

BRAAMHOEK TRANSMISSION POWER LINE AND SUB-STATION INTEGRATION

ANNEXURE 7:

COMMENT AND RESPONSE DOCUMENT

For the comment period for the Draft Scoping Report.

BRAAMHOEK TRANSMISSION POWER LINE & SUB-STATION INTEGRATION

For the Eskom Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme

COMMENTS & RESPONSE REPORT (MAY 2005): FINAL SCOPING REPORT

The comments contained in this Comments and Response Report have been received during the comment period 09 April 2005- 10 May 2005 from the following sources:

- *Records of public meetings and focus group meetings.*
- *Comments received by fax, e-mail and mail.*

All comments received have been categorised as follows:

1. Agriculture and farming operations.
2. Ecological impacts and biodiversity conservation.
3. Cultural heritage resource management.
4. Social and socio-economic issues.
5. Land tenure and compensation.
6. Project alternatives and technical queries.
- 7 (a) EIA Process (technical).
- 7 (b) EIA Process (public participation).
8. Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme.
9. Eskom Distribution Queries.
10. Other queries and comments.

NAME & ORGANISATION	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE
A. TRANSMISSION POWER LINE AND SUB-STATION INTEGRATION		
1. Agriculture and farming operations		
Mr G Green Mount Alice Farms	Transmission Line: Due to past experiences relating to Eskom Transmission Lines, I do not wish any further lines to be constructed on my property as my property is in the preferred Western Route.	Noted. See responses in the main report in relation to issues raised by the Ladysmith Farmers Association.
Mr Nigel W Ralfe Doornkop Farm	Transmission line: I object to you erecting another Power Line through my farm Doornkop for the following reasons (Western Route): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very unsightly and have a severe negative impact for tourism because of the double highway (N3) it will be very visible to all motorists. 2. Devalues my property further and I appear to be responsible for the line, i.e. burning fires, etc. Also, not ecologically friendly and crosses highly erodable areas of my farm – main concern during construction. 3. Security hazard to put both lines in one area (rate of terrorism, vandalism, etc). 4. I feel I have been inconvenienced and suffered the undeniable negative results i.e. devaluation of farm and unsightliness of one powerline and do not want repetition. 5. The remuneration offered for the powerline affecting even future generations of the family is very poor. That is, the price paid for servitude does not match the hassles and effects that continue in the long term. I would appreciate if one of your representatives coming to see me so that we could discuss this matter further.	Mr Ralfe and his family were met on the evening of the 6 th May at their farm (record of meeting captured on the database). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point 1 -The new line will be visible from the motorway, but given the existence of a power line along that route the effect on tourism is expected to be very low. • Point 2 -The new line is not expected to affect the productivity of the farm and should therefore not reduce its value for this reason. Impact on the visual quality of the area is seen to be moderate (ie noticeable), but its effect on land values is very difficult to determine. However, this should be addressed in the price paid by Eskom for the servitude. • Point 2 -Servitude maintenance by Eskom is aimed at securing the transmission of electricity. Other aspects of land management in and around the servitude are understood to be the responsibility of the landowner. However, Eskom should be working closely with landowners in this regard, and it appears that this is lacking in this area. • Point 3 - Under the circumstances, security risks are not seen to be more significant if the lines are close together. • Points 4 & 5 – many of the concerns relate to current operational activities (or lack thereof) and these are currently being investigated by Eskom Transmission.
Mrs AJM Tratschler Protea Farm	The proposed powerline through “Protea Farm” which falls into the Western side of the farm, in my view will devalue the farm. I would appreciate it if another route can be found.	See discussion above.
Mr LA Tratschler Connaught Farm	My farm “Hattingvlaakte” and “Plessislaeger” fall into the western route of your powerline which you plan to erect between Braamhoek and Venus. I object to the Western Route power line as it will run through my two farms. Hattingvlaakte is at present a game farm and should another powerline be installed this will further the devaluation of the farm. A different route would be kindly appreciated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See discussion above regarding land values • The new line should not interfere with game farming activities
2. Ecological impacts and biodiversity conservation		

