

PLAN OF STUDY FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING STUDY FOR A PROPOSED OPEN CYCLE GAS TURBINE (OCGT) POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION LINES AND SUBSTATION AT A SITE WITHIN THE ATLANTIS INDUSTRIAL ZONE, WESTERN CAPE

April 2005

Bohlweki Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 11784 Vorna Valley Midrand, 1686 South Africa Telephone: 011 466 3841 Facsimile: 011 466 3849 e-mail: info@bohlweki.co.za Website: www.bohlweki.co.za



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the Project

Eskom is responsible for the provision of reliable and affordable power to South Africa. Electricity cannot be stored and must be used as it is generated. Therefore, electricity must be generated in accordance with supply-demand requirements. The demand for electricity in South Africa is currently growing at approximately 3% per annum. This growing demand is placing increasing pressure on Eskom's existing power generation capacity. South Africa is expected to require additional peaking capacity (i.e. times of peak demand for electricity) by 2007, and baseload capacity (i.e. average/normal electricity demand) by 2010, depending on the average growth rate. Eskom, through the National Electricity Regulator (NER), therefore, need to address what can be done to meet these energy needs both in the short- and long-term.

Eskom continually assesses the projected demand for electricity through the Integrated Strategic Electricity Planning (ISEP) process. The NER has a parallel process called the National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP) that also gives a long-term view of capacity expansion in South Africa. Through these processes, the most likely future electricity demand based on long-term Southern African economic scenarios is forecasted, and provides the framework for Eskom and South Africa to investigate a wide range of supply and demand-side technologies and options.

In February 2004, ISEP identified Open Cycle Gas Turbines (OCGTs) as the preferred option for the provision of peaking capacity in the short-term. Eskom has identified two areas where such a plant would be feasible, namely Mossel Bay and Atlantis. This EIA process covers the Atlantis site. The Mossel Bay site will be covered in a separate EIA.

In order to supplement the need for new peaking capacity with a short lead-time to commercial operation, Eskom Holdings Limited (Eskom) propose to construct a 600 MW Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) Power Station within the Atlantis Industria area in the Western Cape Province. This facility can utilise natural gas or liquid distillate fuel as a fuel source. In order to integrate this new power station into the existing Transmission network, Eskom propose the construction of a new substation and four 400 kV Transmission lines in parallel between the existing Koeberg-Aurora lines and the Atlantis substation.

The OCGT Power Station is required to be sited on a technically feasible site. A technical pre-feasibility/screening study undertaken by Eskom therefore, considered land availability and land-use compatibility, load variances in the area, fuel availability and costs, ease of integration with the existing Transmission

network, impacts on the Transmission network, and benefits to transmission load variances. Through this study, a feasible site for the establishment of the OCGT Power Station was identified within the Atlantis Industria area, approximately 40 km from the Cape Town city centre.

In order to integrate this new plant into the existing Transmission network, the establishment of this plant will be associated with a new substation and Transmission lines. The integration of this power station into the Transmission network must be undertaken with the least risk to the existing Transmission network in terms of network losses and fault levels. A preferred option for this integration has been identified through a pre-engineering study undertaken by Eskom, which involves the looping-in of both existing Koeberg-Aurora 400 kV Transmission lines to the Atlantis substation, a distance of approximately 2,5 km.

The project, therefore, entails the following:

- application for authorisation for the construction of the new OCGT plant within Atlantis Industria, on a site (Farm 1183 and a portion of the Farm Witzand 2) to be purchased by Eskom;
- application for authorisation for the establishment of four 400 kV Transmission lines from the existing Koeberg-Aurora 400 kV Transmission lines to the proposed new substation at Atlantis; and
- application for authorisation for the construction of a new substation at a site within Atlantis in the Western Cape Province.

