

Environmental Impact Assessment

Kusile Railway Project: Proposed construction of a railway line (and associated infrastructure) from the existing Pretoria-Witbank railway (parallel to the N4) to the Kusile Power Station

DEA Ref No 12/12/20/1488

DRAFT Issues and Response Report

Version 2

This report (version 2) captures the issues raised by stakeholders during the Scoping Phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process of the proposed construction of a railway line and associated infrastructure to connect Kusile Power Station to the national railway grid, west of Witbank north of the N4.

As part of the announcement, a Background Information Document (BID), with a comment and registration sheet was posted and distributed by hand. An advertisement was placed in various newspapers as well as site notices put up in the area of the proposed development during the week of 8 to 12 June 2009. Several stakeholders responded to the invitation to raise their concerns and the table below represents those comments.

An open house and public meeting was held on 6 August 2009 to present the findings of the Scoping Phase. Issues raised at this meeting have also been captured in this report.

This report will be updated as the EIA unfolds.

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	COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)
A. BIOPHYSICAL STUDIES				
1.	There are sensitive endemic plants and sand stone formations next to the Wilge River that must be conserved.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 9 June 2009 in response to the BID	An Ecological and Soil/Geomorphological Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the EIA phase of the project to assess these. Additionally the routes will minimise the crossing of the Wilge River as far as possible, pending the outcomes from the mentioned studies.
2.	How safe will road crossings be over the railway line is constructed? Will bridges be built to ensure the safety of the local population?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 9 June 2009 in response to the BID	The EIA phase will recommend what type of structures should be constructed when the proposed rail crosses existing roads or rivers. Safety will be taken into consideration in this assessment.
3.	Topigs is concerned about the state of the stream that flows through the Topigs property and stated that Eskom should ensure environmental damage does not occur.	Dr Danie Visser and colleagues, Topigs	Meeting held between Eskom and Topigs during March 2009 regarding Eskom projects.	Eskom undertakes monthly water quality monitoring and will share the information and reports. An Environmental Management Committee has been established, this committee monitors compliance to the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation. Interested and affected parties are represented on the committee including local authorities and landowner. Topigs was also encouraged to participate in the Environmental Monitoring Committee.
4.	Concern was raised by Topigs with regards to access and escape routes from their property if a railway line is constructed, as a railway line obstructs access.	Dr Danie Visser and colleagues, Topigs	Meeting held between Eskom and Topigs during March 2009 regarding Eskom projects.	This will be assessed in the EIA phase as part of the traffic and access study
5.	Has a survey been conducted on ground water	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Written response	Groundwater and surface water specialist

	resources?		to the BID on 9 June 2009	studies were undertaken for the Kusile power station EIA. Continuous surface and ground water monitoring is currently being undertaken in the area on a monthly basis. A further study will be undertaken on the ground water in the EIA phase of the proposed project.
6.	What will the future impact of this project be on people and animals?	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Written response to the BID on 9 June 2009	The impact at this stage has not yet been assessed. The EIA phase of the project will assess all cumulative biophysical and social impacts, rank them, recommend mitigation for the impacts and identify any fatally flawed areas.
7.	We are concerned about the wetlands. It must be protected.	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Written response to the BID on 9 June 2009	A Wetland Delineation Study will be undertaken during the EIA phase of the project. The Kusile EIA studies undertook similar wetland delineation studies, which are being used for management at construction
8.	We are concerned about noise, pollution, bio-sensitivity and security.	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs Mr Jorné Buys, Bossemanskraal 8	Written response to the BID on 9 June 2009	A noise and ecological specialist studies will be undertaken in the EIA phase of the project. The EMP will provide mitigation measures to minimise pollution and contamination. Security is an area of concern, and is part of the day to day management on site. Eskom will continue to engage with landowners on security issues.
9	Alternative 2 will disturb the wetlands	Mr Jorné Buys, Bossemanskraal 8	Written response to the BID in July 2009	A Wetland Delineation study will be undertaken in the EIA phase of the project. Alternative 2 does cross the most streams out of the 3 alternatives.
10.	The gradient of the proposed route over the farm of Dr Meulenbeld is very steep. A lot of earthmoving will have to be done if this route is chosen.	Mr Johan Coertze, Onverwacht 30.	One-on-one visit 30 July 2009	Noted. This will be investigated during the Impact Assessment Phase.
11.	We will need a new road, because the proposed railway route will cut off our access to the tar	Mr Hans Coertze, Onverwacht 30.	One-on-one visit 30 July 2009	Noted. This will be investigated during the Impact Assessment Phase.