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Mr Ken Gordon Wildlife and Environment Society of SA	What impacts will there be on water stream in the area? This could be a serious issue	There is expected to be minimal impact on watercourse in terms of the substation. The substation footprint is relatively small in relation to the catchment, and the design of substation drainage systems is quite advanced and should be suitable for pollution control from the Braamhoek Substation. There are other water related issues associated with the Braamhoek PSS, and these are the subject of water licence applications to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF). A separate meeting is being held after this meeting to address the water licence issues.
Mr Piet Leibbrandt Eskom Transmission	Transmission Line: Other bird species having an influence is vultures. On the Eastern Route crows could have a significant impact on the quality of supply as they build their nests from wire and usually in an area close to where people live (Point 19).	Noted
Mr Ken Gordon Wildlife and Environment Society of SA	It is important to note that the entire study area is important for birds, not just the escarpment. The wattle crane, blue crane and crowned crane are abundant in the area and move around, especially in winter. It, therefore, does not make a big difference where the transmission line runs, as birds will be affected everywhere.	Noted.
Mr Jethro Mofokeng Student at Technikon SA	<p>Substation: Has the impact assessment considered all issues associated with the development of sub-stations? Furthermore, the drainage of the sub-station and pollution is a concern as it is near a watercourse.</p> <p>Turn-ins: The collision risk on wetland birds is another cause for concern.</p> <p>Transmission Line: Eskom needs to minimise the impact of bird collisions with the powerlines and destruction of habitats, where possible.</p>	<p>Substation: Please see Draft Scoping Report. The EIA study has noted this and recommendations are made to minimise this risk. Substations have advanced drainage systems and should be able to manage this risk.</p> <p>Turn-ins: Agreed. Therefore the reason to combine the three power lines into one corridor.</p> <p>Transmission Line: Eskom works closely with EWT in ongoing research to minimise this.</p>
3. Cultural heritage resource management		
Ms Nokuthula Gloria Zulu Community Based Environmental Worker	Removal of graves prior to construction must be done in consultation with people.	Noted. This is also required by AMAFA, who will need to issue permits before any relocation can take place.
Mr Jethro Mofokeng Student at Technikon SA	<p>Substation: The relocation of graves needs to be carefully managed.</p>	Agreed.

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Ms Elize Becker Amafa AkwaZulu-Natali	We have received the Heritage Impact Assessment by eThembeni Cultural Heritage and we are providing the appropriate recommendations therein. There are specific recommendations with reference to two possible ancestral graves situated on the proposed Braamfontein (sic) Sub-station site on the farm Zaaifontein. The recommendations are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The graves must be exhumed and relocated to a more appropriate site and all the necessary consents and permits obtained from the community and relevant Authorities. ▪ It is important to take into consideration the sensitivity towards the graves and the people it belongs to. ▪ The recommendation that the scarp slopes in the vicinity of the substation be inspected for the presence of rock painting sites that could be damaged by tunnel blasting activities has been copied to the Amafa Rock Art Officer for information and possible action. ▪ A physical inspection of proposed tower placements must be undertaken and we look forward to a final report in due course. 	Noted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The grave sites are likely to be affected during the construction of the PSS, and Eskom has been made aware of this. A full time ECO has been appointed and it is understood that the issue of the graves is being addressed. ▪ As part of this, a social team is working on the farms Braamhoek and Zaaifontein and will address the sensitivities surrounding the graves. ▪ Archaeological and ecological 'walk-thru' surveys during detailed design are recommended in this Scoping Report. These will look at planned tower placements.
Meeting with Emnambithi/Ladysmith Local Municipality and Council	Sub-station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Emnambithi/Ladysmith Local Municipality recommended that Councillors Buthelezi and Gasa be part of the team that will deal with the relocation of graves. 	Noted.
4. Social and socio-economic issues		
Ms Nokuthula Gloria Zulu Community Based Environmental Worker	Eskom should consider the well being (health) of people in the affected areas. In order to avoid problems during construction, stakeholders must be kept involved.	Noted. The power line routes have tried to avoid settlement areas. However, liaison with landowners and local communities during construction will be important.
Ms Angela Ngoato Eskom Development Foundation	We would like some assurance that you have consulted with local communities on job creation and social benefits. If people have the necessary technical qualifications, will they be considered for employment?	The project team has advised stakeholders that jobs with transmission power line construction are limited. This is because of the specialist nature of construction activities required. However, there are various indirect job opportunities that will be created and we recommend that Eskom and local municipalities identify these sectors now. We cannot raise any expectations with this project. The most the EIA consultant can do is make recommendations, as this is an Eskom issue.
5. Land tenure and compensation		
Mr GBD McIntosh Landowner encircling Venus Substations	Transmission Line: Eskom will have to pay BIG MONEY for its extra 20m servitude across my land.	This is a matter between Eskom and individual landowners.
Mr Beston Silungwe Propnet	Has the EIA process identified the various surrounding landowners in the study area, and have you engaged with them? Does Eskom need to buy the land or go through a process of expropriation?	We have been through a detailed process of identifying landowners on all the proposed power line routes and we have identified and consulted with most of these people. They are, therefore, aware of the project and have mainly participated through the Farmers Associations. After the EIA process, Eskom will enter into negotiations with affected landowners to negotiate the servitude on a one-to-one basis. In terms of timeframes for this EIA, the Final Scoping Report will be submitted to the authorities within the next week or so, so this is essentially the last public engagement. The Authorities will then issue a Record of Decision, the details of which will be communicated to all Interested and Affected Parties.

