

3. SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

3.1. Approach to Undertaking the Study

An Environmental Scoping Study for the proposed establishment of a new coal-fired Power Station, in Lephalale, was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations published in Government Notice R1182 to R1184 of 5 September 1997, as amended by Government Notice R1645 of 11 December 1998, in terms of Section 21 of the Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989), as well as the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998).

In terms of Regulations R1182 to R1184 of the Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989), the following listed activities, which may have an impact on the environment, are applicable:

- Item 1 (a) - *the construction of facilities for commercial electricity generation with an output of at least 10 megawatts and infrastructure for bulk supply.*
- Item 1 (d): *The construction or upgrading of roads, railways, airfields and associated structures and activities outside the borders of town planning schemes.*
- Item 1 (c) - *The construction, erection or upgrading of storage facilities for any substance which is considered as dangerous or hazardous and is controlled by national legislation.*
- Item 1 (n) - *The construction, erection or upgrading of sewage treatment plants and associated infrastructure.*
- Item 2 (c) - *a change in land use from agricultural or zoned as undetermined to any other land use.*
- Item 9 - *Scheduled processes listed in the second schedule to the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965 (Act No 45 of 1965): Process 29 (a) - Power Generation Processes in which a fuel is burned for the generation of electricity for distribution to the public or for purposes of public transport.*

The environmental studies followed a two-phased approach:

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment

3.1.1. Environmental Scoping Study

An issues-based Environmental Scoping Study was undertaken for the proposed project. Existing information and input from specialists, the Authorities and I&APs were used to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts (both

social and biophysical) associated with the proposed project. The specialist studies also provided input into the site selection process through which the preferred sites were nominated for further study in the EIA. No fatal flaws associated with the proposed project were identified through the Environmental Scoping Study, although a number of potentially significant environmental impacts were identified as requiring further in-depth study within the EIA.

The Scoping phase of the environmental studies provided I&APs with the opportunity to receive information regarding the proposed project, participate in the process and raise issues of concern. The draft Environmental Scoping Report was made available at public places for I&AP review and comment from 3 October 2005 to 1 November 2005. All the comments, concerns and suggestions received during the Scoping Phase and the draft report review period were included in the final scoping report, which was submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) and the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (L DEDET) on 18 November 2005.

Acceptance of the Environmental Scoping Report has been received from DEAT in February 2006 (refer to Appendix B). In terms of this acceptance, an Environmental Impact Assessment was required to be undertaken for the proposed project. The Plan of Study for EIA was submitted and accepted by DEAT in February 2006 (refer to Appendix C). In terms of this acceptance DEAT requested that specific information be included in the EIA, this request has been met.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Process that was followed for the project is described below.

3.2. Authority Consultation

3.2.1. Consultation with Supervisory Authorities

The relevant authorities required to review the proposed project and provide a Record of Decision (RoD) were consulted from the outset of this study, and have been engaged throughout the project process. These supervisory (decision-making) authorities included the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), who are the lead authority for this project, and the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (L DEDET) who is the commenting authority. Authority consultation included the following activities:

- Pre-application consultation.

- Submission of an application for authorisation in terms of Section 22 of the Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989).
- Undertaking of a site inspection.
- An authority consultation meeting following the site inspection, with a number of specialists and the proponent in attendance.
- Submission of a Plan of Study to undertake the Environmental Scoping Study to National DEAT and Limpopo DEDET (provincial).
- Consultation with Authorities regarding project specifics, and the receipt of Authority approval of the Plan of Study for Scoping.
- Discussion with Authorities regarding the public participation process, the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) consulted, advertising, and issues arising through the Environmental Scoping process.
- Submission of the final Environmental Scoping Report and the acceptance thereof (refer to Appendix B).
- Submission of a Plan of Study for EIA.
- Consultation with the Authorities regarding project specifics, and the receipt of Authority approval of the Plan of Study for EIA (see Appendix C).
- On-going authority consultation throughout the process.