1.2 Description of the Project

The project is located within Atlantis Industria in the Western Cape Province (refer to Figure 1.1), and entails the following:

- The construction of a new OCGT power station on the Farm 1183 and a portion of the Farm Witzand 2within Atlantis Industria. This power station is proposed to consist of 4 units, each with a nominal capacity of between approximately 150 MW 250 MW each. The total nominal capacity of the power plant is between 600 MW 1 000 MW. The exact output will depend on the specification of the equipment from the supplier selected for the project and the ambient operating conditions. The potential impacts associated with the maximum output of 1 000 MW will be considered within this EIA.
- The power plant units will be constructed on a site in Atlantis Industria, to be purchased by Eskom (remainder of farm 1183). A total area of approximately 20 ha is required for the OCGT power station and associated infrastructure. An area of approximately 200 m x 200 m (i.e. 4 ha) is

required for the construction of the OCGT plant itself. The footprint of each unit is approximately 25 m X 75 m.

- The storage and transportation of 5 million litres of fuel, to be kept in fuel storage tanks on site. Approximately 40 tankers carrying 40 000 litres of fuel will be delivered per week.
- The establishment of a new 400 kV substation to be located adjacent to the proposed new Open Cycle Gas Turbine plant in the Atlantis Industrial Zone (on the remainder of farm 1183). An area of approximately 20 ha is required for the substation with the high voltage yard occupying approximately 9 ha. The new substation will be known as Atlantis Substation.
- The construction of four 400 kV Transmission lines from the existing 400 kV Aurora-Koeberg 400 kV Transmission lines to the new Atlantis Substation. The proposed lines will be approximately 2,5 km in length (depending on the final alignment) and will be constructed in parallel.
- Two feasible alternate Transmission line corridors have been identified for investigation within the EIA studies (refer to Figure 1.1).
- A servitude width of 55 m is required per Transmission line. Therefore, a total servitude width of 220 m is required for the four lines in parallel.
- It is proposed that self-supporting towers be used for all towers.

2. SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION

In terms of Regulations R1182 to R1184 of the Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989), the following listed activities are applicable:

- the construction of facilities for commercial electricity generation with an output of at least 10 megawatts and infrastructure for bulk supply (Item 1(a)), and
- change in land use (Item 2).

The environmental studies will follow a two-phased approach:

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

This Plan of Study outlines the activities to be undertaken within the Environmental Scoping Study (Phase 1).

2.1 Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study

Existing information and input from specialists, the Authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be used to identify potential environmental impacts (both social and biophysical) associated with the proposed project, and to highlight areas that should be avoided in order to minimise these potential impacts.

The Environmental Scoping Study will evaluate the identified alternative alignments for the Transmission lines from the existing Aurora-Koeberg 400 kV Transmission line to the proposed new Atlantis Substation. A preferred alternative will be recommended for further investigation in the EIA phase.

A public participation process will be undertaken to identify issues and concerns of key stakeholders and I&APs. This process will inform all affected landowners and key stakeholders of the project. All issues raised will be recorded within an issues trail, and will be included in the Environmental Scoping Report. The public participation process will commence at the beginning of this phase and will continue throughout the duration of the project.

An issues-based Environmental Scoping Report will be made available to the public for review and comment in order to ensure that all potential impacts are being considered within the scope of the study. This report will provide recommendations regarding the preferred Transmission line route as well as regarding additional studies to be undertaken in an EIA, where required.

The Environmental Scoping Study will aim to adequately investigate and address all environmental issues in order to recommend studies required for further investigation in the EIA Phase, and to ensure all issues have been identified and addressed. The Environmental Scoping Report will be submitted for review and comment to the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (WC D:EA&DP). WC D:EA&DP will provide the Record of Acceptance for the Scoping Phase.

2.2 Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

All potentially significant environmental impacts (social and biophysical) associated with the construction of the proposed OCGT Plant, the substation and preferred Transmission line corridor identified in the scoping study will be further investigated through specialist studies, and their significance will be assessed. The detailed studies will only be undertaken for those environmental impacts identified as potentially significant in the scoping study. Mitigation measures will be proposed, where required.

The EIA will aim to adequately investigate and assess all environmental issues in order to provide WC D:EA&DP with sufficient information to make an informed decision regarding the proposed project.

