





ESKOM kudu Integration PROJECT
Oranjemond to vredendal

**Public meeting
February 2006**




Project Team

- The Client:
ESKOM Transmission
- Environmental consultants:
Strategic Environmental Focus




Draft agenda



- Introduction
- Meeting objectives
- Public participation process
- Project location
- Study area
- Background to the project
- Preliminary issues identified
- Key impacts identified to date
- Way forward
- Adjournment




introduction



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"

Meeting objectives

- Introduce the project
- Provide information on the status of the project
- 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

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




Public participation cont.

Public participation, a principle of integrated Environmental Management (IEM) is required in terms of:

- the constitution
- the national environmental management act
- the environment conservation act

Objectives of Public participation

To provide stakeholders with information on:

- the purpose of the proposed project
- technical and participatory processes to be followed
- way in which the contributions of the I&APs will be incorporated
- environmental impacts of the proposed project

Objectives of Public participation

For stakeholders to:

- assist in determining issues that should receive attention in the report

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

If Eskom Transmission is to honour its commitment to meet the increasing needs of end users, it has to establish and expand its infrastructure of Generation capacity, Transmission lines and Substations on an ongoing basis.

BACKGROUND TO PROJECT

NAMPOWER

- Is currently supplied mostly from SA, but supply is not guaranteed
- Has access to Kudu gas field
- Plan to construct a new power station at Oranjemund of 800MW initially
- Requires about 200MW to secure their own supply
- Nampower has offered the balance to Eskom for integration into the SA National Grid
- Plans to construct two 400kV lines to Oranjemund substation near Alexander bay

BACKGROUND TO PROJECT

eskom

- Plans to connect two lines to the SA Grid
- 1 x 400kV bypassing Oranjemond substation down to Juno substation near Vredendal
- 1 x 400kV connection at Oranjemond substation that will be operated at 220kV
- This second connector may be upgraded to 400kV in future if the power station expands

BACKGROUND TO PROJECT

Need for the power line

- The existing Transmission lines towards the Western Grid from Mpumalanga are already heavily loaded and are predicted to reach their full capacity very soon
- these Transmission lines can not supply the increased demand from the natural load growth and on top of that fulfill in the requirements from NamPower if it is not reinforced
- There is a definite need for additional generation capacity in the region (Eskom and NamPower),
- Eskom and Nampower need to provide transmission lines to integrate the new power source, and
- to maximise the use of the new power station by providing a reliable integrated network

BACKGROUND TO PROJECT

Benefits of the project

- The introduction of generation capacity from another source, such as Kudu Power Station, would help to reduce the sensitivity of Koeberg Power Station
- support customers with generation capacity located closer to the load centres
- improve the reliability of power in Namibia and the Western Grid

Process followed...

- 1.** The first step in the process was to identify various alternatives to accomplish the said objective
- 2.** This lead to the creation of a study area,
- 3.** The feasibility of each alternative needs to be investigated in terms of the physical, biological and social environment
- 4.** To determine which is the most feasible alternative
- 5.** And to ultimately secure a servitude for the said transmission line

STUDY AREA



Environmental process to date

- Project registration with DEAT/DTEEA:
24 May 2005
- Submit Plan of Study for Scoping:
June 2005
- Public participation process:
January 2006 to June 2006
- BID, newspaper advertisements, site notices and letters to I&APs

Issues to be investigated...

- Physical & biological environment
 - Soils and Agriculture
 - Geo Technical Aspects
 - Topography/Visual Impacts
 - Hydrology
 - Fauna including Avifauna & Flora
- Social environment
 - Social assessment
 - Tourism
 - Heritage Resources

KEY IMPACTS IDENTIFIED TO DATE...

- Faunal Displacement and disruption (esp. Avifauna)
- Impacts on socio-economic conditions and tourism (health safety and security)
- Geotechnical factors
- Visual intrusion
- Impacts on vegetation and habitats
- Soil and agricultural impacts
- Impacts on archaeological resources

Contamination of surface water

- By inappropriate usage, storage, accidental spills etc. of construction materials eg. Concrete, solvents
- Oil and fuel from construction vehicles
- Activities of construction crews eg.

Destruction of vegetation

- Vegetation clearing for the servitude
- Fires and use of wood for cooking fires
- Footprint of pylons
- Damage caused by construction vehicles
- Compaction of soils
- Increased erosion due to maintenance of transmission lines

Impact on bird life

- Potential collisions with the earth wire
- Destruction disturbance of habitats
- Disturbance of possible sensitive areas

Faunal displacement & destruction

- Vegetation clearing for the servitude
- Location and establishment of construction camps
- Veld fires
- Activities of the construction and maintenance crews

Visual intrusion

- Incompatible scale of pylons versus that of the landscape
- High visibility
- Transects visual assets eg. dunes, ridges, rivers

Health, safety & security risks

Related to the construction and maintenance crew

- value conflict between locals and construction crew
- Spreading of diseases
- Increased social problems

Impact on historical value and heritage resources

- Graveyards
- Places of esthetical beauty
- Structures older than 60 years
- Battlefields
- Game farms
- Nature reserves
- Other tourist destinations

Increased ambient noise levels

- Associated mostly with the construction phase
- Activities associated with construction of the pylons and stringing thereof
- Activities associated with the construction crew camps

Way forward...

- The meeting will be minuted and concerns raised will be addressed in the Scoping Report
- The Scoping Report will be made available for public comment in April
- Once all I&AP comments have been received within the timeframe, the report will be submitted to:
 - Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
 - Departments of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning in the Western and Department Agriculture Conservation and Environment Northern Cape

Way forward...

- The EIA phase will be advertised
- Further public meetings to give feedback will be held
- Meetings will be minuted and concerns raised addressed
- The draft EIA Report will be made available for public comment

Important dates

Open Days and Public Meetings during the Scoping Phase:

- PORT NOLLOTH 07 February 2006
- GARIES 09 February 2006

adjournment

Please submit further issues by 22 February 2006 to:

Strategic Environmental Focus

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