

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR A PROPOSED
400kV TRANSMISSION LINE BETWEEN PERSEUS SUB-STATION
(DEALESVILLE) AND MERCURY SUB-STATION (VIERFONTEIN), FREE
STATE PROVINCE**

DRAFT MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING

10 SEPTEMBER 2003 AT 14:00

TOWN HALL, BULTFONTEIN

DRAFT MINUTES FOR COMMENT¹

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

DR DAVID DE WAAL (AFROSEARCH) AND MS BERNADETTE VOLLMER (SEF)

The Chairperson (Dr David de Waal) welcomed all present. He emphasised that this concerned a sensitive subject.

He stated that Mr. IGM (Jan) Foulds, a farmer from the Wesselsbron district who attended the previous meetings, asked if he could address the farmers before the formal meeting commenced.

The Chairperson asked Ms Bernadette Vollmer of Strategic Environmental Focus (SEF) to introduce the various representatives from Eskom and the consultants. Ms. Vollmer introduced the following persons:

- From Eskom: Transmission:
 - Mr Levy Maduse – Project Leader;
 - Ms Carol Streaton – Public Participation Advisor; and
 - Mr Koos van der Merwe – Negotiator.
- From the Environmental Consultants:
 - Ms Bernadette Vollmer – Environmental Consultant;
- From the Public Participation Consultants:
 - Dr David de Waal – Public Participation Consultant (Team Leader);
 - Ms Marita Oosthuizen – Public Participation Consultant; and
 - Mr Jones Shongoane – Assistant.

¹ Please note that this set of minutes is not a verbatim reflection of the meeting, but an attempt to reflect the presentations and discussion session in a clear and concise manner.

Before handing the floor to Mr. Foulds, the Chairperson stated that this meeting would take the form of a discussion where the aim is to listen to attendants. Thereafter, the team would go back and investigate the suggestions made and come back to the community with feedback. He emphasized that nothing was decided yet. The final decision would be made by the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT). The Chairperson noted that attendants must remember that the lines currently drawn on the maps did not represent alignments, but rather corridors of approximately 1km wide. The line represented the middle of the corridor.

At this point, the Chairperson handed over to Mr. Foulds, and stated that the consultants and Eskom representatives would wait outside.

The consultants and Eskom representatives left the meeting.

2. DISCUSSION

ALL

When the consultants and Eskom representatives returned, Mr. Foulds indicated the issues that the group raised (please refer to the attached table). Issues, questions and suggestions raised at the ensuing discussion are also noted in the attached table.

Please note that it proved very difficult to note down issues, questions and concerns raised around the map. If there are any pertinent issues that you would like to have noted, kindly contact Ms Marita Oosthuizen of Afrosearch (Fax: (012) 362-2463, Tel: (012) 362-2908 or marita@afrosearch.co.za) so that they may be included.

No.	SURNAME AND INITIALS	ORGANISATION	DATE	TYPE OF COMMUNI-CATION	ISSUE / COMMENT / QUESTION	CROSS-REFERENCE TO REPORT / RESPONSE
10/09-1	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	It is important to find an alternative route for the line as the existing line affects land with a high yield potential.	Comment noted, thank you. Subsequently, the attendants at the meeting and the meeting on 11 September 2003 identified an alternative route to be investigated.
10/09-2	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	Where the line occurs within agricultural land, it will pose severe problems with regard to maneuvering the large implements that farmers in these areas use. Some of the equipment can be up to 20m wide.	Comment noted, thank you.
10/09-3	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	It should be noted that precision agriculture is gaining ground in this area and the power lines influences the radio signal. This results in large costs to the farmer.	Comment noted, thank you. Ms. Streaton of Eskom noted that Eskom themselves use GPS. It was later established that the actual problem was not the satellite connection, but the radio signal that connects to the CPU of the computer.
10/09-4	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	One should note that the impact that a power line has on a crop farmer is continuous. The impact on a farm with grazing is discreet.	Comment noted, thank you.
10/09-5	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	At this stage the farmers can suggest a few routes that would be worth while investigating. It would not be possible for the farmers to differentiate between the routes in terms of preference as the farmers do not have that type of expertise. These alternatives will have to be investigated by a higher agricultural organisation.	Comment noted, thank you.
10/09-6	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	By involving organisations such as SA Agri and Free State Agriculture, better solutions can be found.	Comment noted, thank you.