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Ms Nokuthula Gloria Zulu Community Based Environmental Worker	Eskom must compensate landowners for putting powerlines across their properties.	A process of negotiation with all affected landowners takes place once environmental authorisation is awarded.
6. Project alternatives and technical queries		
Mr Jeff Scrooby Petronet	<p>Sub-Station, Turn-In and Transmission Line:</p> <p>Petronet, being a division of Transnet Limited, has no objection in principle to the proposed EIAs for the construction and upgrade of access roads and Transmission Power Lines crossing the 323,8 and 406,4 mm diameter pipelines within Transnet's 6,1 and 6 m wide pipeline servitudes as indicated on your drawing.</p> <p>This authority to proceed shall only be valid for six months from the date of this letter. If it is envisaged that the work will commence at a later stage an extension of time must be requested timeously.</p> <p>CONDITIONS Prior to commencement of work it is required that a representative of Petronet be present to indicate the position of the pipelines and to undertake any work on Transnet's pipelines that may be necessary. In this connection the Servitude Supervisor, Mr Klippies Kritzinger, can be contacted at 034 989 9512 at least 14 days before the date on which you wish to commence the work in the vicinity of the pipelines.</p> <p>Arrangements will also be made to visit the site periodically whilst the work is in progress.</p> <p>Should the work be undertaken without Petronet's representative being contacted as mentioned above, Petronet reserves the right to request that you expose the pipeline at your cost in order that an examination can be made for possible damage.</p> <p>The attached standard conditions and requirements for overhead cables must be complied with.</p> <p>You are requested to forward detailed drawings of the proposal on finalisation of design. Frere, Ladysmith, Elandsplaagte and Besters cadastrals with pipeline routes are attached for your information and reference.</p> <p>On completion of the work you are required to return a copy of this letter to our office, duly endorsed and designed by your site representative as well as Petronet's site representative that the work was satisfactorily completed and conditions adhered to.</p>	<p>Conditions and timeframes are noted. An extension of the authorisation is likely to be required. Eskom will approach Petronet directly in this regard.</p>
Mr Albie Bester Propnet	<p>Transmission Line: Once the final route has been finalised, Eskom will have to approach Spoornet to finalise wayleave agreements for Transnet land traversed by the transmission line.</p>	Noted. This will be passed on to Eskom for action.

