

MOSSEL BAY OCGT EIA: Draft Scoping Report, June 2005: ANNEXURE 7: ISSUES TRAIL

No.	Individual	Organisation	Question, Issue or Concern	Reference	Action/ Response
1	Quintus Muller	Landowner	Prefers transmission lines to be aligned along the R327.	First meeting with landowners, 24-Feb-05	Noted. The alignment of transmission lines will be presented and assessed as alternatives. The preferred alignment will emerge as a result of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.
2	Cornelius Muller	Landowner	Would like the construction phase of the transmission lines to be as short as possible.	First meeting with landowners, 24-Feb-05	Noted.
3	Hanalie de Villiers	Landowner	Is concerned about the visual & noise impact of the power plant.	First meeting with landowners, 24-Feb-05	Noted. Visual and noise impacts will be assessed in the Environmental Impact Report by the relevant specialist.
			Would the power plant be in keeping with the Mossel Bay Structure Plan?	First meeting with landowners, 24-Feb-05	According to the Mossel Bay Chief Town Planner, the site falls within the Mossel bay Urban Edge and is zoned "Industrial".
			Would the electromagnetic fields (EMFs) affect livestock?	First meeting with landowners, 24-Feb-05	There is no proven relationship between EMFs and human or animal health. Stipulated clearances will be maintained.
4	Ignatius Muller	Landowner	Aligning the transmission lines adjacent to the R327 would make access to them easier and would consolidate impacts	First meeting with landowners, 24-Feb-05	Noted.
5	Francois Naude	DEA&DP	Upgrade at Proteus substation would require authorisation.	First authority meeting 24-Feb-05	The proposed project does not include upgrades at Proteus substation.
			Consolidating impacts is preferred, i.e. the power plant should be as close to the PetroSA facility as possible	First authority meeting 24-Feb-05	Noted.
			Eskom's site screening study should be vetted by the environmental team in order to validate its results.	First authority meeting 24-Feb-05	Noted. This has been done. There are no fatal flaws in the report.

5	Francois Naude	DEA&DP	Water supply is a major issue of concern.	First authority meeting 24-Feb-05	Noted. This will be addressed as part of the EIA process.
			If the site is zoned "Agriculture", the department of Agriculture would need to be contacted.	First authority meeting 24-Feb-05	According to the Mossel Bay Chief Town Planner, the site falls within the Mossel bay Urban Edge and is zoned "Industrial".
			The Gouritz Initiative should be contacted.	First authority meeting 24-Feb-05	This has been done. Mr Ivan Donian from the Gouritz Initiative has been included as a key stakeholder for this project.
			Heritage Western Cape must be notified.	First authority meeting 24-Feb-05	Noted. This will be undertaken as a matter of course. No authorisation is necessary, however Heritage Western Cape will be included as a commenting authority.
			Documents in the public domain must be clear on the low number of jobs being created.	First authority meeting 24-Feb-05	Noted. This will be done.
			The visual assessment should take tourist activities along the R327 into account.	Second authority meeting 11-Mar-05	Noted. This will be done.
6	Tonia Schonken	Mossel Bay Environmental Partnership	Will PetroSA still be functioning in 2007?	Key stakeholder meeting 03-May-05	This falls outside the scope of this EIA. Even if PetroSA is decommissioned, the facility to receive gas/ liquid fuel would remain to service the proposed power plant.
			Is the supply of natural gas into the future assured?	Key stakeholder meeting 03-May-05	The proposed power plant can operate on gas or fuel.
			Will water supply be available if needed?	Key stakeholder meeting 03-May-05	The issue of water supply is noted as a concern. Should the plant be able to meet air emission regulations without implementing NOx abatement measures, the power plant would not require large quantities of water. This issue will be assessed in detail in the EIR.
			Specialist botanical, avifaunal, air quality, noise studies are necessary.	Key stakeholder meeting 03-May-05	Noted. This will be done.

