



ESKOM Transmission Line Mercury to Perseus

Template of presentation during EIR phase



Project Team

- **The Proponent:**
ESKOM Transmission
- **Environmental Consultants:**
Strategic Environmental Focus
- **Public participation specialist:**
Afrosearch



Discussion Points

- **Meeting objectives**
- **Public participation process**
- **Background to the project**
- **Study area**
- **Environmental Assessment Process**
- **Issues identified**
- **Potential impacts identified to date**
- **Way forward**
- **Adjournment**



Meeting Objectives

Provide feedback on findings of the specialist reports

- **Obtain comments from Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP'S)**
- **Proactively identify areas of concern**
- **Achieve a synergistic relationship between development, environment and I&AP'S (determination of the corridor)**





Public Participation

WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

A process leading to informed decision making through the joint effort of:

- interested and affected parties
- proponent
- technical experts
- authorities



Media

SCOPING

- **Die Volksblad (07 April 2003),**
- **Bloemnuus (10 April 2003),**
- **Vista (10 April 2003),**
- **Klerksdorp Rekord (11 April 2003),**
- **Noord-Vrystaatse Gazette (11 April 2003), and the**
- **GoldNet News (11 April 2003).**



EIA PHASE

Reminder notices were placed in newspapers to remind I&APs of the Public Meetings.

- Die Volksblad (03 September 2003),
- Bloemnuus (2003),
- Vista (04 September 2003),
- Klerksdorp Rekord (05 September 2003),
- Noord-Vrystaatse Gazette (05 September 2003), and the
- GoldNet News (05 September 2003).

Flyers

A total of 4 895 flyers (bilingual) were put in the post boxes of the following towns during the Scopin phase:

- **Bothaville (1 500 flyers),**
- **Allanridge (210 flyers),**
- **Dealesville (250 flyers),**
- **Bultfontein (603 flyers),**
- **Hertzogville (350 flyers),**
- **Wesselsbron (550 flyers),**
- **Viljoenskroon (802 flyers), and**
- **Hoopstad (380 flyers).**

Posters

A total of 215 posters were erected in the towns of the study area during the Scoping phase.

- Bothaville (50 posters),
- Bultfontein (30 posters),
- Wesselsbron (30 posters),
- Viljoenskroon (30 posters),
- Dealesville (15 posters),
- Hertzogville (15 posters),
- Vierfontein (15 posters),
- Allanridge (15 posters), and
- Hoopstad (15 posters).

Posters

Amongst others, posters were put up at municipal offices, the Post Office, liquor stores, cafés, video shops, the local Spar, the Senwes Co-operatative and along the main streets. (If required a list where all the posters were erected, as well as a photograph of each poster can be provided.)



Background information document

BID was produced and distributed from March 2003.

Copies of the BID were:

- **Disseminated to identified I&APs; and**
- **Provided at Public Open Days and Public Meetings.**

A set of posters was produced to form part of a mobile display at Public Open Days. The posters provided further detail of the project.



Focus groups

Four Focus Group Meetings were held on 15 and 16 April 2003.

- **Provincial departments (Tuesday 15 April 2003 at 10:00),**
 - **Free State DEAT,**
 - **Free State Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport,**
 - **Free State Department of Health,**
 - **Free State Provincial Museum Services, and the**
 - **Office of the Premier.**
- **Air Force Base: Bloemspruit (Tuesday 15 April at 13:45)**
- **SA Agric representatives (Thursday 16 April 2003 at 08:00),**
- **District Farmers' Union Representatives (Wednesday 16 April 2003 at 11:00),**

Focus groups cont.

- **Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and members of the SANDF Air Force, Directorate: Aviation Safety (14 May 2003),**
- **SandVet Water Scheme and National Department of Agriculture (07 August 2003),**
- **SA Agri on 29 August 2003, and**
- **National Department of Agriculture – Parys office (09 September 2003).**



Individual meetings

Additional individual meetings were held with a number of I&APs at their request:

- **Mr SJ Gouws (Farms Magdala and Driehoek),**
- **Mr H Smith (Farm Klein Driefontein and his parents' farm – Aangekocht),**
- **Dr JA Pienaar (Farm Die Denne),**
- **Mr J Grobler (Farm Karookom),**
- **Ms. S. Helm (living in Brits) – 05 September 2003, and**
- **Mr. J van Biljon (living in Pretoria) – 05 September 2003.**

Open days & public meetings

Invitations - Scoping Phase (23 & 24 April 2003):