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10/09-7	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	<p>It is suggested that a delegation of farmers from Bultfontein and Wesselsbron attend the meeting in Bothaville to convey the decisions and feelings of the Bultfontein / Wesselsbron farmers.</p> <p>It should be kept in mind that the current proposal might change after the meeting of 11 September 2003.</p>	<p>Such a delegation was chosen at the meeting and they were present at the meeting of 11 September 2003. The representatives were Messrs. Jan Foulds, Piet Naudé and Hendrik Joubert.</p> <p>Comment noted, thank you.</p>
10/09-8	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	<p>It is accepted that the line has to be built and that there will be negative impacts on those landowners affected, but it should also be kept in mind that there are alternatives.</p> <p>The point of departure is not to move the proposed line from my land to the land of the next farmer, but rather to determine the route that would serve the farming fraternity and the country best.</p>	<p>Comment noted, thank you.</p>
10/09-9	Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	<p>A site visit was held with representatives of Eskom and the consulting team to indicate the potential problems with regard to sand and crop spraying to them.</p>	<p>This site visit took place on the morning of 10 September 2003 and the following persons were present: ESKOM: Messrs. Levy Maduse, Carol Streaton and Koos van der Merwe; STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS: Ms. Bernadette Vollmer; AFROSEARCH: Dr. David de Waal and Ms. Marita Oosthuizen. The site visit was led by Mr. Jan Foulds from the Wesselsbron district.</p>
10/09-10	Willemse, MG (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	<p>Where this line runs parallel to an existing line, will the conductors be placed on the existing line?</p>	<p>Nothing is impossible (Comment made by Mr. IGM Foulds). Dr. De Waal cautioned attendants not to put their hopes on this as a viable option.</p>

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10/09-11	Joubert, HP (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	There are considerable farm portions that will become sub-economical, should a line cross the farm.	Comment noted, thank you.
10/09-12	Van Biljon, PJ (Mr)	Landowner	10-Sep-03	Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	The conservation of agricultural land benefits the country. It is important that the Department of Agriculture be involved in this study. Sub-economic farms have no benefit and should be avoided at all cost. We should take the route that would have the least detrimental impact on the land.	Comment noted, thank you.
10/09-13	Naudé, PJ (Mr)	Landowner		Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	The impact on the high potential land affected currently is immeasurable. This line must be moved to an area where grazing is predominant.	Comment noted, thank you.
10/09-14	Naudé, PJ (Mr)	Landowner		Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	With regard to precision agriculture, we should note that more and more farmers will turn to these practices over time. We should also remember that technology improves continually and that technologies that we have not even conceived will become prevalent over time.	Comment noted, thank you.
10/09-15	Beukus, Z (Mr)	Landowner		Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	At the Landowner Workshops it was said that it was possible to move the line a bit. This farmer has a small portion of land that is irrigated. The concern is that the boreholes will run dry if pylons are dug through the impervious layer in the area. The reason for the concern is that the landowner has consulted specialists in the past and they recommended that, since it is not clear how the subterranean water moves in the area, the impervious layer be kept intact.	Comment noted, thank you.
10/09-16	Wahl, G (Mr)	Landowner		Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	Is there genuinely a need for this much electricity?	Please refer to the section on the rationale of the project.
10/09-17	Joubert, HP (Mr)	Landowner		Public Meeting: Bultfontein (Sept '03)	Nobody in Dealesville physically looks after the line. Power may be saved if Eskom had tighter security and maintained the line better.	Comment noted, thank you.

3. THE WAY FORWARD

DR DAVID DE WAAL (AFROSEARCH)

The Chairperson stated that the meeting the following day (11 September 2003) would focus on obtaining an alternative alignment from the attendants. Thereafter, the team would go back and investigate the new proposed alternative. The Chairperson promised that written feedback would be given to attendants before the draft Environmental Impact Report is put in the public domain for comment.