6	Tonia Schonken	Mossel Bay Environmental Partnership	The visual impact assessment must consider light pollution.	Key stakeholder meeting 03-May-05	Noted. This will be done.
			Alien control would be required after brush clearing for the transmission lines.	Key stakeholder meeting 03-May-05	Noted.
			What impacts would the proposed power plant have on the Blinde River?	Key stakeholder meeting 03-May-05	There is unlikely to be any impacts at all as the site does not drain into the Blinde River.
7	Carel Steyn	PetroSA	Neighbouring ostrich farmers would be affected by the sirens.	Public meeting 03-May-05	Noted. Noise levels will be assessed and implications discussed in the EIR.
8	T M Hector	Mossel Bay Artisan Association	What percentage of the skilled work on this project will be done by local labour?	Public meeting 03-May-05	The issue of local labour will be addressed in the EIR.
			What scope of craft would be available for SMME?	Public meeting 03-May-05	The issue of local labour will be addressed in the EIR.
9	Cornelius Muller	Landowner	He will not sell land for the servitude at market value.	Public meeting 03-May-05	Noted. Servitude negotiations will be handled as per Eskom's standard procedure.
			The construction or transmission lines has too many problems for landowners	Public meeting 03-May-05	Noted.
			Even though he negotiated a servitude corridor with Eskom, the Contractor who constructed the lines worked outside of the agreed area. All attempts to contact Eskom's Clerk of Works failed.	Public meeting 03-May-05	Noted. This concern has been conveyed to the relevant personnel.
			He still hasn't been paid for the previous servitude through his land. The transmission lines were completed almost two years ago.	Public meeting 03-May-05	Noted. This issue falls outside the scope of this EIA and will be addressed by Eskom separately.
10	Charl de Villiers	Botanical Society of SA	Avoid habitat loss in the following ecosystems: Albertinia Sand Fynbos, Mossel Bay Shale Renosterveld/ Herbetsdale Renoster Thicket and Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos. Where it cannot be avoided, suitable equivalent land should be identified and demarcated for dedicated conservation management.	Fax 22-Apr-05	Noted. The specialist botanical assessment will take cognisance of these ecosystems and possible impacts on them.

10	Charl de Villiers	Botanical Society of SA	Planning should seek to promote functional connectivity and reduce fragmentation of habitat by appropriate restorative actions.	Fax 22-Apr-05	Noted. Strategic plans and policies already exist and fall outside the scope of this EIA process. However, impacts on habitats (including fragmentation and connectivity impacts) will be discussed in the EIR.
			Use attached Terms of Reference (ToR), in consultation with the CapeNature regional ecologist and respective biodiversity specialists, as a guideline for drafting the ToR for the biodiversity specialist study.	Fax 22-Apr-05	Noted. Cognisance has been taken off this in drafting the ToR for the specialist botanist.
			The biodiversity assessment should reflect a co-ordinated approach in assessing botanical and avifaunal impacts and should be presented as an integrated impact statement on biodiversity pattern and process in the eastern coastal management sector of the Gouritz corridor.	Fax 22-Apr-05	Proper integration of relevant information is an objective of sound EIA practice.
			Where relevant and possible, conservation gains should be emphasized	E-mail 22-Apr-05	Noted.
			Consult with the Gouritz Corridor initiative and CapeNature's regional ecologist regarding linking the proposed project to the goals and objectives of the Gouritz Corridor Initiative, the Cape Action for People and the Environment programme, and the STEP project.	E-mail 22-Apr-05	Noted. Ivan Donian has been included as a key stakeholder and represents the Gouritz Initiative and CapeNature.
			All environmental reports must explicitly describe the water requirements of the proposed OCGT. If water is a significant operating component, it must be stated how water is to be supplied and managed and how the sustainability of the supply against broader municipal needs is to be assured.	Fax 22-Apr-05	Noted. This will be done.