- Letters 27
- Faxes 58
- Emails 49

Invitations - EIR Phase (10 & 11 September 2003):

- Letters 369
- Faxes 53
- Emails 68

Landowner workshops

Invitations - (6 & 7 August 2003):

➤ **Letters 233**

(3 July 2003 – 150)

(16 July 2003 – 22)

(29 July 2003 – 61 also contacted telephonically)



Draft Report

The Draft Scoping Report was made available for public perusal and comment for a period of two weeks (26 May to 12 June 2003). Registered I&APs was informed of this via fax, letter, e-mail or telephonically. Hard copies of the report were made available at:

- Dealesville Library,
- Bultfontein Library,
- Hoopstad Library,
- Hertzogville Library,
- Wesselsbron Library,
- Bothaville Library,
- Viljoenskroon Library, and
- Vierfontein Police Station.

Issues and concerns

- **All issues recorded at meetings, over the telephone or in written comment were taken up in an Issues Register.**
- **This document formed part of the Final Scoping Report.**
- **This document is being extended for the EIA phase.**
- **The Issues Register document also provides a response or cross-reference to another part of the document.**



How to participate

- **Be courteous at all times**
- **One at a time**
- **Introduce yourself**
- **Focus on the issue not the individual**
- **Participate through the chairperson**
- **Nominate by show of hands**
- **No interruptions**
- **No long debates**
- **Give a fair chance to all**
- **Three questions then a response**

Background to project

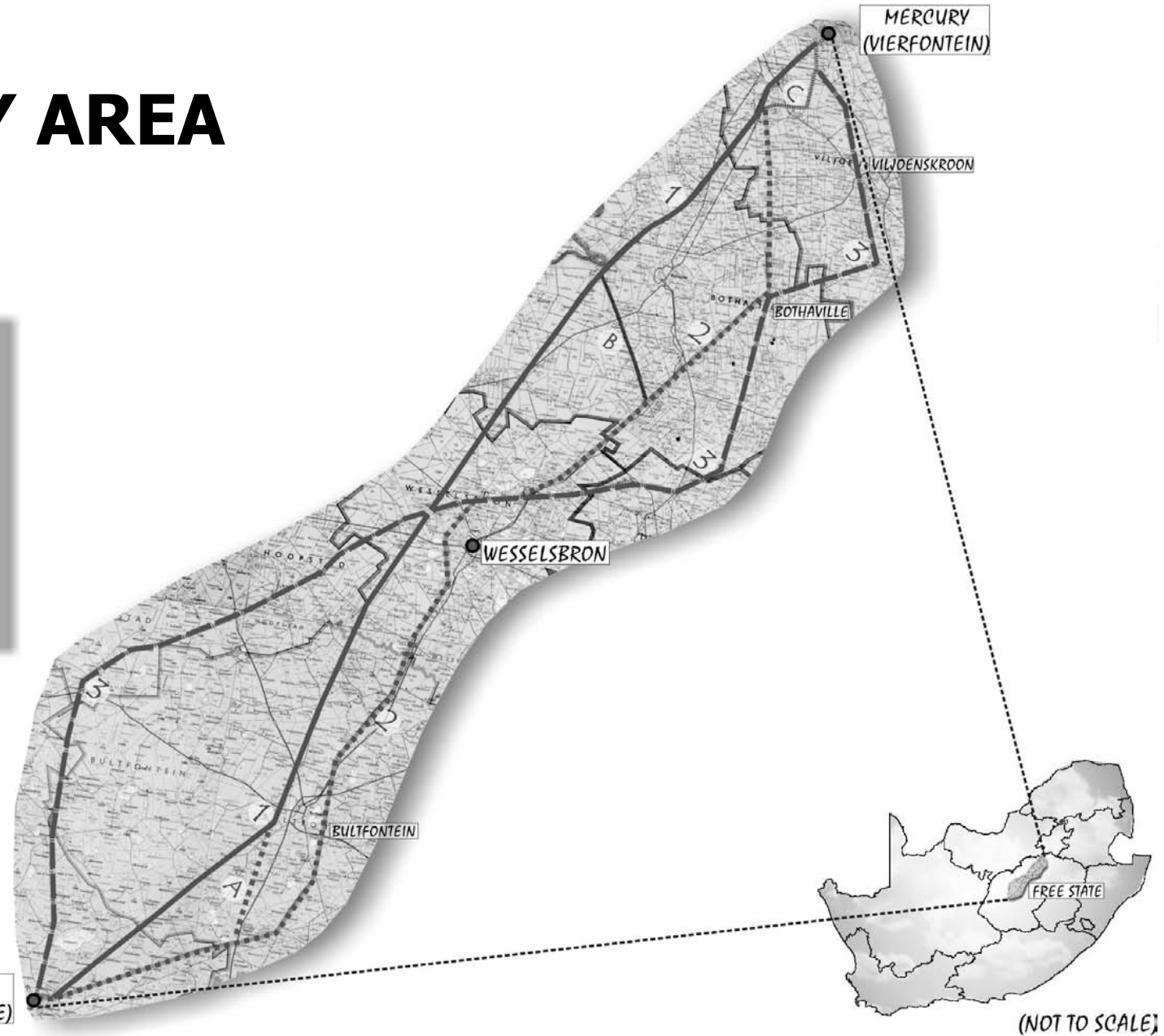
- **Eskom proposes to develop a 400kV transmission line to provide additional capacity to support the network supplying the Greater Cape Region south of Bloemfontein**
- **The proposed transmission line will be 300 – 350km in length**