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3. PARTICULARS OF THE APPLICANT

The project proponent/applicants are represented by:

Applicant	:	Eskom Generation
Contact Person	:	Deidre Herbst
Telephone Number	:	(011) 800 3501/2559
Facsimile Number	:	(011) 800 5140
E-mail address	:	Deidre. Herbst@eskom.co.za
Applicant	:	Eskom Transmission
Contact Person	:	Mamokete Mafumo
Telephone Number	:	(011) 800 2621
Facsimile Number	:	(011) 800 3917
E-mail address	:	Mamokete.mafumo@eskom.co.za

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

4.1. Contact Details

Consultant:	:	Bohlweki Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Contact Person	:	Mrs Jo-Anne Thomas
Telephone Number	:	(011) 466-3841
Facsimile Number	:	(011) 466-3849
E-mail address	:	joannet@bohlweki.co.za

4.2. Specialist Environmental Study Team

Details of the environmental study team and their fields of specialisation are provided in Table 4.1 below.

Name and Organisation	Specialist study to be undertaken		
Jo-Anne Thomas of Bohlweki Environmental	Project Manager for the EIA Process		
	and public participation process		
Karen Kück of Bohlweki Environmental	Provide strategic advice and input		
	into the biophysical aspects of the		
	environmental studies; review of EIA		
	process documentation		
Joggie van Staden of Bohlweki Environmental	Ecological assessment		
Greg Scott and Atham Raghunandan of CSIR: Air	Air quality assessment		
Quality Management Unit			
Phil Hobbs of the CSIR Environmentek	Assessment of surface and		
	groundwater impacts		
Chris Chimimba of the Zoology Department of the	Assessment of potential impacts on		
University of Pretoria	terrestrial fauna.		

Name and Organisation	Specialist study to be undertaken
Chris van Rooyen of the Endangered Wildlife Trust	Responsible for the avifauna impact
(EWT)	assessment.
Lourens du Plessis of MetroGIS	Assessment of potential visual
	impacts and compilation of all
	environmental GIS maps.
Adrian Jongens of Jongens, Keet and Associates	Responsible for the noise impact
	assessment.
Adrian Brislin of GMKS	Responsible for the traffic impact
	study.
Tim Hart of Archaeology Contracts Office (ACO)	Assessment of potential impacts on
	palaeontological sites and heritage
	impact assessment.
Garry Paterson of Agricultural Research Council	Identification and assessment of the
(ARC)	soils and agricultural potential of the
	study area.
Martin Jansen van Vuuren of Grant Thornton	Responsible for the assessment of
	impacts on tourism potential.
Jan Perold of Afrosearch	Responsible for the Social Impact
	Assessment (SIA).
Ingrid Snyman of Ingrid Snyman Development	Undertaking of Public Participation
Consultants	Process and assist with compilation of
	SIA.
David de Waal of Afrosearch	Facilitation of public meetings.

5. APPROACH TO UNDERTAKING THE PROJECT

In order to obtain the required Record of Acceptance for the Environmental Scoping Study from WC D:EA&DP for the project, the following activities will be undertaken.

5.1 Pre-application Consultation

Consultation with WC D:EA&DP was initiated prior to the commencement of the environmental studies for the project, in order to determine specific authority requirements regarding the proposed project. The pre-application consultation also served as a basis for agreement on:

- the process to be followed for environmental authorisation;
- the methodology and scope of the public participation process which should be undertaken (including the media to be used for the placing of advertisements); and
- potential issues arising from the project.

Ongoing consultation with all relevant authorities, including WC D:EA+DP, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), SAHRA and the local council will continue throughout the duration of the project.

5.2 Application for Authorisation

An application for authorisation in terms of Section 22 of the Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989) in respect of an activity identified in terms of Section 21 of the said Act has been submitted to WC D:EA&DP for their consideration. This application and the declaration of independence from the environmental consultants is included within Appendix B

5.3 Environmental Scoping Study

The Environmental Scoping Study will provide a description of how the environment may be affected by the development of the proposed project. Desktop and field studies, and the use of existing information will highlight and assist in the identification of potential impacts (both social and biophysical) associated with the proposed project.

