

ESKOM Transmission Line Mercury to Perseus

**Template for presentations during the
Scoping Phase**

Project Team

- **The Proponent:**
ESKOM Transmission
- **Environmental Consultants:**
Strategic Environmental Focus
- **Public participation specialist:**
Afrosearch



Discussion Points

- **Introduction**
- **Meeting objectives**
- **Public participation process**
- **Project location**
- **Study area**
- **Background to the project**
- **Preliminary issues identified**
- **Potential 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



Objectives of public participation

To provide stakeholders with information on:

- the purpose of the proposed project
- technical and participatory processes to be followed
- the 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

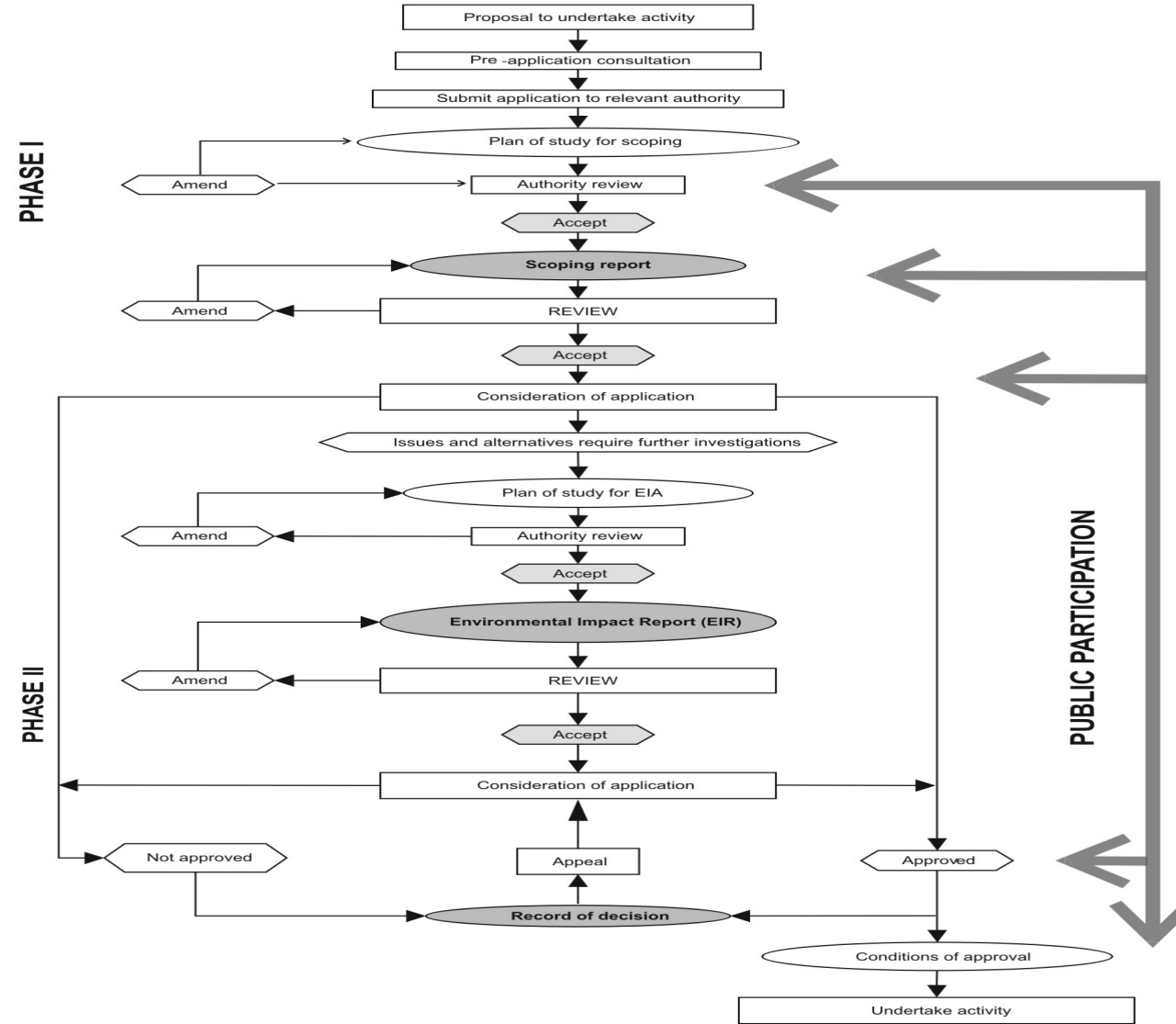
- Eskom proposes to develop a 400kV transmission line to provide additional capacity to support the network supplying the Greater Cape Region south of Bloemfontein
- The proposed transmission line will be 300 – 350km in length