STUDY AREA

LEGEND

- PROPOSED ROUTE 1
- PROPOSED ROUTE 2
- PROPOSED ROUTE 3
- ALTERNATIVE A
- ALTERNATIVE B
- ALTERNATIVE C



Introduction to Environmental Assessment Process

In terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989), the development falls within the ambit of listed activities (Section 1 of Reg. 1183) and is therefore subject to an environmental impact assessment

Section 26: Listed Activity Schedule 1 cl 1a, “the construction or upgrading of facilities for commercial electricity generation and supply”

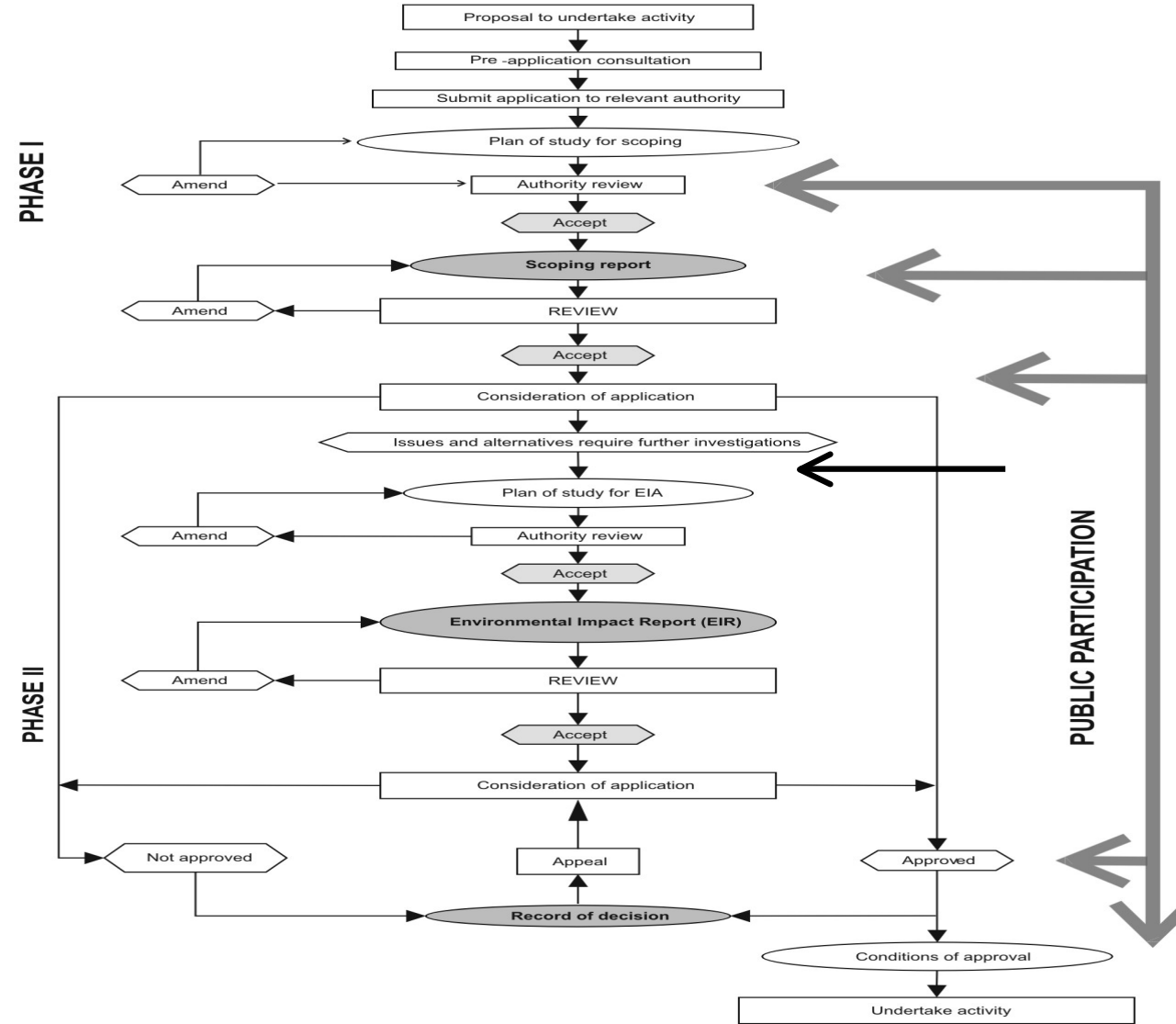


Process followed...

- i. The first step in the process was to identify various alternatives to accomplish the said objective**
- ii. This lead to the creation of a study area**
- iii. The feasibility of each alternative was investigated in terms of the physical, biological and social environment**
- iv. The most feasible alternative has been selected**
- v. More detailed investigations of the selected alternative**
- vi. And to ultimately secure a servitude for the said transmission line**



