line where there are no bird flappers.	Mr S Marais, Farm: Nuwejaarsfontein Telephone discussion: 16.01.2007	This aspect will be forwarded to the Avifauna specialist.	
Comments raised during Environmental Scoping Phase			
Bird flappers on the poles and lines are not mentioned and many bird deaths are occurring.	Mr A Duthie: Property Owner, Wodehouse	Chapter 8, section 7 of the Environmental Scoping Report addresses impacts on Avifauna for the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocutions • Collisions • Habitat Destruction • Disturbance • Nesting Table 8.6 then summarise each of the above aspects in terms of extent, duration, probability, significance and status. Section 8.7.4 – Recommendations, furthermore provides mitigation	
	Danny Hugo: Property Owner, Burgersfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006		
	Luke Kock: Property Owner, Lemoenkloof Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006		

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
	Sterrie Marais: Property Owner, Nuwejaarsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006 Pikkie van den Heever: Property Owner, Grootaar CC Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006 Fred Van Zyl: Property Owner, Fred van Zyl Trust Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	measures for each of the above aspects considered.	
There seems to be a higher mortality rate where there are a greater number of bird flaps.	Sterrie Marais: Property Owner, Nuwejaarsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Concern noted and forwarded to the Avifauna specialist.	
Currently finding many dead Blue Cranes. Eskom to consider additional bird flaps on conductors.	Frans van der Merwe: Property Owner, Rondavel & Annex Rondawel Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted and forwarded to the Avifauna specialist.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
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Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
4. TOURISM ISSUES			
Comments on draft Environmental Scoping Report			
Property is being utilised for eco tourism as well as a game farm and mainly overseas visitors visit the farm. Tourism was not satisfactory addressed during the previous EIA process for the first Hydra-Gamma transmission power line project.	Mr S Marais, Farm: Nuwejaarsfontein Telephone discussion: 16.01.2007	Comment acknowledged	
Comments raised during Environmental Scoping Phase			
Eskom power lines are having a negative impact on his eco-tourism activities.	Sterrie Marais: Property Owner, Nuwejaarsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted and forwarded to the Tourism specialist.	
Tourism consultants did not visit the area to establish first hand the important issues.		Comment noted. As the project is currently in the scoping phase, only desk-top studies are being conducted. The Tourism specialist will be in contact with the landowner.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
5. SOCIAL ISSUES			
It was enquired whether there will be any Electro Magnetic Filed (EMF) radiation from the 765 kV Transmission power line.	Mr Alexander, Municipal Manager: Emthanjeni Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006	According to EMF studies undertaken for Transmission power lines, EMF radiation is highest at the centre point of a Transmission power line, and decreases in intensity as you move away from the centre point. The studies have indicated that the effects experienced by EMF's are zero outside the power line servitude. She further explained that the EMF studies will form part of the Environmental Scoping Report.	
What benefit would Emthanjeni Municipality gain from the proposed expansion of the Hydra Substation and the proposed construction of the Transmission power line? The project team was informed that Emthanjeni Municipality's existing infrastructures is 60 years old and is in need of upgrading.		The comment is noted and a response regarding this matter will be sourced from Eskom and it will also be submitted to the Social Specialist for assessment and included within the Environmental Scoping Report. Post-meeting note: Eskom have been made aware of this comment and adherence thereto must be considered within the Environmental Management Plan	X
Eskom workers, during construction and operation do not close gates, thus allowing for livestock to move out of designated camps. Eskom must ensure that workers close gates.	Mr Hendrik de Jager: Property Owner, De Put Trust Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006 HP Bekker: Property Owners, Elanskuilen Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006 Danny Hugo: Property Owner, Burgersfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Concern noted.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>Theft and security is an issue of concern with the influx of workers and people foreign to the neighbourhood. This is particular to the sub-station on the Farm Uitsig.</p>	<p>Luke Kock: Property Owner, Lemoenkloof Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p> <p>Marius Esterhuizen: Property Owners, Wynandsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p> <p>Danny Hugo: Property Owner, Burgersfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p> <p>Luke Kock: Property Owner, Lemoenkloof Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>	