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**

Environmental process



Environmental process to date

- **Project registration with DEAT/DTEEA:**

27 February 2003

- **Approval of Plan of Study for Scoping:**

12 March 2003

- **Public participation process:**

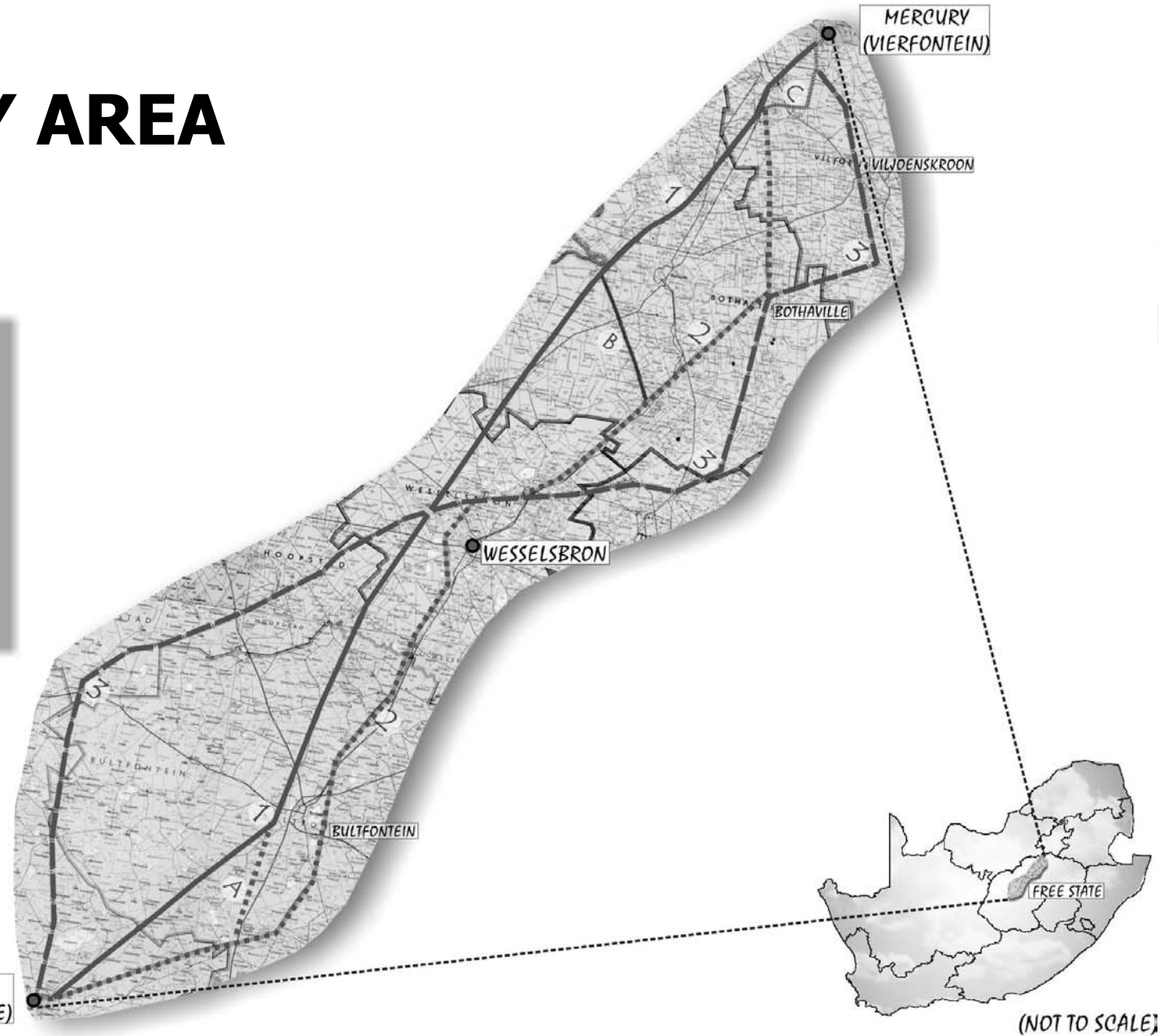
April 2003 & September 2003

BID, newspaper advertisement and letters to I&APs

STUDY AREA

LEGEND

- PROPOSED ROUTE 1
- PROPOSED ROUTE 2
- PROPOSED ROUTE 3
- ALTERNATIVE A
- ALTERNATIVE B
- ALTERNATIVE C



Specialists on the team...

- **Geo-Technical**
- **Soils (Pedologist)**
- **Fauna & Flora**
- **Bird Specialist (Ornithologist)**
- **Aquatic**
- **Visual Impact**
- **Heritage**
- **Tourism**
- **Social Impact**

Issues to be investigated...

➤ Physical & biological environment

- Soils, Geo-Technical Aspects, Topography etc.
- Hydrology
- Fauna & Flora

➤ Social environment

- Social assessment
- Tourism
- Heritage Resources



Sensitivity of the pans...

The pans are unique and have an ecological integrity that needs to be maintained due to:

- their unique biodiversity brought about by the physical environmental conditions**
- habitat for a variety of fauna & flora (important for breeding and feeding)**
- the fact that pans are sensitive ecological systems (symbiotic relationships)**

Potential impacts identified to date...

- **Contamination of surface water**
- **Disturbance of riverine habitats**
- **Impacts on bird life**
- **Increased surface water run-off**
- **Increased erosion along river banks**
- **Floral disturbance**



Potential impact identified to date...

- **Faunal displacement and disturbance**
- **Visual intrusion**
- **Health, safety and security risks**