Environmental process



Environmental process to date

- **Project registration with DEAT/DTEEA:**

27 February 2003

- **Approval of Plan of Study for Scoping:**

12 March 2003

- **Scoping Report: submitted & approved:**

25 June 2003

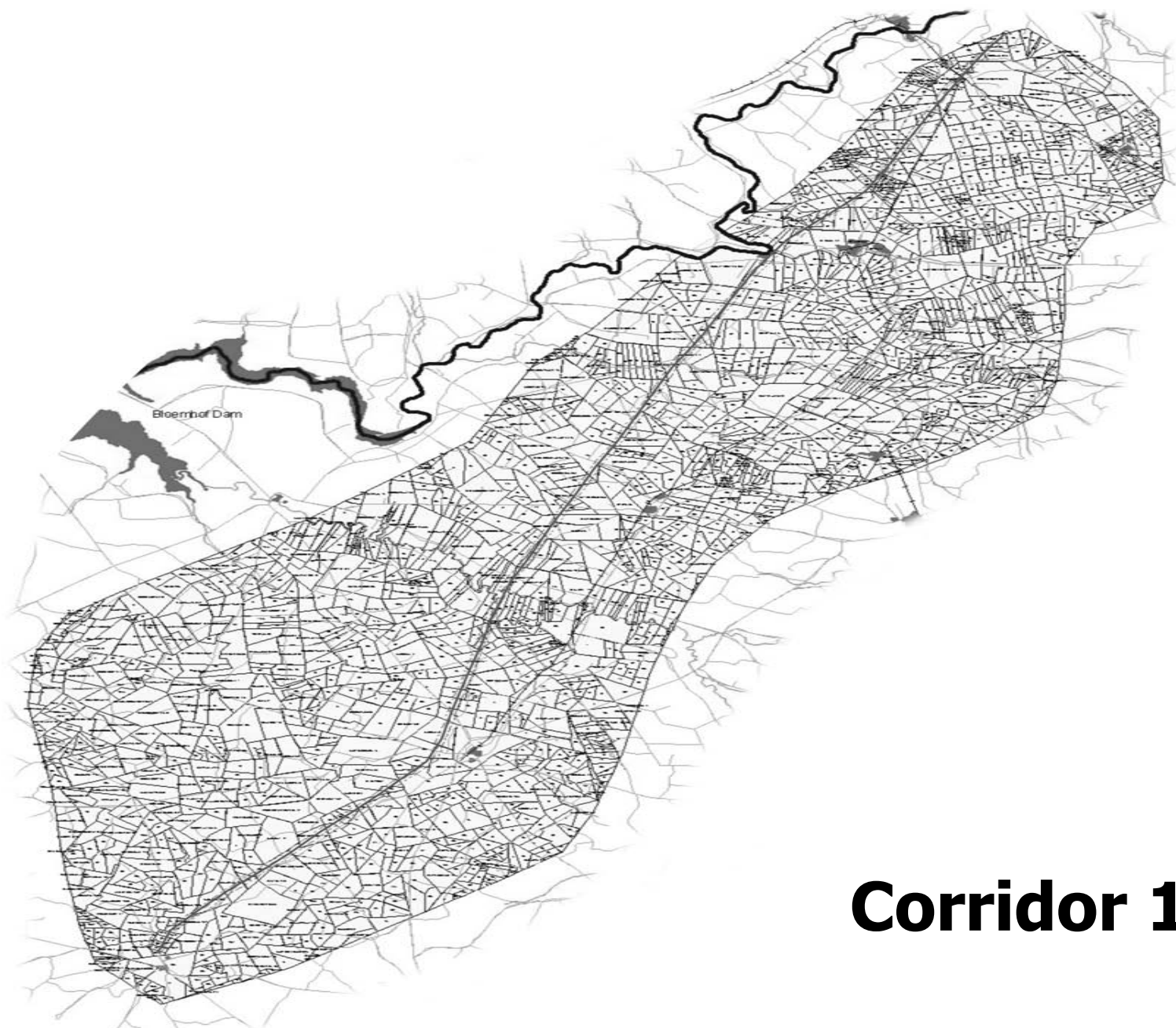
18 August 2003

- **Submission of Plan of Study for EIR**

28 August 2003

- **Public participation process (ongoing)**

April 2003 & September 2003



Corridor 1

Specialists on the team...

- **Geo-Technical**
- **Soils (Pedologist)**
- **Fauna & Flora**
- **Bird Specialist (Ornithologist)**
- **Aquatic**
- **Visual Impact**
- **Heritage**
- **Tourism**
- **Social Impact**

Issues to be investigated...

➤ Physical & biological environment

- Soils, Geo-Technical Aspects, Topography etc.
- Hydrology
- Fauna & Flora

➤ Social environment

- Social assessment
- Tourism
- Heritage Resources





Geo-technical

Construction & Operation:

- **Soil erosion,**
- **Soil heave,**
- **Foundation collapse,**
- **Aggressive surface water,**
- **Subsidence: dolimitic and undermined areas**



Soils

Construction & operational phase:

- Wind erosion,
- Soil compaction,
- Water erosion,
- Arable potential,



Fauna & Flora

Construction & operational phase:

- Erosion,
- Habitat destruction,
- Veld fires,
- Bird collisions (operational phase)





Bird Study

Construction & operational phase:

- Destruction of habitat,
- Disturbance of sensitive species,
- Mortality of birds



Surface water resources & wetlands

Construction & operational phase:

- Erosion of stream banks, floodplains and pans,
- Sedimentation of streams, rivers and pans,
- Faunal disturbance,
- Floral disturbance,
- Surface water pollution,
- Disturbance of the hydrological regime in floodplains, riparian zones and pans

Sensitivity of the pans...

The pans are unique and have an ecological integrity that needs to be maintained due to:

- **their unique biodiversity brought about by the physical environmental conditions**
- **habitat for a variety of fauna & flora (important for breeding and feeding)**