<p>It was commented that numerous people living within close proximity to power line transformers had complained about headaches and migraines.</p>	<p>Mr Faas, Emthanjeni Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006</p>	<p>Health effects associated with transformers are a lot more severe than those associated with the actual power lines and power line towers.</p>	
<p>It was requested that the market value of the proposed project, including the expansion of the substation be forwarded to Emthanjeni Municipality.</p>		<p>Request noted, information will be obtained from Eskom and will be formally communicated to Emthanjeni Municipality.</p>	
<p>Would there be any local employment opportunities associated with this proposed project.</p>	<p>Mr Martin Fillis, Municipal Manager: Ubuntu Municipality FGM: 15.11.2006</p>	<p>There may be temporary jobs available during the construction phase, however Eskom have indicated that the majority of the jobs require skilled labour. An official response will be requested from Eskom, indicating the number of unskilled and skilled jobs required for the project.</p>	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>The incidence of AIDS is increased by the introduction of workers and people from other areas and thus has a social impact.</p>	<p>Danny Hugo: Property Owner, Burgersfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>	<p>Concern noted.</p>	
<p>It was enquired whether this project would make use of local labour during construction of the line as well as that of the expansion of the Hydra Substation. The project team was informed that although the project is being proposed to extend the electricity network for the country, Eskom's social responsibility needs to be visible by ensuring that the community also benefit from this proposed project, if the community are not benefiting during the construction phase or the possible employment during the operational phase of the substation.</p>	<p>Mr Mvandaba, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006</p>	<p>This issue is noted and that a response regarding this matter will be sourced from Eskom and it will also be submitted to the Social Specialist for assessment and included within the Environmental Scoping Report. Post-meeting note: Eskom have been made aware of this comment and adherence thereto must be considered within the Environmental Management Plan</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>In terms of the commitments made between Eskom and the Government to ensure that all communities receive free basic services, in this case electricity, the following comments were made and questions submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role is Eskom playing regarding the above-mentioned commitment in terms of infrastructures? • Emthanjeni Municipality purchase bulk electricity from Eskom for its residents and communities, but there is no return benefits from Eskom. • What will the communities benefit from this proposed project to gain the community's buy-in into the whole process? <p>There needs to be co-operation from both Eskom and Emthanjeni Municipality to ensure a successful project.</p>		<p>From a legal and process perspective, the EIA process is there to ensure that sufficient and clear information regarding a proposed project is provided to interested and/or affected parties to participate informatively. The EIA, and specifically, the public participation process, is not a process to obtain communities or residents 'buy-in' into a project, but to obtain their comments and concerns relating to a proposed project, especially during the scoping phase, to ensure that it is addressed during the impact assessment phase of the project.</p>	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
6. PROPOSED ROUTES & ROUTE ALTERNATIVES			
It was enquired as to where the proposed Hydra-Gamma2 765 kV Transmission line will be situated.	Mr Mvandaba, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006	The proposed Hydra-Gamma2 is situated between the Hydra Substation, 10km south of De Aar And Gamma Substation, south-east of Victoria West, near Hutchinson. The Hydra Gamma2 power line will run parallel to the approved Hydra Gamma1 765 kV Power line. Ultimately, Hydra Gamma2 will be a continuation of the 765 kV power line from Perseus Substation.	

7. SERVITUDE ISSUES			
Does landowners still have the right to use the land where a Eskom servitude has been registered?	Mr Alexander, Municipal Manager: Emthanjeni Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006	The land beneath Eskom power lines still belongs to the landowners and Eskom has the right to transmit electricity within that servitude and the right to perform maintenance on the power line within that servitude. Depending on the activities e.g. low crop, cattle farming, etc farming can still take place within the servitude beneath the power line.	

8. TECHNICAL ISSUES			
Will the newly proposed expansion of the Hydra 765 kV Transmission substation be similar to the existing substation?	Mr Faas, Emthanjeni Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006	After construction, the Hydra substation will be approximately double its current size. The extended Hydra Substation infrastructure will be similar to that of the existing Hydra Substation.	