3.2.2. Consultation with Other Relevant Authorities

Consultations with additional authorities and non-DEAT authorities were undertaken. The following departments were consulted:

- The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF).
- The Limpopo Department of Labour.
- The Limpopo Department of Health.
- The Limpopo Department of Agriculture.
- The Limpopo Department of Minerals and Energy.
- The Lephalale Municipality.
- The Limpopo Provincial Department of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).
- The DEAT Chief Air Pollution Control Officer (CAPCO).
- The Limpopo Department of Land Affairs.
- The Department of Transport.
- The Department of Public Works.
- The Department of Trade and Industry.
- The Department of Science and Technology.

Background information regarding the proposed project was provided to these departments, together with a registration and comment form formally requesting their input into the EIA process.

In addition to the above, Limpopo based authorities have been invited to attend a follow up authorities meeting in Polokwane on 28 March 2006. The meeting will provide authorities with an additional opportunity to obtain clarity on specific issues as well as an opportunity to raise any additional issues or concerns.

Comments on the heritage specialist studies were received from the Limpopo Office of the South African Heritage Resources Agency. These comments have been included in Appendix D. No further consultation with SAHRA was deemed to be necessary.

3.3. Legislative Considerations

An overview of relevant legislation was undertaken in order to identify any legal issues related to the proposed project. Applicable environmental legislation which must be considered by Eskom during the implementation of the proposed project is summarised in Table 3.1 below, and relevant details pertaining to selected Acts are provided.

Table 3.1: Summary of applicable environmental legislation

Legislation	Sections	Relates to
The Constitution (Act No 108 of 1996)	Chapter 2	Bill of Rights.
	Section 24	Environmental rights.
	Section 25	Rights in property.
National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998)	Section 2	Defines the strategic environmental management goals and objectives of the government. Applies throughout the Republic to the actions of all organs of state that may significantly affect the environment.
	Section 28	The developer has a general duty to care for the environment and to institute such measures as may be needed to demonstrate such care.
Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989)	Section 2	General policy.
	Sections 19 and 19A	Prevention of littering by employees and subcontractors during construction and the maintenance phases of the proposed project.
	Sections 20 and 24	Waste management.
	Section 25	Regulations regarding noise, vibration and shock.
	Sections 21, 22, 25, 26 and 28	EIA Regulations, including listed activities.
	Section 28A	Exemptions.

Legislation	Sections	Relates to
National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999)		Provides general principles for governing heritage resources management throughout South Africa including national and provincial heritage sites, burial grounds and graves, archaeological and palaeontological sites, and public monuments and memorials.
National Water Act (No 36 of 1998)	Section 19	Water quality management.
	Sections 21, 22, 26, 32 and 39	Water quantity management: water use.
	Sections 27 - 29	Licensing of water use.
Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act (No 45 of 1965)	Sections 27 - 35	Dust control & dust control areas.
	Section 36 - 40	Air pollution by fumes emitted by vehicles.
	Second Schedule	Scheduled processes. No 29 relates to power generation processes.
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (No 39 of 2004)		Relates to the protection of air quality through sustainable development.
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No 10 of 2004)		Relates to the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity.
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (No 43 of 1983)		Relates agricultural natural resources and the conservation, management and use thereof, including soil conservation, declared weeds etc.
Occupational Health and Safety Act (No 85 of 1993)	Section 8	General duties of employers to their employees.
	Section 9	General duties of employers and self employed persons to persons other than their employees.
National Road Traffic Act (No 93 of 1996) GNR 225 of 17 May 2000		Transportation of dangerous goods and large components.
White Paper on Energy Policy, GN 3007, 17/12/1998		Addresses environmental governance, including energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies
White Paper on Integrated Pollution and Waste Management for South Africa (January 2000), and the National Waste Management Strategy documents (October 1999)		Waste management and pollution control

Legislation	Sections	Relates to
United National Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol		Climate change
All relevant Provincial regulations, Municipal bylaws and ordinances		

- The National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998)*

The aim of the act is to encourage, promote and create parameters for legal enforcement for environmental protection, management and compliance. Chapter 1 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) defines the National Environmental Management Principles that apply throughout the Republic and stresses the fact that "environmental management must place people and their needs at the forefront and serve their physical, psychological, developmental, cultural and social interests equitably". It also provides a framework for sustainable development that implies "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of the future generations".