The following actions will be undertaken:

- This meeting will be minuted and questions, issues and concerns taken up in an Issues Register;
- Technical studies by the various specialists are underway and further studies will be commissioned as needed;
- Written feedback will be given to attendants regarding the final preferred corridor;
- A Draft Environmental Impact Report will be made available for public comment for a period of 14 days. Copies will be available at the following places:
 - libraries / public places:
 - Dealesville Public Library;
 - Bultfontein Public Library;
 - Hertzogville Public Library;
 - Hoopstad Public Library;
 - Wesselsbron Public Library;
 - Allanridge Public Library;
 - Bothaville Public Library;
 - Viljoenskroon Public Library; and
 - Vierfontein Police Station.
 - on the internet at <http://www.eskom.co.za/eia> and
 - on CD-Rom (CD-Roms would only be available from Afrosearch by arrangement).
- At the end of the comment period, responses will be incorporated into the EIA Report and a final report submitted to the national and provincial environmental departments;
- A final record of decision will be obtained from DEAT (national); and
- The record of decision will be advertised.

AFROSEARCH

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4. CLOSURE

DR DAVID DE WAAL (AFROSEARCH)

The Chairperson thanked the attendants for their participation and bid everybody a safe journey.

5. ATTENDANCE REGISTER

The attendance register for the meeting at Bultfontein is attached.

ATTENDANTS (10 SEPTEMBER 2003)

NAAM EN VAN NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANISASIE EN POSISIE ORGANISATION AND POSITION	TELEFOONNOMMER TELEPHONE NO.	FAKSIMILE FAXIMILEE	POSADRES POSTAL ADDRESS	E-POS E-MAIL
Streaton, Carol (Ms)	Eskom: Transmission (Public Participation Advisor)	(011) 800-5411 (W) 083 633 1545 (C)	(011) 800-3917	P. O. Box 1091 JOHANNESBURG, 2000	carol.streaton@eskom.co.za
Van der Merwe, Koos (Mr)	Eskom: Transmission (Land and Rights)	082 805 7605 (C)	(011) 800-3917	P. O. Box 1091 JOHANNESBURG, 2000	jjvdm@eskom.co.za
Maduse, Levy (Mr)	Eskom: Transmission (Project Leader)	(011) 800-2630 (W) 082 805 7367 (C)	(011) 800-3917	P. O. Box 1091 JOHANNESBURG, 2000	levy.maduse@eskom.co.za
Vollmer, Bernadette (Ms)	Strategic Environmental Focus	(012) 349-13078 (W)	(012) 349-1229	PO Box 74785 LYNNWOOD RIDGE, 0400	bernadette@sefsa.co.za
Oosthuizen, Marita (Ms)	Afrosearch	(012) 362-2908 (W) 082 378 4903 (C)	(012) 362-2463	P. O. Box 13540 HATFIELD, 0028	marita@afrosearch.co.za
De Waal, David (Dr)	Afrosearch	(012) 362-2908 (W) 083 227 8681 (C)	(012) 362-2463	P. O. Box 13540 HATFIELD, 0028	ddw@afrosearch.co.za
Willemse, N. (Mr.)	Landowner	(051) 853-2144 (H) 082 464 1457 (C)	(051) 853-2144	P. O. Box 227 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	None
Oosthuizen, JN (Karl). (Mr.)	Interested Party	(051) 853-1632 (H)		12 East Street BULTFONTEIN, 9670	drakent@webmail.co.za
De Villiers, JFH (Mr.)	Interested Party	(051) 853-1632 (H)	None	12 East Street BULTFONTEIN, 9670	None