Additional issues for consideration will be extracted from feedback from the public participation process, which will commence at the beginning of the Scoping phase, and will continue throughout the duration of the project. All issues identified during this phase of the study will be documented within an issues-based Environmental Scoping Report. Thus the Environmental Scoping Report will provide a record of all issues identified, and a preliminary evaluation of the significance of the issues in order to make recommendations regarding a OCGT site and further studies required to be undertaken within an EIA.

The Scoping Study will aim to address the following:

- identification of potential positive and negative environmental (biophysical and social) impacts, and an evaluation of their significance in terms of the project;
- identification of "hotspots" which should be avoided where possible due to the significance of impacts;
- description of alternatives identified and scoping to determine a preferred site for the OCGT Power station, substation and 400 kV Transmission lines;
- evaluation of the potential feasible alternatives and nomination of a preferred alternative, where applicable for further investigation in the EIA phase; and
- optimisation of positive impacts to the benefit of the local environment and community.

5.3.1 Site Inspection

Site inspections will be undertaken by all the project team members throughout the course of the study. The site inspections will be used to investigate the study area, gather information, assess the current situation and identify any potential environmental (biophysical and social) impacts as a result of the proposed project. The environmental authorities will be requested to attend.

5.3.2 Collection and Review of Relevant Information

An initial information scan and desk study will provide important information regarding the study area and the proposed project, including the project need and justification. Readily available data will be collected, and reviewed.

5.3.3 Alternatives

In terms of the EIA regulations, feasible alternatives are required to be considered within the Scoping Study. These include the "do nothing" alternative, as well as location or alignment alternatives. Feasible alternatives for the 400 kV Transmission lines which will be considered within the scoping study are indicated on Figure 1.1.

Feasible Transmission line corridors will be evaluated for their impact on the surrounding environment in terms of social, biophysical, economic and technical factors. The preferred corridor will be nominated for further investigation within the EIA.

No alternatives will be considered for the OCGT power station or substation site Application for exemption from the consideration of alternatives for these aspects of the project has been made to WC D:EA&DP.

5.3.4 Identification of Issues

Potential issues identified from desk-top studies, the examination of maps, the site inspection and consultations with the Client, the authorities and I&APs will be considered within the Scoping Report. The specialists within the project team will provide desk-top input in terms of an evaluation of the defined study area, the identification of potential hot-spots, and the nomination of a preferred alternative, where applicable. Issues to be addressed in the scoping report are likely to include the following:

• *Air Quality*: including the potential impacts of the proposed project on the air quality of the surrounding areas, and the potential impacts of local climate on air emissions from the substation and OCGT plant.

- *Hydrology and Geohydrology*: including potential impacts on sources of surface water and groundwater through all components and phases of the project.
- *Ecology*: including potential impacts on ecological systems and functioning, and fauna and flora as a result of the proposed project.
- *Agricultural potential*: including assessment of soils and agricultural potential of the study area.
- *Palaeontological, archaeological, cultural and historical sites*: including potential impacts on palaeontological, historic, archaeological or cultural sites as a result of the proposed project.
- *Visual impacts*: including visual impacts of the Transmission line, substation and OCGT plant.
- *Noise impacts*: including noise impacts associated with the proposed project.
- *Tourism potential*: including assessment of impacts on tourism potential.
- *Social impacts*: specifically relating to impacts on surrounding communities (e.g. health and safety), land use and employment opportunities.
- *Construction and operational impacts*: including general construction impacts from dust, noise, traffic, waste, soil erosion and water pollution.
- *Positive impacts*: including benefits associated with both the construction and operation of the proposed project.

Other issues identified during the Scoping phase of the environmental studies will be evaluated at desktop level. Based on the evaluation of issues, a preferred alternative, where applicable, will be nominated for further investigation within the EIA. Recommendations regarding more detailed studies required within the EIA will be made for all aspects of the project.