The Act requires that national departments exercising functions that may influence the environment or the management thereof prepare a consolidated environmental implementation and management plan in order to:

- * coordinate and harmonise environmental policies, plans and programmes and decisions of different National departments that exercise functions affecting the environment;
- * give effect to the principles of cooperative government;
- * secure the protection of the environment across the country;
- * prevent unreasonable actions by provinces in respect of the environment; and
- * enable monitoring of the achievement, promotion and protection of sustainable environment.

The Act requires the inclusion of specific information in both environmental implementation plans and the environmental management plans. In this respect, every environmental implementation plan must contain:

- * a description of policies, programmes and plans that may affect the environment and the manner in which these will comply with the environmental management principles and legislative provisions in the Act; and
- * recommendations for the promotion of the objectives and plans for implementation.

In this regard, every environmental management plan must contain:

- * a description of the functions exercised and norms and standards set by the relevant department in respect of the environment;
- * a description of the policies, programmes and plans designed to ensure compliance, as well as the priorities and extent of compliance with policies by the organs of state;
- * a description of arrangements for cooperation with other National departments and spheres of government; and
- * proposals for the promotion of the objectives and plans for the implementation of the procedures and regulations of the Act.

In addition to the NEMA, consideration should also be given to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process as discussed in the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989), which control certain activities and developments that could have an impact on the environment.

- *Environment Conservation Act (Act No 73 of 1989)*

The Environment Conservation Act (ECA) was intended to be an overarching national act to regulate all aspects related to the effective protection and controlled utilisation of the environment. The National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) has recently repealed most of the Environment Conservation Act. However, Sections 21 and 26 of the Environment Conservation Act and their associated regulations, which deal with the Environmental Impact Assessment process and which control certain activities that could have an impact on the environment, remain relevant. Provision is made for the control of activities that are potentially detrimental to the environment (Section 21). These include:

- * Land use and transformation.
- * Water use and disposal.
- * Resources removal, including natural living resources.
- * Resource renewal.
- * Agricultural processes.
- * Industrial processes.
- * Transportation.
- * Energy generation and distribution.
- * Waste and sewage disposal.
- * Chemical treatment.
- * Recreation.

Authorisation to perform any of the listed activities is based on an assessment of the impact of the proposed activity on the environment. The scope and content of Environmental Impact Assessment reports should include:

- * a description of the specific activity and alternative activities;

- * the identification of the physical environment which may be affected by the activity and alternative activities;
 - * an estimation of the nature and extent of the effect of the activity and of the alternative activities on the land, air, water, biota and other elements or features of the natural and man-made environments;
 - * the identification of the economic and social interests which may be affected by the activity and alternative activities;
 - * an estimation of the nature and extent of the effect of the activity and alternative activities on the social and economic interests;
 - * a description of the design or management principles proposed for the reduction of adverse environmental effects; and
 - * a concise summary of the finding of the environmental impact report.
- *National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act No. 10 of 2004*

The object of the Act is to provide for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998; the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant national protection; the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources; the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from bio-prospecting¹ involving indigenous biological resources; the establishment and functions of a South African National Biodiversity Institute; and for matters connected therewith.

The objectives of this Act are:

- * Within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, to provide for:
 - the management and conservation of biological diversity within the Republic and of the components of such biological diversity; and
 - the use of indigenous biological resources in a sustainable manner.
 - the fair and equitable sharing among stakeholders of benefits arising from bio-prospecting involving indigenous biological resources.
- * To give effect to ratified international agreements relating to biodiversity which are binding on the Republic.
- * To provide for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation.
- * To provide for a South African National Biodiversity Institute to assist in achieving the objectives of this Act.
- * The South African National Biodiversity Institute was established by the act and is responsible for monitoring biodiversity in a holistic manner.
- * A Biodiversity Framework must be prepared in terms of the act within three years of coming into effect. This document will then be reviewed at least every 5 years.