- **the fact that pans are sensitive ecological systems (symbiotic relationships)**

Visual impact

Construction & operational phase:

- Negative impact on sense of place,
- High visibility,
- High visual impact due to low absorption capacity,
- Negative impact in areas with critical views.



Heritage

Construction & operational phase:

- **Looting,**
- **Damage to sites.**



Tourism

Construction & operational phase:

- **Impact on game farms**



Social Impact

Construction & operational phase:

- Sanitation,
- Prevention of disease,
- Interaction with landowners,
- Litter control.





Agricultural Economist

Has been appointed and findings will be incorporated into the environmental impact report.



Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

- **Drafted for the construction and operational phase,**
- **Aim of this document is to ensure that the impact of the construction and operation of the transmission line is minimized,**
- **Includes the conditions captured in the signed option,**
- **Adherence thereto is monitored by the environmental officer.**



Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

It addresses items such as:

- **Physical issues and their control ,**
- **Biological issues and their control,**
- **Social issues and their control.**



Way forward...

- **The meeting will be minuted and concerns raised addressed in the EIR Report**
- **The EIR Report will be made available for public comment in September 2003 for 14 days at libraries, on the internet, and on CD by request**
- **Once all I&AP comments have been received within the timeframe, the report will be submitted to the national and provincial environmental departments**



Way forward...

- **A final record of decision will be obtained from DEAT (national)**
- **The record of decision will be advertised (anticipated to be in January 2004).**



Adjournment

Please submit further issues by 17 September 2003

to:

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