The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) has a statutory building line of 60m measured from the road reserve fence, adjacent to the national road.	Ms MJ Runkel: Statutory Control, SANRAL Correspondence: 06.11.2006	Comment acknowledged and forwarded to Eskom.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
9. CONSTRUCTION ISSUES			
Roads must remain as is and no new roads to be constructed.	Marius Esterhuizen: Property Owners, Wynandsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Request noted.	
When will construction start?	Mr Faas, Emthanjeni Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006	Should the Competent Authority issue a positive Record of Decision; construction is proposed to begin during May 2007.	
Construction must take place outside of lambing season as the presence of trucks and construction vehicles negatively impacts on his stock and game.	Danny Hugo: Property Owner, Burgersfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted and forwarded to Eskom.	X
Informed project team of their interest to tender for any construction work relating to this proposed project.	Mr Jafta Kola, Potlang Constructors Fax: 06.12.2006	Information acknowledged and forwarded to Eskom.	
Eskom must repair fences if broken during construction and operation.	Frans van der Merwe: Property Owner, Rondavel & Annex Rondawel Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Request noted.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
10. COMMENTS & COMPLAINTS – ESKOM EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE/SERVITUDE			
Environmental Management Plan for the previous Hydra-Gamma project has not been adhered to.	Sterrie Marais: Property Owner, Nuwejaarsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	

11. HYDRA-GAMMA 1 RELATED ISSUES			
It was enquired whether the landowners affected by the Hydra-Gamma1 alignment were informed that the alignment had changed from the western side of the exiting power lines to the eastern side.	Mr Molusi: Dept of Tourism, Environment and Conservation KSW: 14.11.2006	The proposed western route alignment was moved to the eastern side on request of the landowners. The Record of Decision received by DEAT for the Hydra-Gamma 1 project was for the western alignment, and the fact that the landowners prefer the eastern alignment needs to be communicated to DEAT.	

12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES			
Comments on draft Environmental Scoping Report			
Requested that future correspondence regarding this proposed project be forwarded to Mr Carel Gersbach at ATNS.	Mr Matthys Horak, Acting Manager: ATNS AIS E-mail: 13.12.2006	Request noted and database updated.	
Requested to be removed from the proposed project's database.	Leon Bradley, Quality & Environmental Management: Earthlife Africa E-mail: 13.12.2006	Request noted and removed from database.	

No consultation took place between the EIA team and the affected landowners regarding the tourism and visual impact issues.	Mr S Marais, Farm: Nuwejaarsfontein Telephone discussion: 16.01.2007	Comment acknowledged.	
Requested that Mr Gert Cruywagen, TAU SA Regional Manager, North West Province be registered as an I&AP.	Mr Tinus Taute, TAU SA E-mail: 17.01.2007	Request acknowledge and Mr Cruywagen registered on the project database. All previous documents forwarded to him.	
Comments raised during Environmental Scoping Phase			
Requested to be removed from the project database. No comment.	Leon Bradley: Quality & Environmental anagement, Wildlife & Environmental Society of SA E-Mail: 22.11.2006	Requeste noted and removed from database	
Farmers Association may be able to arrange open day for farm worker forum?	Mr Hendrik de Jager: Property Owner, De Put Trust	Comment noted. Contact will be made with the relevant farmers' Association.	
Landowner meeting can be held simultaneously with staff on site.	Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	
No contact forum for farm workers – need to conduct farm by farm participation process	Mr Louis de Jager: Property Owner, Klipfontein Boerdery Trust Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	
In response to Bohlweki Environmental's enquiry regarding a methodology to consult with farm wokers, it was suggested that the local ANC office could be contacted to arrange a labor forum.	Mr A Duthie: Property Owner, Wodehouse Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Suggestion noted.	

	<p>Marius Esterhuizen: Property Owners, Wynandsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>		
	<p>Frans van der Merwe: Property Owner, Rondavel & Annex Rondawel Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>		
	<p>Fred Van Zyl: Property Owner, Fred van Zyl Trust Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>		
Feels that a landowner / stakeholder meeting is warranted.	<p>Mr A Duthie: Property Owner, Wodehouse Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>	Comment noted. A Focus Group Meeting will be arranged.	