¹ Bio-prospecting is defined as the systematic search, collection, gathering, extraction, development or application of, or research on, genetic resources for commercial or industrial exploitation

- * The act is in effect to:
 - provide for the protection of ecosystems that are threatened or in need of protection to ensure the maintenance of their ecological integrity;
 - provide for the protection of species that are threatened or in need of protection to ensure their survival in the wild;
 - give effect to the Republic’s obligations under international agreements regulating international trade in specimens of endangered species;
 - ensure that the utilisation of biodiversity is managed in an ecologically sustainable way;
 - to prevent the unauthorized introduction and spread of alien species and invasive species to ecosystems and habitats where they do not naturally occur;
 - to manage and control alien species and invasive species to prevent or minimize harm to the environment and to biodiversity in particular;
 - to eradicate alien species and invasive species from ecosystems and habitats where they may harm such ecosystems or habitats;
 - to ensure that environmental assessments for purposes of permits in terms of the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997 (Act No. 15 of 1997), are conducted in appropriate cases in accordance with Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act;
 - to regulate bio-prospecting involving indigenous biological resources;
 - to regulate the export from the Republic of indigenous biological resources for the purpose of bio-prospecting or any other kind of research;
 - to provide for a fair and equitable sharing by stakeholders in benefits arising from bio-prospecting involving indigenous biological resources;
 - restricted activities involving specimens of:
 - (i) listed threatened or protected species in terms of section 57(1);
 - (ii) alien species in terms of section 65(1); or
 - (iii) listed invasive species in terms of section 71(1);
 - activities regulated in terms of a notice published in terms of section 57(2);
 - Bio-prospecting involving indigenous biological resources in terms of section 81(1); and
 - the export of indigenous biological resources for bio-prospecting or any other type of research in terms of section 81(1).

- *National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998)*

The purpose of the Act is to ensure the protection, usage, development, management and control of water resources of the Republic by taking into account the following principles:

 - * Meeting the basic human needs of present and future generations.
 - * Promoting equitable access to water.

- * Redressing the results of the past racial and gender discrimination.
- * Promoting the efficient, sustainable and beneficial use of water in the public interest.
- * Facilitating social and economic development.
- * Providing for growing demand for water use.
- * Protecting aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity.
- * Reducing and preventing pollution and the degradation of water resources.
- * Meeting international obligations.
- * Promoting dam safety.
- * Managing floods and droughts.

In order to achieve the above, the Act states that suitable institutions with appropriate community, racial and gender representation must be established. In terms of this study, the most relevant areas of the Act are those that deal with the management, protection and usage of water resources. In terms of water management, the Act requires the development of a National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS) as well as a Catchment Management Strategy (CMS). The NWRS provides the framework for the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of water resources in defined water management areas at a national, regional and catchment level, while the CMS deals with the management and allocation of specific water resources in a catchment area.

A series of measures intended to ensure the protection of all water resources is prescribed in the Act and deals with the following:

- * Developing a classification system for water resources that must provide guidelines, and procedures for the determination of different classes of water resources.
- * Determining and establishing the reserve for water resources in terms of a basic human needs reserve and an ecological reserve.
- * Preventing pollution of water resources that may occur as a result of activities on land.
- * Control of emergency incidents in order to remedy pollution of water resources caused by such incidents.

Regarding the use of water, the Act sets general principles that provide a basis for regulating water usage in terms of:

- * Types of water use.
- * Permissible water use.
- * Quantity of water that may be allocated by responsible authorities.
- * Licenses for use of water found under ground.
- * Transferring authorization for water use.
- * Regulations for water use.

The Act also discusses the establishment, powers, duties and functions of catchment management agencies, water user associations, advisory committees and a water tribunal.

- *National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004*

The National Environment Air Quality Act No. 39 of 2004 seeks to repeal the whole of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act No 45 of 1965. The APPA will be replaced by the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004. The new Act was signed by the President and gazetted in February 2005 and certain sections of the act came into force on 11 September 2005.

