# ANNEXURE L
## Notification of project delay

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14 July 2006

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Dear Sir/ Madam

**PROPOSED COAL-FIRED POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WITBANK AREA, MPUMALANGA:**

**NOTIFICATION OF AN AMENDMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Our correspondence of 21 April 2006 (Letter to landowners & key organisations), 2 May 2006 (Registration of I&APs) and 8 June 2006 (Notification of changes in project information), regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for a proposed coal-fired power station in the Witbank area, has reference. A Background Information Document was also sent to you previously, which described the initial site selection process undertaken by Eskom prior to the commissioning of the EIA. As indicated at the time, this site selection process was intended to serve as the starting point for the EIA, once it had been subjected to independent review.

Subsequent to review it was jointly agreed between Eskom and Ninham Shand that it would be of value to evaluate additional sites and expand the criteria used for the initial evaluation. The extended site selection process may lead to the identification of new sites or may confirm the sites already indicated. It is believed that this process will enhance the EIA and will ensure that a robust and thorough site selection process forms the basis of the EIA. This will result in some delays in the EIA process.

In our previous correspondence, we indicated that public meetings would be held in early July 2006 and clearly these need to be postponed until the revision of the site selection process is completed. The process forward will therefore be as follows:

- Ninham Shand and Eskom will re-visit the site selection process;
- The new sites will be indicated to the I&APs and the affected landowners will be contacted;
- An opportunity to comment on the new sites and raise any new issues will be provided;
- The Scoping process will be re-initiated and a Draft Scoping Report produced; and
- Public meetings will be held to present the Draft Scoping Report.

After the tasks described above have been completed, the EIA process will follow the subsequent steps previously described for the actual assessment phase of the process. We apologise for any inconvenience which may have been caused by the necessary changes in the site selection process.

We will communicate with you again once the site selection process has been completed and look forward to your continued involvement in the project. Please contact the undersigned should you have any queries or concerns regarding the changes outlined in this letter or if you have any other comments you wish to make.

Yours sincerely
NINHAM SHAND

**LINDIWE GAIKA**
Public Participation Co-ordinator

**KAREN SHIPPEY** (Pri.Sci.Nat, Cert. Env. Ass. Practitioner)
Public Participation Task Leader

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Geagte Heer / Dame

**VOORGESTELDE STEENKOOL-AANGEDREWE KRAGSENTRALE EN GEPAARDGAANDE INFRASTRUKTUUR IN DIE OMGEWING VAN WITBANK, MPUMALANGA:**

**KENNISGEWING VAN 'N WYSIGING IN DIE OMGEWINGS-INVLOEDBEPALINGSPROSES**

Ons briefwisseling gedateer 21 April 2006 (brief aan sleutelrolspelers), 2 Mei 2006 (registrasie van B&GP) en 8 Junie 2006 (kennisgewing van veranderings aan projekinligting) i.v.m. die Omgewings-invloedbepalingsproses (OIB-proses) vir die voorgestelde steenkool-aangedrewe kragsentrale in die omgewing van Witbank, het betrekking. U het ook reeds 'n Agtergrond Inligtingsdokument ontvang waarin die proses beskryf is wat oorspronklik deur Eskom gevolg is om geskikte terreine te identifiseer alvorens daar met die OIB begin is. Soos in die dokument uiteengesit, was dit die doel om die identifisering van hierdie terreine, na afloop van 'n onafhanklike beoordelingsproses, as die vertrekpunt vir die OIB-proses te gebruik.

Na afloop van bogenoemde beoordelingsproses het Eskom en Ninham Shand besluit dat bykomende terreine geïdentifiseer moet word, asook dat die kriteria vir die identifisering van sodanige terreine uitgebrei moet word. Laasgenoemde proses mag tot gevolg hê dat nuwe terreine geïdentifiseer word, of dat die bestaande terreine steeds as geskik beskou word. Daar is gevoel dat hierdie proses die OIB-proses tot voordeel sal strek aangesien 'n meer intensiewe ondersoek na 'n geskikte terrein 'n beter basis vir die OIB-proses sal vorm. Dit beteken egter dat daar vertragings in die OIB-proses sal wees.

In ons vorige briefwisseling is daar genoem dat daar vroeg in Julie 2006 'n openbare vergadering gehou sal word. Dit is nou duidelik dat hierdie vergadering uitgestel sal moet word totdat die hersiening van moontlike terreine voltooi is. Die proses sal dus in die toekoms soos volg verloop:

- Ninham Shand en Eskom sal verdere ondersoek na die keuse van 'n geskikte terrein instel;
- Alle B&GPe, sowel as alle betrokke grondeienaars, sal inligting oor die moontlike terreine ontvang;
- Daar sal geleentheid wees om kommentaar op hierdie voorgestelde terreine te lewer, asook enige ander kwessies te opper;
- Die Omvangbepalingsproses sal van voor af begin en 'n Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag sal saamgestel word; en
- Openbare vergaderings sal gehou word om die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag te bespreek.

Na voltooiing van die take soos hierbo uiteengesit, sal die OIB-proses die opeenvolgende stappe volg wat voorheen vir die evalueringsfase van die proses beskryf is. Ons vra om verskoning vir enige ongerief wat veroorsaak is deur hierdie verandering in die proses om 'n geskikte terrein te identifiseer.

Ons sal weer met u verbinding tree sodra die terrein-identifiseringsproses afgehandel is en sien uit na u voortgesette betrokkenheid by die projek. Tree asb met die onderstaande in verbinding indien u enige vrae of probleme het met die veranderings soos in hierdie brief uiteengesit, of indien u verdere kommentaar wil lewer.

Die uwe
NINHAM SHAND

**LINDIWE GAIKA**
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