	<p>Danny Hugo: Property Owner, Burgersfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>		
	<p>Luke Kock: Property Owner, Lemoenkloof Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>		
	<p>Sterrie Marais: Property Owner, Nuwejaarsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>		

	<p>Pikkie van den Heever: Property Owner, Grootaar CC Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>		
	<p>Frans van der Merwe: Property Owner, Rondavel & Annex Rondawel Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006</p>		
<p>Are the landowners along the Hydra-Gamma2 proposed route informed/aware of the proposed project?</p>	<p>Mr Faas, Emthanjeni Municipality FGM: 14.11.2006</p>	<p>All the landowners are informed of the proposed Hydra-Gamma2 project. After the Record of Decision was received for Hydra Gamma1, Eskom's Lands and Rights went to negotiate the servitude. During these negotiations, Eskom informed the landowners' that a second 765 kV power line is required between Hydra and Gamma and proceeded to negotiate the second servitude at the same time.</p>	
<p>Are the landowners aware of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, which is now being undertaken?</p>		<p>During the double servitude negotiations, the Lands and Rights negotiator informed all the effected landowners that the EIA process was still to follow and would be undertaken, as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) require this. During the negotiations he further explained that the landowners would have a further opportunity during that EIA process to raise any concerns they may have with regards to the two proposed 765kV power lines.</p>	
<p>The project team was informed that there is a farming community situated on the southern side of the existing Hydra Substation, and commented that they will have to be consulted.</p>		<p>Comment noted. The matter will be assessed and address.</p>	

Requested the contact details of National DEAT case officer and National DEAT reference number for the proposed project.	Mr BP Mkhombo, Assistant Director: Impact Management: NC DTEC E-mail: 12.01.2007	Request acknowledged and information forwarded.	
Requested route corridor map.	Gary Newman: PANS- OPS Specialist, ATS, Civil Aviation Authority E-Mail: 21.11.2006	Request noted and map forwarded.	
Requested that all correspondence regarding the proposed project be directed to him.	Mr Koos Pretorius: Civil Aviation Authority, Inspector CNS, Aerodrome Safety Oversigt E-mail: 20.11.2006	Comment noted and confirmed.	
Indicate that a landowners' focus group meeting is not needed.	Piet Schoeman: Property Owner, Niewfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006		
	Mr RE Venter: Property Owner, Damfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006		
Are not informed about the current line routing and wants Eskom to consult with him, should he be affected.	Neil Grobelaar: Property Owners, Lovedale Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	It was established that property is not affected by the proposed Hydra-Gamma2 765kV Transmission power line.	
Requested to be registered as an I&AP as he is starting to have a great deal of interest in the SHE fraternity. His interest lies in the knowledge that one will acquire thereof.	Mr Thabo Sefatsa E-mail: 11.11.06	Registered on project database and BID forwarded.	

Requested to be removed from the project database.	Richard Worthington Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project Co-ordinator Earthlife Africa E-mail: 21.11.2006	Request noted and information removed from database.	
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Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
13. GENERAL COMMENTS AND ISSUES RAISED			
Comments on draft Environmental Scoping Report			
There is no purpose in commenting on the proposed project, as comments will be wiped off the table. The line will be built irrespective of comments / concerns raised.	Mr Luke Kock, H.v.Z. Kock CC Registration and Comment From: 06.11.2006	Comment acknowledged and noted.	
The previously proposed 765kV Transmission power line would have traversed the property, but due to re-alignment, the property has not been affected.	Mr S Marais, Farm: Nuwejaarsfontein Telephone discussion: 16.01.2007	Comment acknowledged.	
Comments raised during Environmental Scoping Phase			
Does not want to grant Eskom access during the rain season as vehicles get stuck in low lying areas and are unable to be retrieved until the ground has dried.	HP Bekker: Property Owners, Elanskuilen Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Concern noted and forwarded to Eskom	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
Has no real problem with the proposed line and has not been in the area long.	Mr Louis de Jager: Property Owner, Klipfontein Boerdery Trust Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	
No problems and comments.	Johan Esterhuizen: Property Owners, Wynandsfontein & Vlekfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Noted.	
It was requested whether this proposed project would address the black out problems experienced in Cape Town this year.	Mr Martin Fillis, Municipal Manager: Ubuntu Municipality FGM: 15.11.2006	Through Transmission power lines such as this one, Eskom are addressing problems such as those experienced in Cape Town during the course of this year. This project in particular however is more aimed to address the electricity needs required in Port Elizabeth due to the large developments at Coega.	