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Mr Ed Bunge Eskom Distribution	<p>Was common cause for failure of parallel Transmission Lines considered?</p> <p>Could the Turn-in Lines not have been turned in as a V rather than parallel?</p> <p>The Distribution Sub-station site and 88kV line should also be included in the EIA.</p> <p>Eskom Distribution will require an access road for substation by mid 2007.</p>	<p>As advised by Eskom Transmission, common cause failure has not been considered a problem in this area despite the high incidence of veld fires.</p> <p>It is seen to be preferable to keep the Turn-in lines next to each other to minimise impacts, bird impacts in particular.</p> <p>The 88kV Distribution line cannot be included in the EIA application at this late stage. A separate EIA application to the DAEA will be required.</p> <p>Access road – noted. Information passed on to Access Roads EIA Team.</p>
Mr Casper Landman South African National Roads Agency	<p>The South African National Roads Agency does not register servitudes over road reserve land but grants wayleaves with certain conditions of which a removal clause is the most significant. Once details of the proposed route has been finalised an application for a wayleave will have to be submitted to this office and we will in consultation with the N3TC (the Toll Concessionaire) handle it accordingly.</p>	
Mr VK Dedekind Eskom Distribution	<p>Transmission Line: The option preferred should align with distribution expansion plan. Mr Ed Bunge should be contacted in this regard.</p>	<p>Noted. Also see above.</p>
Mr Neal Bodger Eskom	<p>Substation: Location of sub Tx 88/22 kV substation relative to 400/22 substation.</p> <p>Turn-ins: Has common cause failure been considered? Route of turn-ins appear to have many kinks.</p> <p>Transmission Line: Crossing of sub Tx lines to be forwarded to Mr Moore, PO Box 5, Mkondeni, 3212 for approval well in advance of construction. Western route is the preferred route. The middle and western routes will conflict with proposed 88kV lines.</p>	<p>Substation: This will need further planning between Eskom Transmission and Distribution. However, the EIA consultant believe there is sufficient space within the disturbed area of the PSS to include a Dx Substation.</p> <p>Turn-ins: Common cause faulting has not been raised by the technical teams as a problem. The kinks are necessary to minimise environmental impact.</p> <p>Transmission line: Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
Mr Justice Marabwa Eskom Transmission	<p>Substation: Executive Summary, pages ii, iii and v: - Related findings and recommendations in the EIA Draft Scoping Report are noted and supported respectively.</p> <p>Turn-ins: Executive Summary, pages iii, iv and v are noted and supported respectively.</p> <p>Transmission Line: Executive summary, pages ii, iii, iv and v - same as above. The stakeholder concerns in 23 and related recommendation in 32 will receive high priority. Although they emanate primarily from Eskom Distribution. We, in Transmission East Grid will do our best to assist in resolving the concerns, where possible. Submissions by my Environmental Advisor, Piet Leibbrandt are fully supported as well.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

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Ms Nokuthula Gloria Zulu Community Based Environmental Worker	<p>Transmission Lines: The Western Route minimises problems because there are less houses and no dams. The idea of running Transmission Power Lines parallel is also beneficial, as it will save a lot of money. Powerlines should be built in areas where communities can benefit.</p>	Noted.
Mr Theuns de Jager De Jager Boerdery	<p>Turn-ins: Would prefer that the lines do not cross available arable land. Would prefer that the access road and the power lines run next to each other.</p>	Arable land as identified by Mr de Jager has been avoided. The combination of access road and power lines is being considered.
Mr José Clara Trans-Africa Projects	<p>Sub-station: 1. The size and slope are appropriate although is too close to a water course which may cause erosion problems. 2. The only limitation on this site location is that by being close to the ridge on the northern side, it limits the approaching of future power lines.</p> <p>Turn-ins: They do not present much concerns as long as the route avoids: a) The area of the future tunnel road when crossing the valley, possibly with a high curved bridge and, b) The floodable dam area.</p> <p>Transmission Line: We have looked only at the western route. It is feasible and the only difficulties are where it has to be squeezed between the existing powerline and highway by reducing the separation between these two lines (55m) as it encroaches into the road servitude. Other difficulty is to approach the Venus Sub-station into the right bay, but it is common to other options.</p>	<p>Noted. Erosion & drainage need to be carefully managed.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Transmission lines are expected to span the new road.</p> <p>The lines miss the dam area, passing along the western edge.</p> <p>Noted. It is understood that the new line will run along the eastern side of the Majuba-Venus #2 line, thereby avoiding being squeezed by the N3.</p>
Mr Tony Christopher Cotswold Farm	Will it be possible to divert the Majuba-Venus line towards Braamhoek from the top of the escarpment and then continue south towards Venus, presumably meeting back up with the current alignment somewhere further south of the planned Turn-in point. This would replace the Turn-in option presented in the Draft Scoping Report. This would avoid the double line effect as well as pull the whole development away from his property.	<p>Stuart Dunsmore's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explained the function of the Turn-in, and that there would also be a second connection to the National Grid via the Braamhoek - Venus 400kV line. ▪ Therefore, along the Turn-in route there is likely to be three lines running in parallel. ▪ Explained the benefits of running the lines in parallel and thereby confining many of the environmental impacts, and in particular impacts on birds such as Wattled and Crowned Cranes that exist on Mr Christopher's farm. ▪ Explained that this was a difficult area and that it would be hard to reduce the visual impact, but that there were very limited options. ▪ Furthermore, running any new line from the top of the escarpment would meet with considerable resistance from our bird specialist who considered the top of the escarpment far more sensitive.