- **Impact on land with a historical value and heritage resources**
- **Increased ambient noise levels (during construction only)**



Way forward...

- **The meeting will be minuted and concerns raised addressed in the Scoping Report**
- **The Scoping Report will be made available for public comment in May 2003 for 14 days at libraries, on the internet, and on CD by request**
- **Once all I&AP comments have been received within the timeframe, the report will be submitted to the national and provincial environmental departments**



Way forward...

- **DEAT (national) issues a Record of Decision for the EIA process to begin**
- **The EIA phase will be advertised in the newspaper**
- **Further public meetings will be held to give feedback to I&APs**
- **Meetings will be minuted and concerns raised addressed in the EIR**
- **The draft EIR will be made available for public comment in September 2003 for 14 days at libraries, on the internet, on CD by request**

Way forward...

- **Once all I&AP comments have been received within the timeframe, the report will be submitted to the national and provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism**
- **A final record of decision will be obtained from DEAT (national)**
- **The record of decision will be advertised (anticipated to be in January 2004).**



Important dates

Open Days and Public Meetings during the Scoping Phase:

- **BULTFONTEIN 23 April 2003**
- **BOTHAVILLE 24 April 2003**

Open Days and Public Meetings during the EIA Phase:

- **BULTFONTEIN 10 September 2003**
- **BOTHAVILLE 11 September 2003**

Adjournment

Please submit further issues by the 30th of April 2003
to:

AFROSEARCH

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