Would Victoria West be effected in terms of their electricity supply, e.g. experience power failures, due to Eskom addressing electricity needs both at Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.		Victoria West would not be affected in terms of their electricity supply. This proposed project would rather strengthen those networks at Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and would ultimately ensure the electricity supplies at towns such as De Aar and Victoria West are not interrupted.	
The new line has not been determined as of yet and therefore will respond when it has.	Sterrie Marais: Property Owner, Nuwejaarsfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006		
It was enquired whether the proposed Omega Substation has been approved by the decision-making authority.	Mr Molusi: Dept of Tourism, Environment and Conservation KSW: 14.11.2006	A positive Record of Decision has been issued for the Omega Substation project.	
Who and what is the IPP referred to in Eskom's presentation.		IPP refers to <i>Independent Power Producer</i> which is private individuals / companies and are not related to Eskom.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
Have landowners, affected by the proposed new Gamma Substation site, been informed?		The owners permission had be acquired to conduct the EIA and that an EIA for the new site has been submitted to the Western and the Eastern Cape Provincial Departments, respectively.	
What will the distance of the closest house be to the proposed Hydra-Gamma2 Transmission power line?		This information is not currently known and that feedback will be provided within the draft Minutes of the meeting. Post meeting note: 40m From the centre line of the power line.	
It was requested that Eskom's vehicles must not ride in the veld and they must remain on the roads.	Frans van der Merwe: Property Owner, Rondavel & Annex Rondawel Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006 HP Bekker: Property Owners, Elanskuilen Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006 F J de Vries: Property Owners, Bult & Rietfontein Telephonic Discussion : 15.11.2006	Comment noted.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
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Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
14. COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING REPORT			
The previously proposed 765kV Transmission power line would have traversed the property, but due to re-alignment, the property has not been affected.	Mr S Marais, Farm: Nuwejaarsfontein Telephone discussion: 16.01.2007	Comment acknowledged.	
Requested the EIA for this proposed project assess and address the accumulative impacts of an additional transmission power line.		Request acknowledged.	
Property is being utilised for eco tourism as well as a game farm and mainly overseas visitors visit the farm. Tourism was not addressed satisfactory during the previous EIA process for the first Hydra-Gamma transmission power line project.		Comment acknowledged.	
The visual impact of a transmission power line on the tourism industry was not addressed satisfactory during during the previous EIA process for the first Hydra-Gamma transmission power line project.		Comment acknowledged.	
No consultation took place between the EIA team and the affected landowners regarding the tourism and visual impact issues.		Comment acknowledged.	
The bird flappers on the existing transmission power line, which traverses his property, are not affective as there are more bird fatality at the section where the bird flappers are erected than on the sections of the power line where there are no bird flappers.		Comment forwarded to Avifauna specialist.	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>The impact during construction on mammals such as maned jackals (<i>Proteles cristatus</i>) and the black-footed cat (<i>Felis nigripes</i>) was not taken into consideration during the previous EIA process.</p>		<p>Comment acknowledged.</p>	
<p>It was requested that Eskom amend their instruction for this proposed additional 765kV transmission power line.</p>		<p>Comment acknowledged.</p>	
<p>Water related impacts: Where reference is made to construction work potentially impacting upon surface water areas, rehabilitation techniques specified described sediment being piled alongside the site and removed to a suitable waste disposal site, as soon as possible. This mitigatory measure must be clarified as the need to remove sediment from the river course is questionable (Chapter 7-3 and various other references)</p>	<p>Ms G Munro-Grundling, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry Letter: 09.02.2007</p>	<p>The final Scoping report has been amended and the mitigation measure now reads as follows, 'To prevent sedimentation into the river channel during construction, sediment should be piled alongside the site and re-used for rehabilitation purposes after construction, so as to prevent it entering the aquatic system during rain events. Should sediment have to be stored on site for a period of time, it should be away from the river channel and banded to prevent run-off.'</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Water related impacts: All work impeding of flow, diversion of the river or altering the banks will require a license application from DWAF in terms of Section 21 c) and i of the NWA and the associated conditions must be complied with.