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Lt.Col R Varaden South African National Defence Force	As the three alternatives do not go over any of the military property, the DOD has no comment or objections at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to view this document.	Noted.
7 (a). EIA Process – technical		
Mr Themba Ndlovu CEW Trust – Weenen Area	Have any impacts specific to the Colenso and Weenen areas been taken into account? It seems that the focus has been around the Ladysmith area.	The EIA considered all possible impacts and definitely looked at impacts on those areas, specifically the eco-tourism potential. We have had meetings with various community groups, Farmers Associations and Traditional Authorities. Once we identified the preferred route with fewer negative impacts, we did focus on that, i.e. the western route.
7 (b). EIA Process – public participation		
Mr Piet Leibbrandt Eskom Transmission	It would be appreciated if a copy of the Final Scoping Report could be submitted to me.	Noted.
Mr Maxwell Shabalala Matiwanoskop Landowners	When will the public be informed as to the selected route of the transmission power line? I would like to participate in the process but specifically focussing on the preferred route.	It would be beneficial if you could participate in the process now so that you can assist the EIA Consultant to identify the best route. It makes more sense to do this rather than to only provide input once the route has been selected. Please provide comment now so that your preference can be submitted to the Authorities. We have identified a preferred route that we are recommending to the Authorities and Eskom. The route is the western line, and has been recommended for a number of environmental reasons.
Mr Syd Knowles Propnet (Spoornet)	Have you compiled a list of property owners in the study area? We are running a separate process with Eskom where we deal with specific aspects of design.	The public participation process has identified as many landowners as possible. The Scoping Report has a data base which contains a list of landowners who have participated. However, this does not mean that they are necessarily “affected” landowners. It could be worthwhile if we distribute a list of affected landowners to everyone on the database.
Mr Reenen de Kock Amanzi	Thanks for the information. I have read the Executive Summaries of the Draft Scoping Reports and all seems well at this stage.	Noted.
8. Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme		
Mr Beston Silungwe Propnet	Please outline the timeframes for the entire project.	In terms of timeframes for the Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme and its components, it is anticipated that construction of the roads will commence during 2006, construction of the scheme will commence in 2007 and construction of the power lines will commence in 2009. It is anticipated that commissioning will occur in 2012.
9. Eskom Distribution Queries		
Cllr ZS Kunene Abantungwa-Kholwa Traditional Authority	As stated during the initial consultation with the Abantungwa-Kholwa Traditional Authority, the following should be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is an urgent need for electricity in the area. It would be much better if Eskom can find ways of dealing with the current electricity requirements in the area. ▪ There is a vast difference in the manner in which Eskom services farmers when compared to our rural areas. Eskom takes up to 3 days to fix problems. 	Information passed to Eskom Distribution for action.
Mr Ed Bunge Eskom Distribution	Eskom Distribution has been approached by Eskom Generation to install a distribution line in the area. The line will run parallel to your line and will require a substation. Have these issues been included in the EIA?	This will have to be discussed further with Eskom Generation and Eskom Transmission. This hasn't been included in this EIA and will need a separate EIA.

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10. Other queries and comments		
Mr William Thulezweni Dlamini CEWT	In the Thukela District Municipality there are 5 local municipalities and about 100 CEW groups. This organisation consists of volunteers that teach communities about maintaining a clean and safe environment. CEW organisations also promote HIV/AIDS awareness. Please call me on 0837393660 if Eskom can assist us or use this in any way.	Noted.