5.3.5 Evaluation of Issues

In order to evaluate issues in order to assign an order of priority, it is necessary to identify the characteristics of each potential issue/impact:

- the *nature*, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected;
- the *extent*, wherein it will be indicated whether the impact will be limited to the immediate areas or site of the development activity (local), limited to the immediate surroundings, sub-regional, regional, and/or national;

A synthesis of the description of the above characteristics of each identified issue will assist in the determination of the potential significance of the issues.

5.4 Public Participation Process for Scoping Study

The primary aim of the public participation process during the Scoping Study will be to identify issues and concerns of key stakeholders and affected landowners with regards to the proposed development. Issues and concerns raised during the public participation process will assist in identifying the potential environmental (biophysical and social) impacts associated with the proposed development.

• Advertising

In terms of the EIA Regulations, the commencement of the EIA process for the project will be advertised within appropriate local and regional newspapers (e.g. Weskusnuus, Cape Times and Die Burger). The primary aim of this advertisement will be to ensure that the widest group of I&APs possible are informed of the project.

• *Identification of and Consultation with Stakeholders* The first step in the public participation process will be to identify stakeholders. Specific stakeholders will include:

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
- Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (WC D:EA&DP)
- Department of Water Affairs (DWAF)
- Department of Transport
- Local Councils
- Emergency Services
- Neighbouring properties within a 1 km radius of the site
- Residents Associations or Community Organisations (depending on the location)
- Environmental NGOs (e.g. Earthlife Africa, WESSA, and GroundWork)

All I&AP information (including contact details), together with dates and details of consultations and a record of all issues raised will be recorded within an electronic database. This database will be updated on an on-going basis throughout the project process, and will act as a record of the communication/involvement process.

• Briefing Paper

A briefing paper for the project will be compiled for distribution in English and Afrikaans and a summary in Xhosa. The aim of this document will be to provide a brief outline of the proposed project, provide preliminary details regarding the EIA process, and explain how I&APs can become involved in the project. The briefing paper will be distributed to all identified stakeholders together with a comment sheet inviting I&APs to submit details of any issues and concerns. A Questions and Answers pamphlet, covering the terminology associated with Open Cycle Gas Turbines, will also be available at the request of any I&AP. These pamphlets will also be distributed at the public meetings.

• Consultation and Public Involvement

Through consultations, issues for inclusion within the Scoping Report will be identified and confirmed. One-on-one consultation meetings will be held with key stakeholders (e.g. environmental organisations, local authorities, affected landowners) and other relevant I&APs in order to identify key issues, needs and priorities for input into the proposed project. Consultation will also take place in the form of telephonic discussions and focus group meetings. The different approaches to be undertaken for the public participation process are outlined in Table 5.1.

Networking with I&APs will continue throughout the duration of the project. Minutes of meetings and comments received will be included in the Scoping Report.

• Social Issues Trail

Issues and concerns raised during the first phase of the public participation process will be compiled into an Issues Trail. This information will be incorporated as an important component of the Environmental Scoping Report.

5.5 Compilation of the Environmental Scoping Report

An Environmental Scoping Report will be compiled, and will contain the following:

- a brief project description (including a description of the proposed activity, plans illustrating the study area and detailed technical details regarding the proposed project).
- a brief description of the pre-construction environment;
- a description of the public participation process, including the identification of I&APs, a record of the procedures followed, and the perceptions and views of the I&APs regarding the activity;
- a description of environmental (biophysical and social) issues identified and potential impacts of the proposed project on these aspects (i.e. how the environment may be affected as a result of the proposed activity) and an evaluation of the identified potential impacts;
- a comparative evaluation of the alternatives, where applicable, culminating in the nomination of a preferred alternative; and