</p>		<p>Comment noted. It is not known at this stage the exact details of the construction process and should water use activities be required Eskom will be expected to apply for the relevant licenses for the water uses undertaken.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Water related impacts: Cognisance must be taken of the required conditions in this regard and the requirement for the license must be added to the legislative requirements. See Chapter 5-2 and Chapter 7-2.</p>		<p>Comment noted. The final Scoping report has been amended to include this possible requirement in the legislative requirements.</p>	<p>X</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>Water related impacts: Reference is made to the loss of wetlands being unavoidable. Little detail is however provided as to the envisaged extend of the loss thereof. Furthermore in Chapter 6-2, reference is made to the fact that “no wetlands” were recorded within the study area. However, in Chapter 8-19, reference is made to “limited areas of wetland vegetation occurring within the study area”, in other words wetland areas must occur. Thus, there appears to be a contradiction, the extent of the impact must be clarified and reference made to the associated legislative requirements and appropriate stakeholders to be consulted.</p>		<p>The environment between De Aar and Victoria West is highly arid with low amounts of rainfall. The presence of wetlands within the study area is limited and dependant on rainfall, however no wetlands were identified along the nominated Transmission line alignment and therefore wetlands are not anticipated to be impacted upon. Reference is made in the ambit of the Scoping report such that wetlands can be referred to in the EMP to ensure Eskom and the contractor are aware wetlands must be avoided should they be encountered. Chapter 6 of the final Scoping Report has been amended to state no wetlands were identified along the length of the proposed Transmission line.</p>	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>Avifauna impacts: The report does not appear to provide sufficient detail on the extent of the impact and proposed mitigation measures. Reference is made to markers on the transmission line not being very successful - but very little reference is made to roosting and nesting measures.</p>	<p>Ms G Munro-Grundling, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry Letter: 09.02.2007</p>	<p>Chapter 8, section 7 of the Environmental Scoping Report addresses impacts on Avifauna for the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocutions • Collisions • Habitat Destruction • Disturbance • Nesting <p>Table 8.6 then summarise each of the above aspects in terms of extent, duration, probability, significance and status. Nesting has been highlighted as a positive impact as the strain towers provide suitable habitats for the construction of nests. No mitigation measures are required for nesting. In terms of roosting, Section 8.7.4 – Recommendations, furthermore states the following mitigation measure, ‘The EWT should be consulted regarding eagles breeding as they are in possession of a database of pairs of eagles nesting on the existing Hydra-Droërivier No 2, 400 kV Transmission line (as this line is continually monitored as part of the Electric Eagle project). Sensitive areas of the line can then be identified and efforts can be made to minimise the disturbance in these areas if construction of the new Hydra-Gamma line occurs during the eagles breeding season.’ All mitigation measures provided must be included with an EMP for the proposed project.</p>	<p>X</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>Avifauna impacts: No reference is made to flight paths or possible migration routes and reference is only made to dams being considered when in close proximity of a transmission line. What about the presence of wetlands and pans, which are likely to occur in the area. Certainly the list referred to flamingoes occurring in the study area, which would utilise wetlands and pans and thus develop certain flight patterns within the area.</p>		<p>Jon Smallie of the EWT has commented that reference to flight paths in the true sense can not be made as the bird species are not migratory species. The Avifauna report therefore focus's on collision 'Hot Spots', as these are related to areas where birds would be expected to fly, i.e. between dams and flats etc. Flamingo's are a species which are known to frequent dams and pans however it has been noted that for reasons unknown, Flamingo's are erratic in their choice of dams. One day they can be in a small drying pan, literally metres from a large dam and the next they won't even be seen in the area. It is known that Flamingo's obviously do frequent dams but with no known flight path and therefore again dams and pans are highlighted as 'Hot Spots'. Flamingo flightpath patterns between them would be unknown.</p>	