The purpose of the Air Quality Act is to reform the law regulating air quality in order to protect the environment by providing measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation, while promoting justifiable economic and social development. The Air Quality Act seeks to provide national standards regulating air quality monitoring, management and control.

Power generation processes, including the combustion of fuel for the generation of electricity for distribution to the public, are classified as Scheduled Processes (Process number 29) in the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, Act 45 of 1965 (as amended). In terms of the new Air Quality Act, power generation processes will be classified as a 'listed activity' and as such will require an 'atmospheric emissions license' in order to operate. During the transitional phase an application for a registration certificate under the APPA will be taken as an application for an atmospheric emission license under the Air Quality Act. Holders of registration certificates will be responsible for proving compliance with the requirements of such permits and for applying for atmospheric emissions licenses.

- *National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)*

The National Heritage Resource Act serves to introduce an integrated and interactive system for the identification, assessment and management of the heritage resources of South Africa. It promotes good governance and the empowerment of civil society to preserve their heritage for future generations, and states the principles of heritage resource management while making provision for legislation protecting national heritage resources.

The Act further establishes the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) and stipulates its functions, powers and duties as a national governing body, while allowing for the establishment of similar bodies at provincial and local level. Although specific functions, powers and duties of Provincial Heritage Resources Agency are also described in the Act, the specific heritage resource management principles for the province may be prescribed in accordance to principles set in the Act and by SAHRA. A high

level grading system for heritage resources distinguishes between the following:

- * Grade I: Heritage resources of special national significance due to its exceptional qualities.
- * Grade II: Heritage resources, although part of the national estate, with special qualities making them significant within the provincial or regional context.
- * Grade III: Other heritage resources worthy of conservation.

In this regard, management of Grade I heritage resources are the responsibility of SAHRA, while Grade II and III heritage resources are the responsibility of the provincial and local heritage resources agencies respectively. In particular Section 31 places a duty on a local authority to investigate the need for the establishment of heritage areas whenever a spatial development framework is compiled. Before heritage status can be awarded to such an area the local authority is required to consult with the Provincial Heritage Resources Agency, landowners and the affected community. Joint approval of conservation measures is required from the Provincial Heritage Resources Agency, the Provincial Planning Authority and the local authority.

3.4. Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the overall project planning process, this Environmental Impact Assessment aims to achieve the following:

- to provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environments of the area affected by the proposed establishment of a coal-fired power station and ancillary infrastructure;
- to undertake a detailed assessment of the farms Naauwontkomen 509 LQ and Eenzaamheid 687 LQ in terms of environmental criteria;
- to identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant environmental impacts; and
- to undertake a fully inclusive public participation process to ensure that I&AP issues and concerns are recorded.

3.4.1. Specialist Studies

In undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment, Bohlweki Environmental were assisted by a number of specialists in order to comprehensively identify both potentially positive and negative environmental impacts (social and biophysical) associated with the project, evaluate the significance of the identified impacts, and propose appropriate mitigation measures, where required. The specialist team identified and evaluated the potential impacts for the nominated preferred

sites i.e. farms Naauwontkomen 509 LQ and Eenzaamheid 687 LQ. These specialists and their fields of expertise are outlined in Table 3.2.

Name and Organisation	Field of Study
Bathusi Environmental Consulting (BEC)	Ecological assessment (flora & fauna)
Airshed Planning Professionals	Review of air quality assessment undertaken for the power station for Eskom
MetroGIS	Visual Impact assessment and GIS mapping
Groundwater Consulting Services (GCS)	Assessment of surface and groundwater impacts
Goba	Traffic impact assessment
Agricultural Research Council (ARC)	Assessment of soils and agricultural potential
National Cultural History Museum	Heritage Impact Assessment
Jongens Keet and Associates	Noise Impact Assessment
Afrosearch	Social Impact Assessment (SIA)
SiVEST	Assessment of impacts on tourism potential

All of these specialist studies were undertaken within the EIA phase of the project, which concentrated on the two preferred sites (farms Naauwontkomen 509 LQ and Eenzaamheid 687 LQ), as identified during the Scoping phase.