10	Charl de Villiers	Botanical Society of SA	All reports must demonstrate how the proponent intends to comply with the following NEMA principles (Section 2 of NEMA 107 of 1998): Avoid, minimise or remedy disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity; Avoid degradation of the environment; Avoid jeopardising ecosystem integrity; Pursue the best practicable environmental option by means of IEM; Protect the environment as the people's common heritage; Control and minimise environmental damage; and Pay specific attention to management and planning procedures pertaining to sensitive, vulnerable, highly dynamic or stressed ecosystems. This can be demonstrated by means of a statement of compliance - summary of measures, cross-referenced to NEMA principles, that will be adopted to avoid, minimise and remedy disturbance of ecosystem and loss of biodiversity.	Fax 22-Apr-05	Noted. The NEMA principles are a major informant in sound EIA practice.
11	Sam Ralston	WESSA	Concerned that not enough is being done to promote more energy efficient technologies.	E-mail 16-May-05	Noted. However, attention to such macro and strategic energy issues is outside the brief for this EIA.
			Unconvinced that the proposed OCGT power plant is in line with international and national agreements and policy that require South Africa to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shift to renewable energy resources.	E-mail 16-May-05	Noted. The air quality assessment would investigate emissions and South African legislative requirements.
			The Draft Provincial Spatial Development Framework policy states that 25% of all energy produced in the Western Cape must come from renewable sources by 2020. How will the proposed power plant contribute to achieving this goal?	E-mail 16-May-05	The proposed plant is not intended to attempt to meet this goal. The proposed power plant is the only feasible option available to Eskom to meet projected electricity demand by 2007.

11	Sam Ralston	WESSA	Is (and if so, how is) the proposed power plant connected to PetroSA's Western Cape Gas Development project? Is the feasibility of the proposed power plant dependent on the PetroSA gas pipeline being built?	E-mail 16-May-05	At present the proposed power plant is unrelated to the Western Cape Gas Development. The OCGT plant will be fuelled by kerosene from PetroSA. In future, however, should gas be made available via the gas pipeline, the power plant could be fuelled by gas. The proposed power plant is not dependent on the gas pipeline being built.
			Are the two OCGT power plants proposed in the Western Cape intended to replace the proposed PetroSA Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant?	E-mail 16-May-05	No. The proposed OCGT power plants are intended to provide peaking capacity only.
			It would be useful to have an idea of the "big picture", i.e. what power plants are being planned where? A more strategic approach is needed to determine the best way forward with regard to energy supply in the Western Cape. Thus, cumulative impacts can be better understood, and the most sustainable solution pursued.	E-mail 16-May-05	Eskom's proposals are in line with South African legislation, regulations and policies. In addition, Eskom applies a strategic electricity planning process to the issue of energy supply in South Africa. Strategic considerations will be acknowledged in the Scoping Report and Environmental Impact Report.
12	Johan du Preez	SusDev Solutions	The location map in the BID gives the erroneous impression that the proposed OCGT power plant lies 13 km from residential areas. This isn't true as Dana Bay and Kwanonqaba are located across the N2 a few kilometres away.	E-mail 17-May-05	The purpose of the map in the BID was to give readers an idea of the location of the proposed power plant in relation to surrounding areas. It shows that the town centre of Mossel Bay lies 13 km to the east. It is not intended to indicate where residential areas are located.
			Eskom's policy of exporting electricity to neighbouring countries has resulted in electricity shortages. This policy should be revised.	E-mail 17-May-05	Noted. However, Eskom's strategic policies are beyond the scope of this EIA process.
			Does Eskom's export policy imply that the "man in the street" sponsors some of the huge profits of energy intensive multinational companies?	E-mail 17-May-05	The question is based on an assumption that is outside the scope of this EIA process.
			Does Eskom's export policy imply that the government/ Eskom is not serious about the Kyoto Protocol?	E-mail 17-May-05	No. The air quality investigation will shed light on the extent and implications of emissions.

