



Environmental Management Consultants

NATIONAL PREMIUM AWARD 2002 & 2004
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT
SOUTH AFRICAN CHAPTER

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE:
■ BRAAMHOEK 400KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINES AND SUBSTATION INTEGRATION EIAs
■ CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADE OF ACCESS ROADS EIA
FOR THE ESKOM BRAAMHOEK PUMPED STORAGE SCHEME**

The Braamhoek Pumped Storage Scheme (BPSS) is situated 23 km northeast of Van Reenen on the farms Braamhoek, Zaaifontein and Bedford, on the boundary of Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Free State. The scheme will comprise two reservoirs, underground tunnel systems and pump turbine units for which environmental authorisation has already been obtained in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989.

As part of the BPSS, notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 4 (6) of the regulations published in Government Notice No. R.1183 under Section 26 of the Environment Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989, of Eskom's intent to carry out the following activities:

Scoping for an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed integration of 400kV transmission power lines and a substation of the BPSS (EIAs 12/12/20672 & 12/12/20673 & 12/12/20674) with the National Grid

The project is the proposed construction of the following components:

- The Braamhoek Substation: to receive electricity from the Braamhoek Power Station.
- The Braamhoek-Venus 400kV transmission power line to provide a second connection to the National Grid System by way of a direct connection to the Venus Substation.
- A 'turn in' or 'connecting line' from the existing Majuba-Venus transmission line to link the Substation to the Transmission National Grid System.

In terms of the EIA Regulations under Section 21 of the Environmental Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989, environmental authorisation is required from the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs for the proposed development. Scoping will be conducted by Margen Industrial Services, an Independent Environmental Consultant. The Scoping Process must identify issues concerning the potential environmental and social impacts and benefits of the proposed project and determine the siting of the power line and substation. *Further detail is contained in the Background Information Document, including a map of the proposed study area.*

The construction of a 400kV transmission power line is a listed activity in terms of environmental legislation, and requires environmental authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).

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Scoping for an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed construction and upgrade of access roads to the BPSS (A24/16/3/110)

This project involves the upgrading of existing and the construction of new access roads to the BPSS. Eskom is currently investigating various alternatives for access road routes that have been identified, in order to ascertain the preferred alternative.

In terms of the EIA Regulations under Section 21 of the Environmental Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989, environmental authorisation is required from the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs for the proposed development. Scoping will be conducted by the Braamhoek Consultants Joint Venture, an Independent Environmental Consultant. The Scoping Process must identify issues concerning the potential environmental and social impacts and benefits of the proposed project. *Further detail is contained in the Background Information Document, including a map of the proposed study area.*

The construction of roads is a listed activity in terms of environmental legislation, and requires environmental authorization from the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).

ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants have been appointed as the associated Public Participation Consultants for all of the above activities.

Details of how you can participate are provided in the enclosed Background Information Document and we would encourage your participation and attendance at the public open days (details below).

Kindly note that stakeholders are invited to attend one of the public open days that will be held to discuss the projects:

Date: Monday, 29 November 2004
Time: 13h00 – 18h00 (presentations at 15h00)
Venue: Estcourt, Umtshezi Municipality Public Library, Activities Room

Date: Tuesday, 30 November 2004
Time: 13h00 – 18h00 (presentations at 15h00)
Venue: Ladysmith Royal Hotel

Date: Wednesday, 1 December 2004
Time: 10h00 – 12h00
Venue: Hamilberg School, Harrismith

Date: Wednesday, 1 December 2004
Time: 14h00 – 17h00
Venue: Hlomisa School, Harrismith

Your participation would be appreciated and we would like to encourage you to take the opportunity provided to meaningfully and actively participate in the EIA processes, thus, contributing to informed decision-making. Please complete the enclosed comment sheet and return to the above address by no later than 20 January 2005. Please contact ACER (Africa) should you require any further information.

Kind regards,
Yours sincerely,



Debbie McKirdy
Public Participation Officer
(Access Roads EIA)



Bongsi Shinga
Public Participation Officer
(Integration EIA)