In order to evaluate issues to subsequently assign an order of priority, it was necessary to identify the characteristics of each potential issue/impact:

- the *nature*, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected;
- the *extent*, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be limited to the immediate areas or site of the development activity (local), limited to the immediate surroundings, sub-regional, regional, and/or national;
- the *duration*, wherein it will be indicated whether the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (0-5 years), medium-term (5 – 15 years), long-term (> 15 years) or permanent;
- the *probability*, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring, indicated as improbable (low likelihood), probable (distinct possibility), highly probable (most likely) or definite (impact will occur regardless of any preventative measures);
- the *significance*, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above and can be assessed as low, medium or high.

As Eskom have the responsibility to avoid or minimise impacts and plan for the management of impacts (in terms of the EIA Regulations), the mitigation of

significant impacts was discussed and conclusions and recommendations regarding the preferred sites were drawn.

3.4.2. Assumptions and Limitations

The assumptions and limitations on which this study has been based include:

- *Assumptions:*
 - * All information provided by Eskom and I&APs to the Environmental Team was correct and valid at the time it was provided. The consultants and specialist investigators do not accept any responsibility in the event that additional information comes to light at a later stage of the process.
 - * The two sites nominated as preferred through the site selection process undertaken during the Environmental Scoping Study are technically and economically viable.
 - * All data from unpublished research is valid and accurate.
 - * It is not always possible to involve all interested and affected parties individually. Every effort was, however, made to involve as many broad based representatives of the stakeholders in the nominated area. The assumption has, therefore, been made that those representatives with whom there has been consultation, are acting on behalf of the parties which they represent.

- *Limitations:*
 - * This report and its investigations are project-specific, and consequently the environmental team did not evaluate any other power source alternatives.

3.4.3. Overview of the Public Participation Process

The primary aims of the Public Participation Process (PPP) were:

- To inform interested and affected parties (I&APs) and key stakeholders of the proposed development.
- To initiate meaningful and timeous participation of I&APs.
- To identify issues and concerns of key stakeholders and I&APs with regards to the proposed development (i.e. focus on important issues).
- To promote transparency and an understanding of the proposed project and its potential environmental (social and biophysical) impacts.
- To provide information used for decision-making.
- To provide a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs and key stakeholders.
- To assist in identifying potential environmental (social and biophysical) impacts associates with the proposed development.

- To ensure inclusivity (the needs, interests and values of I&APs must be considered in the decision-making process).
- To focus on issues relevant to the project and issues considered important by I&APs and key stakeholders.
- To provide responses to I&AP queries.
- To encourage co-regulation, shared responsibility and a sense of ownership.

On-going consultation with key stakeholders (e.g. local authorities, relevant government departments, local business etc.) and other identified I&APs ensured that I&APs were kept informed regarding the EIA findings and proposed mitigation measures. Networking with I&APs will effectively continue throughout the duration of the project until the closure of the EIA phase. Where required, key stakeholders and I&APs were engaged on an individual basis. During the environmental studies, consultations were held with individuals, businesses, institutions and organisations, including the following:

- National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).
- Limpopo Department of Finance and Economic Development (LDEDET).
- Department of Water Affairs (DWA).
- Department of Minerals and Energy (DME).
- Chief Air Pollution Control Officer (CAPCO).
- Department of Transport.
- Local authorities (including Lephalale Local Municipality and Waterberg District Municipality).
- South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL).
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).
- Farmers' Associations.
- Kumba Resources and other land owners of the candidate sites.
- Neighbouring properties within a 10 km radius of the alternative sites.
- Residents Associations or Community Organisations (e.g. Ward Councillors).
- Labour Unions (e.g. National Mineworkers Union).
- Environmental NGOs (e.g. Earthlife Africa, WESSA and EWT).

The I&AP database is included in Appendix E.