Foulds, IGM (Mr)	Landowner	(057) 899 2505 (H) (057) 899 2505 (W) 082 361 0360 (C)	(056) 899-2505	PO Box 101 WESSELSBRON, 9680	
Basson, MEM (Ms)	Landowner	(051) 853 2543 (H)	(051) 853 2543	PO Box 47 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Joubert, HP (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853 2615 (H) 083 377 7111 (C)		PO Box 110 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Beukes, R (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853 2584 (H) 072 258 0344 (C)	(051) 853 2584	P. O. Box 285 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Naudé, PJ (Mr)	Landowner	(057) 899-2955 (H) (057) 899 1200 (W) 082 411 1115 (C)	(057) 899 1049	PO Box 114 WESSELSBRON, 9680	
Young, JW (Mr)	Landowner (Plesis Rustenburg)	(053) 444 1387 (H) (053) 853-1111 (W) 082 964 4387 (C)	(053) 444-1897	PO Box 39 HOOPSTAD, 9479	youngj@tswelopele.org
Pretorius, T (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853 2603 (H) 082 824 6470 (C)	(051) 853 2603	PO Box 232 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Gouws, HPS (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853-2191 (H) 082 375 3975 (C)	(051) 853-2191	P. O. Box 494 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Otto, CJ (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853-2158 (H) 083 264 4727 (C)	(051) 853-2158	P. O. Box 472 BULTFINTEIN, 9670	
Van Rensburg, EJJ (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853-2364 (H) 082 411 4372 (C)		P. O. Box 96 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Wahl, G (Mr)	Landowner	082 339 9854 (C) 072 374 2549 (C)	None	P. O. Box 373 HOOPSTAD, 9479	

Coetzee, G (Mr)	Landowner (De Hoop Boerdery)	(057) 899-1133 (H) 083 701 349 ??????	(057) 899-1456	P. O. Box 507 WESSELSBRON, 9680	
Erwee, D (Mr)	Landowner	(057) 899-2329 (H) 084 652 8451 (C)		P. O. Box 91 WESSELSBRON, 9680	
De Bruyn, H (Mr)	Landowner	(053) 444-1751 (W) 082 576 3512/3 (C)	(053) 444-1751	P. O. Box 58 HOOPSTAD, 9479	
Earle, H (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853-2256 (H) 082 423 4013 (C)		P. O. Box 569 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Theron, DF (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853-2495 (H) 082 9264798 (W)	(051) 853-2495	P. O. Box 759 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Labuschagne, JP (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853-2646 (H) 083 452 4101 (C)			
Geldenhuys, AK (Mr)	Representative of landowner	(051) 853-2396 (H) 082 496 6058 (C)		P. O. Box 464 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Rheeder, J (Mr)	De Hoop Boerevereniging (Secretary)	(057) 899-2429 (H) 082 371 0654 (C)	(057) 899-2429	P. O. Box 358 WESSELSBRON, 9680	
Odendaal, LeG (Mr)	Mooiveld Boerevereniging And Landowner	(057) 899-2460 (H) 083 700 9307 (C)	(057) 899-2460	P. O. Box 170 WESSELSBRON, 9680	lodendaa@mweb.co.za
Van Dyk, JL (Mr)	Landowner	082 821 1220 (C)		P. O. Box 15 HERTZOGVILLE, 9482	
Bakkes, CM (Snr) (Mr)	Landowner	(057) 899-2446 (H) 082 554 2031 (C)	(057) 899-2446	P. O. Box 229 WESSELSBRON, 9680	
Bakkes, CM (Jnr) (Mr)	Landowner	082 579 3717 (C)	(057) 899-2446	P. O. Box 27 WESSELSBRON, 9680	

Maas, I (Mr)	De Hoop Boerevereniging	(057) 899-2239 (H) 082 801 3399 (C)	(057) 899-1135	P. O. Box 90 WESSELSBRON, 9680	maasbdy@global.co.za
Goulding, BG (Mr)	Interested Party	(051) 853-1671 (H)		3 Van Wyk Street BULTFONTEIN, 9670	
Meiring, PH (Mr)	Landowner	(051) 853-2669 (H) 083 292 3427 (C)		P. O. Box 86 BULTFONTEIN, 9670	geluk@absamail.co.za
Swanepoel, J (Mr)	Landowner	(057) 899-2330 (H)	(057) 899-2330	P. O. Box 307 WESSELSBRON, 9680	
Van Biljon, PJ (Mr)	Landowner	082 881 7132	(053) 444 1518	P. O. Box 30 HOOPSTAD, 9479	
De Wet, G (Ms)	Department of Health	(057) 352-1453 (W) (057) 357-2428 (H) 082 785 8567 (C)	(057) 352-9155	Private Bag X15 WELKOM, 9460	malant@doh.ofs.gov.za
Chabeli, S (Ms)	Department of Health	(057) 352-1453 (W)	(057) 352-9155	Private Bag X15 WELKOM, 9460	