Level of Intensity	Definition	Stakeholder Meetings	Services	Products
Level 1 General I&APs	It is anticipated that there will be different levels of interest from the broader stakeholder groupings; a strong interest being generated by non- government environmental groups. Wide consultation is required.	Atlantis Team requirements: * Public participation team 	 Recording of Minutes. Interaction with Stakeholders. Managing Public Open Days Recording Issues 	 Advertisements Posters/Notices General BID Questionnaire Display Posters.
Level 2 Focus/ Interest Groups	The proposed project will hold a high level of interest for this group. A high level of consultation is thus required and various communication channels should be utilised.	lettersFocus Group Meetings	 Recording of Minutes. Interaction with Stakeholders. Recording Issues 	 Invitations General BID Questionnaire Display Posters.
Level 3 Key Stakeholders	The proposed project will hold a high level of interest for this group. A high level of consultation is thus required.		 Recording of Minutes. Interaction with Stakeholders. Recording Issues 	 Invitations General BID Questionnaire Display Posters.

 conclusions and recommendations regarding the presence of any environmental fatal flaws and recommendations (including mitigation and management measures) regarding the proposed project.

The report will include schematics, maps and photographs to aid illustration of certain aspects of the project.

5.6 Public Review of the draft Environmental Scoping Report

The draft Environmental Scoping Report will be made available at public places for public review and comment, in accordance with the EIA Regulations. A 30day period will be allowed for this review process. An advert indicating the availability of this report will be placed in local and regional newspapers. I&APs registered on the project database will be notified by the Consultants of the availability of this report and the review period.

The report will be made available at several easily accessible venues within the vicinity of the site (e.g. public libraries).

5.7 Public Meeting

A Public meeting/Open Day will be held prior to the Scoping Report being made available for review. The primary aim of this meeting will be to:

- disseminate information on the proposed project to I&APs (including the preliminary findings of the ESS),
- provide details regarding the OCGT site,
- supply more information regarding the EIA process and the specialist studies undertaken,
- answer questions regarding the project and the EIA process,
- obtain feedback from I&APs with respect to the ESS report which can then be incorporated into the report before it is finalised,
- receive input regarding the public participation process and the proposed development.

Formal minutes of the public meeting will be compiled and distributed to the attendees. These proceedings will also be included in the final Environmental Scoping Report.

In accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, the public meeting will be advertised 10 days prior to the event. This advertisement will be combined with the advert regarding the availability of the Environmental Scoping Report. Advertisements will be placed in appropriate local (e.g. Weskusnuus) and regional (Cape Times and Die Burger) newspapers.

5.8 Authority Review of the Environmental Scoping Report

The Environmental Scoping Report will be submitted to WC D:EA&DP for their review and comment. The report will be made available to both the Authorities and the public simultaneously.

All I&AP comments received during the 30-day public review period will be incorporated into a final Environmental Scoping Report. This final report will be submitted to the Authorities for their review and consideration.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

The programme for the Environmental Scoping Study is outlined in the table below:

Activity	Proposed Completion Date	
Pre-application consultation (WC D:EA&DP)	February 2005	
(already undertaken)		
Submit Application for Authorisation (already		
undertaken)	February 2005	
Obtain written confirmation of application and	March 200E	
EIA reference number (already undertaken)	March 2005	
Site inspection- project team	February 2005	
Submit Plan of Study (PoS) for Scoping to WC	March 2005	
D:EA&DP	March 2005	
Obtain written approval of PoS for Scoping from	April 2005	
WC D:EA&DP	April 2005	
Advertising of EIA process	March 2005	
Desk-top scoping	March – April 2005	
Identification and consultation with key I&APs	On-going	
Compile ESS Report	April - May 2005	
Hold public meeting/open day	May 2005	
Make Scoping report available for public	May 2005	
comment		
Public review period (advertise public review	May 2005	
period)		
Submit Final Scoping Report to WC D:EA&DP	June 2005	
Record of Acceptance	end-June 2005	
Submit Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA to WC	June 2005	
D:EA&DP		

APPENDIX A: ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FOR SITING OPEN CYCLE GAS TURBINES