- *Consultation and Public Involvement*
 - * Through consultations, issues for inclusion within the Scoping Report were identified and confirmed. Telephonic discussions, one-on-one consultation meetings and focus group meetings were held with key stakeholders and other relevant I&APs in order to identify key issues, needs and priorities for input into the proposed project. Minutes of meetings held with I&APs were taken and were forwarded to the attendees for verification of their issues. The minutes of the consultations undertaken to date during the EIA phase have been included within Appendix F.

Special attention was paid to consultation with affected landowners within the study area. A map indicating the extent and nature of consultation within the study area was compiled (refer Appendix G).

Networking with I&APs continued through-out the duration of the EIA phase of the project.

- *Public Meeting:*

A public meeting will be held during the Environmental Impact Report review period in order to inform I&APs and stakeholders of the outcomes of the EIA Report. A public meeting has been scheduled for 29 March 2006 at the Mogul Club Conference Room, Lephhalale. The Public meeting will be held from 17:30. In addition to the Public meeting a meeting with the Marapong Local Community has also been arranged for the evening of 28 March 2006.

The primary aim of these meetings will be to:

- * disseminate information regarding the proposed project to I&APs;
- * provide I&APs with an additional opportunity to interact with the public consultation team and the relevant Eskom officials;
- * discuss the studies undertaken within the Environmental Impact Study;
- * supply more information regarding the EIA process;
- * answer questions regarding the project and the EIA process;
- * receive input regarding the public participation process and the proposed development, and

In accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, the public meeting was advertised 10 days prior to the public meeting within local newspapers in the predominant languages of the area (refer to Appendix H). This advertisement was combined with the advert announcing the commencement of the project. Registered I&APs were informed of the planned public open day and meeting by fax or by e-mail.

Minutes of these meetings will be compiled and forwarded to all attendees. The minutes will be included within the final Environmental Impact Report.

- *Key Stakeholders Meeting*

A key stakeholders meeting will be held during the EIA Report review period in order to inform stakeholders of the outcomes of the EIA Report. A workshop has been scheduled for 30 March 2006 at the Eskom Convention Centre, Midrand.

The key stakeholders' workshop will allow stakeholders (such as service providers and non-DEAT authorities) to interact with the environmental project team and Eskom representatives on a one-on-one basis to allow for more detailed discussion regarding particular issues. The key stakeholders' workshop will include a formal presentation regarding the proposed project.

The key stakeholders' workshop will present a further opportunity for consultation with and participation by stakeholders, and to record further issues and concerns raised by stakeholders for inclusion in the environmental process. As such, the meeting will form part of the ongoing communication strategy between the project team and stakeholders.

Minutes of the meeting will be compiled and forwarded to all attendees. These minutes will be included within the final Environmental Impact Report.

- *Social Issues Trail:*
Issues, comments and concerns raised during the public participation process were compiled into an Issues Trail (refer to Appendix I). This issues trail provides a summary of the issues raised, as well as responses which were provided to I&APs. This information was used as the basis of the evaluation of social impacts.

3.4.4. Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report

The draft Environmental Impact Report will be made available for review from 23 March 2006 to 28 April 2006 at the following public locations within the study area, which are readily accessible to I&APs:

- Lephalale Municipal offices
- Lephalale Library
- Eskom Matimba Power Station – Security office
- Co-op Lephalale (Offices of Lephalale District Agricultural Union)
- Marapong Clinic
- Offices of Bohlweki Environmental
- www.bohlweki.co.za

The availability of the draft Environmental Impact Report was advertised in the Capricorn Voice and the Mogol Pos on 16 March 2006 and 17 March 2006 respectively (refer to Appendix H) as well as on 22 March and 24 March 2006. All registered I&APs will be notified of the availability of the report in writing (refer to Appendix J).

3.4.5. Final Environmental Impact Report

The final stage in the Environmental Impact Assessment process will entail the capturing of responses from I&APs on the draft Environmental Impact Report in order to refine the Environmental Impact Report, and ensure that all issues of significance are addressed. The final report will be submitted to National DEAT and Limpopo DEDET for review, comment and decision-making.