12	Johan du Preez	SusDev Solutions	Eskom's strategic investigation should include an assessment of the proposed technology on local environments/ communities.	E-mail 17-May-05	Assessing the impacts of the proposed OCGT power plant on the environment and local communities is the purpose of this EIA process. This process will also seek to minimise negative impacts and, where possible, enhance positive impacts.
			The cumulative impacts of PetroSA and the proposed plant must be assessed.	E-mail 17-May-05	Noted. The EIR will include a section on cumulative impacts.
			As PetroSA and the proposed OCGT power plant would share a site, both PetroSA and the power plant must adhere to Eskom's corporate governance and environmental management performance value systems.	E-mail 17-May-05	Eskom intends purchasing the land from PetroSA for their proposed OCGT power plant. Although they will be located next to each other, the OCGT power plant is entirely separate from the PetroSA facility. PetroSA is not accountable in any way to Eskom's environmental policies or governance.
			The current EIA process should include an audit of PetroSA's current environmental management/ public participation performance in order to draw up an environmental management plan for the integrated activities/ sites of the proposed OCGT plant and PetroSA.	E-mail 17-May-05	Eskom is responsible for the EIA as it relates to their proposed project. Eskom is not responsible for PetroSA's activities in any way or form. Therefore, assessing PetroSA's environmental management systems or public participation performance is beyond the scope of this EIA.
			The EIA should indicate what Eskom's future plans for the site are. Is the proposed project the first step to a Pebble Bed Nuclear Reactor?	E-mail 17-May-05	Noted. However, nuclear energy generation requires entirely different technology. The existence of an OCGT power plant could thus not in itself be a precursor to a pebble bed reactor.
			PetroSA's gas reserves are running out. How will it be able to provide fuel in the future without changing its core business and hence its impacts	E-mail 17-May-05	Noted. Future fuel sources for the proposed power plant have been considered as part of Eskom's strategic planning. The development of future gas sources, or liquid fuel from other existing or new sources, could fuel the proposed power plant in the long term. The proposed plant would continue to function even if PetroSA were to be decommissioned, as the facilities to pipe in fuel would remain.

			Water consumption is of concern.	E-mail 17-May-05	Noted. This concern has been captured in the Scoping Report and will be addressed in the EIR.
12	Johan du Preez	SusDev Solutions	The socio-economic assessment should consider the impact on tourism and land values in the vicinity of the plant.	E-mail 17-May-05	Noted. This will be attended to in the EIR.
			Noise from PetroSA is already an issue. What will the cumulative impacts of PetroSA and the proposed OCGT power plant be on nearby communities.	E-mail 17-May-05	Noted. This will be attended to in the EIR.
			The OCGT EIA should consider suitable environmental performance monitoring and public participation programme during operation of the proposed power plant.	E-mail 17-May-05	Noted. The operational phase of the OCGT power plant will be addressed generically in the Environmental Management Plan to be developed for the construction phase of the project.
13	Mr O T Badenhorst	Tuinroete Agri Beperk	What is the precise alignment of the transmission lines?	E-mail 18-May-05	The range of alternative alignments will be assessed during the EIA process. Thereafter, based on the outcomes of the EIA process, Eskom will select their preferred alignment.
			What are the possible impacts of the transmission lines on the environment (e.g. electromagnetic fields)	E-mail 18-May-05	These impacts have been identified as far as possible during the Scoping Phase and captured in the Scoping Report. Significant impacts will be assessed and presented during the EIR Phase.
Students from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), Geography Department, have submitted comments as an academic exercise. Their supervisor has indicated that they need not be registered as I&APs as they are unlikely to remain involved for the remainder of the EIA process. However, key issues and concerns raised by the students are presented in this issues trail.					
14	Student	UWC: Geography Dept.	There is a concern about loss of agricultural land as an impact on farming activity.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. The Department of Agriculture will be approached as a commenting authority.
			Will local labour be employed?	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			The impacts of emissions must be investigated (including health risks to local communities).	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			A safety issue regarding the pipeline was raised (viz. the possibility of explosions).	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.

			Impacts on vegetation need to be addressed.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			Impacts on avifauna need to be addressed.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
14	Student	UWC: Geography Dept.	Visual impacts of the proposed transmission lines and OCGT power plant need to be addressed.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			Given the current water shortages, the issue of water supply needs to be investigated thoroughly.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			Noise impacts need to be addressed.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			Impacts of the pipeline need to be addressed.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			Construction phase activities should take cognisance of all water courses.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			Will people be evicted to accommodate the proposed power plant?	E-mail 18-May-05	There is no indication at this time that people will be displaced as a result of the proposed project.
			Concern was expressed about groundwater contamination should the fuel supply pipeline leak.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. To be addressed in the EIR.
			Concern was expressed about the economic viability of the proposed project. Will the electricity be affordable to the public? Is it economically viable to construct the power plant for short term purposes?	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. However, affordability of electricity is outside the brief for this EIA and the proposed project is not for short-term purposes.
			Long term options to meet electricity demand should be investigated.	E-mail 18-May-05	Noted. The strategic level of electricity planning is acknowledged in the documentation underpinning this EIA.
			Will the OCGT power plant eventually start to operate 24 hours a day?	E-mail 18-May-05	No. The plant in question is essentially for peaking purposes.