

ADDENDUM

MERCURY - PERSEUS 400 kV TRANSMISSION LINE VEGETATION AND ZOOLOGICAL STUDY

Prepared by:

Dr. P.J. du Preez

CEBO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS CC

P.O. Box 11945, Universitas, Bloemfontein

9321

Prepared for:

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

P.O. Box 74785

Lynnwood Ridge

0040

5 / 12 / 2003

ADDENDUM

CEBO Environmental Consultants CC was appointed by Strategic Environmental Focus to undertake a Vegetation Survey along the proposed routes for the planned Mercury – Perseus Transmission Line. This is to comply with the requirements stipulated by the EIA process.

A new route corridor was identified during the public participation process and assessed together with the other alternatives at the integration meeting. The vegetation along the selected route cuts through a number of major plant communities. They are the Dry Sandy Highveld grassland on red sandy soils, Grassy Pan Veld clayey soils around pans, Karroid Panveld on calcrete outcrops, Floodplain grassland on deep clayey soils next to streams and rivers, *Acacia karroo* shrub on clayey soils along streams and rivers, Riparian shrub on stream and riverbanks, Seepage areas and Wetland communities, and remnants of Kimberley Thornveld.

About 60% of this route crosses croplands. Very few patches of natural veld remains in these cultivated areas. The remaining 40% of natural veld are also under pressure of grazing by domestic animals and game. In certain areas the vegetation is a much of a degraded state due to overgrazing and trampling e.t.c.

The selected route would not affect the vegetation very negatively except for those areas where access roads, construction camps and the footprints of the structures will be constructed. No Red Data plants or endemics were found in the corridor of the recommended alignment.

As far as the terrestrial mammals are concerned no permanent negative impacts were identified. These animals are nomadic and could easily move around.

See first reports for recommendations on mitigation.