<p>Avifauna impacts: Reference is made to the existing transmission route, which has been authorized, and the facts that the impacts are therefore likely to be less sever. However, no reference is made to existing information gathered as a result of the existing line (and study). A typical example being the reference to the need to "determine hotspots" of collisions. It is assumed that the earlier would have identified "hotspots" – and that these areas would be targeted. Certainly the report refers to previous bird fatalities and the apparent lack of effectiveness of the mitigatory measures.</p>		<p>The authorised Hydra Gamma 1 Transmission power line has to date not yet been constructed. Information collection along existing lines, of this length and size, has in the past only been provided by landowners willing to supply the information and who have taken the time to record the information and forward this to the EWT. Only recently has the annual monitoring of lines formed part of Environmental Management Plans.</p>	X

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>Vegetation impacts: As regards to loss of vegetation: reference is made to the fact that the relocation of plants is not desirable as a result of potential secondary impacts. This statement and mitigation measure should be reconsidered in the light of off-site mitigation, which can be successful if there is sufficient lead in time for planning.</p>	<p>Ms G Munro-Grundling, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry Letter: 09.02.2007</p>	<p>Comment noted. This comment must be considered in compilation of the EMP for the proposed project.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Vegetation impacts: Reference is made to the landowner being responsible for the control of declared weed species within the “servitude area”. In this regard, ownership must be clarified, as must roles and responsibility regarding maintenance requirements. The application of any control measures must also form part of the EMP.</p>		<p>All roles and responsibilities will be included within an EMP for this proposed project.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Visual / Aesthetic impacts and project description: Expound upon the use of either compact-cross rope or Guyed V suspension towers. Are these regarded as the most aesthetical advanced and pleasing as an option?</p>		<p>Eskom are continuously researching new towers designs in attempts to reduce amount of steel used and visual intrusiveness of the towers. To date these are the most recent designs being proposed.</p>	
<p>Visual / Aesthetic impacts and project description: In referring to the substation, no reference is made to the feasibility of using design as an alternative, or possible mitigation measures in this regard, such as components thereof being constructed partially underground, the application of materials to reduce visibility and the potential use of excess spoil as a berm, page 7-4. Detail regarding area is provided but more information can be given regarding the components of the substation and the height thereof, page 7-11. These details can be added to the project description.</p>		<p>The substation extension will form part of and be constructed directly adjacent to the existing Hydra Substation. Design alternatives unfortunately could not be considered as the infrastructure has to be the same as that of the existing substation as existing line turn ins will be restructured, bus bars will need to be extended and therefore the components must correspond with the existing substation. It is not a new substation, it is an extension of the existing substation.</p>	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response	To be included in EMP
<p>Technical aspects: There is a fair amount of repetition in the report.</p>	<p>Ms G Munro-Grundling, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry Letter: 09.02.2007</p>	<p>Comment noted. The information presented for both the Substation and Transmission line was noted as being repetitive however was included for both for completeness. Areas of unnecessary repetition have been attempted to be removed within the final Scoping Report.</p>	
<p>Technical aspects: Where reference is made to legislation, the need for application for license (section 21 c) and i) of the NWA, Act 36 of 1998) (where necessary), must be stated. Cognisance must also be taken of legislation which applies to the loss of wetlands, particularly as there appear to be some contraction in this regards.</p>		<p>Comment noted. These issues have been addressed within the final Scoping Report.</p>	
<p>Consultation / Communication: Clarity whether all stakeholders were consulted, particularly those concerned with wetlands and organizations such as the Crane Foundation. It is noted that both the DWAF (head office) and the region were consulted. It is likely that at a strategic level other DWAF representatives were consulted. This too can be clarified and added to the list.</p>		<p>The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a registered I&AP on the project database and not the Crane Foundation. It is our understanding that the Crane Foundation is one of the working groups of the EWT. Confirmation will be made that the information send to the EWT has reached the Crane Working Group. A Key Stakeholder Workshop was held and the registered stakeholder from DWAF (National and Regional) were invited to attend and various public documents regarding this proposed project were distributed. As suggested, the project team will ensure that the relevant stakeholders and DWAF representatives are added to the database, if not yet captured.</p>	
<p>Conclusion: When considering the project, there appears to be no fatal flaws. However as indicated in the aforementioned comments, the extent of various impacts and the appropriate mitigation measures must be verified.</p>		<p>Comment noted.</p>	