

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)
Braamhoek 400 kV Transmission Power Line and Sub-station Integration
Construction and Upgrade of Access Roads
For the Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme

Purpose of this flyer

Eskom is currently investigating the Braamhoek 400 kV Transmission Power Line and Sub-station Integration EIA and the Construction and Upgrade of Access Roads EIA for the Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme (PSS). Should you wish to participate in these processes, please complete a comment sheet or attend a Public Open Day. Your comments will ensure that all relevant issues are evaluated and taken up in the EIAs, will help focus the technical studies and will assist the Authorities with decision-making.

Background to the EIAs

The site for the Braamhoek PSS is situated 23 km north-east of Van Reenen on the farms Braamhoek, Zaaifontein and Bedford. The study area forms part of the uThukela Regional District and is situated on the boundary of KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State, on the Drakensberg escarpment. Eskom predicts additional electricity generation is required by 2007, and the Braamhoek PSS is part of the plan to meet the additional peak demand.

An EIA is a planning tool whereby environmental consequences of a proposed project are identified. The EIA determines consequences of choices in environmental, economic and social terms. Public issues are identified so that the EIA specialists can evaluate them. Measures are put in place to avoid/reduce negative impacts and so enhance positive ones.

The Projects

An EIA has already been done for the Braamhoek PSS. EIAs are now required for the supporting roads and power lines as follows:

Braamhoek 400 kV Transmission Power Line and Sub-station Integration

The integration of the Braamhoek PSS into the National Grid requires the construction of:

- Braamhoek sub-station.
- Braamhoek turn-in (connection to the Majuba-Venus transmission line).
- Braamhoek-Venus 400 kV transmission line.

Construction and Upgrade of Access Roads

To operate the Braamhoek PSS, road access is required to the upper and lower reservoir sites and three levels of road will be required as follows:

- Roads providing access to the scheme from the existing regional roads.
- Roads linking the upper and lower reservoir sites.
- Roads providing access within the upper and lower sites, as well as within the campsites.

Potential issues for investigation

- Environmental factors: fauna & flora, wetlands, groundwater, birds, geotechnical issues, etc.
- Effects from operation: stormwater runoff, weed control, pesticides, oils spillages, fire, etc.
- Socio-economic issues: socio-economic benefits, job creation, etc.
- Aesthetics: visual impacts from new infrastructure.
- Cultural heritage impacts.

Public Open Days

We would welcome your attendance at one of the following Public Open Days:

Date: 29 November 2004	Date: 30 November 2004
Time: 13h00 – 18h00	Time: 13h00 – 18h00
Venue: Umtshezi Public Library	Venue: Ladysmith Royal Hotel
Date: 1 December 2004	Date: 1 December 2004
Time: 10h00 – 12h00	Time: 14h00 – 17h00
Venue: Harrismith, Hamilberg School	Venue: Harrismith, Hlomisa School



Public Participation Office:

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