	road.			
12.	Our district gets very wet when it rains. During the last big rain a portion of the railway line almost washed away.	Mr Hans and Johan Coertze, Onverwacht 30.	One-on-one visit 30 July 2009	Noted. This will be investigated during the Impact Assessment Phase.
13.	The Wilge River is already heavily polluted and care should be taken not to affect the river any further.	Mr Johan Coertze, Onverwacht 30.	One-on-one visit 30 July 2009	Noted. This will be investigated during the Impact Assessment Phase.
14.	What material will the fence on either side of the railway line be made of, because wire fences are frequently cut.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	The most appropriate fencing will be advised during the EIA phase.
15	Is it safe and practical to have the railway line cross the tar road next to the dirt road entrance to our farms?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	For safety purposes, the railway line will either go over or underneath the tar road.
16	The geology includes Wilgerivier sandstone (Waterberg Group) and defines a richer biodiversity than south of this outcrop.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	Noted. This will be investigated during the Impact Assessment Phase.
17	The power lines of the railway line will have an impact on the birds that breed on the farm. The dam on the farm has an island that serves as a breeding facility for a wide variety of indigenous birds.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	An avi-faunal impact assessment will be undertaken in the EIA phase of the project. The specialist will recommend the most practicable mitigation. The EMP will provide mitigation measures to minimise pollution and contamination.
18	Figure 21 is incorrect – Unimproved grassland does not correctly describe the vegetation on my farm. The area has been cleared from invader species and seeded with Smutsvinger grass.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	A terrestrial ecology study will be undertaken in the Impact Assessment phase of the EIA and the information on the maps will be adjusted.
19	Figures 22 and 23 – Biodiversity of Wilgerivier sandstone communities is diverse and high in numbers. Rand Highveld Grassland has an endangered status (p400 – Munica & Rutherford). Routing of the railway in this section might have to be reconsidered. These maps do not reflect this clearly.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	A terrestrial ecology study will be undertaken in the Impact Assessment phase of the EIA and the information on the maps will be adjusted. More detailed investigations will be undertaken to determine any sensitivities for the alternatives.
20	The impact of any blasting in the sandstone areas must be investigated.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht	Written comment on 3 August 2009	Noted. This will be investigated during the Impact Assessment Phase.

		532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	in response to the DSR	
21	What will the volumes be of the carbon dioxide emissions, the limestone and the gypsum at the Kusile Power Station?	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	The amount of CO ₂ produced would be 30 Mt/annum, Limestone: 0.6 to 0.7 Mt/annum (600 to 700 kt/annum), and Gypsum: 1 - 1.2 Mt/annum
22	Will dynamite be used to clear a route for the railway line?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Chemicals will be used to soften rock and blasting will only occur as a last resort. Eskom will ensure that these chemicals do not cause pollution to the environment.
23	What will be the size of the servitude for the railway line?	Mr Konrad Kruger, Zitholele Consulting	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	35 metres on flat surfaces (17,5 m on either side of the line) and a little wider where dips and valleys have to be filled up with soil.
24	How many substations will be built?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Two will be needed.
25	Can the gradient only be one percent, because my farm has many steep areas?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	One percent is the steepest the railway line can go and it is therefore important to fill up the valleys and dig through the hills to ensure that the line is running as level as possible.
26	Where will the railway line cross the N4 highway?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	The exact spot will be finalised as the Impact Assessment Phase is being executed, and will advise the process.
27	Eskom should study the expansion plans of the New Largo mine.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom is aware of the New Largo plans and that the R545 road will be changed, due to the coal reserves beneath the current road. New Largo's plans will, however, not have an influence on the proposed railway line, because it all takes place south of the power station, while the proposed railway line runs northwest of the power station.
28	What type of rock filling will be used for the foundation of the railway line, because different rock types will impact differently on groundwater and wetlands?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Engineers will be appointed to identify the correct type of filling to prevent the railway line from hindering the natural flow and the quality of the water.

29	Will the sorbent be transported as powder or rock?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	The sorbent will be transported as rock of a defined particle size (between 1mm and 18 mm in size).
30	Why did Eskom not choose the most direct route between Kusile and the existing railway line.	Mr Peter Glintzer, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 4	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	The gradient would have been too steep, due to the very steep hills in that area. Digging a tunnel would have created more environmental problems and would be too expensive. Another option was a corridor north of the Wilge River, but there are too many smallholdings in that area. An additional corridor that fell away was to the northeast but the war memorial in Balmoral was in the way of that corridor.
31	A holistic approach towards preventing the pollution of our resources must be taken. I am worried that the Klipfonteinspruit will be polluted by leaching from the dams at the power station.	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	The power station will not be able to release water into the surrounding rivers, because culverts are being built around the power station to catch any spills. The power station will, therefore, be a closed system and no water will be able to escape – this is in line with Eskom's Zero Liquid Effluent Discharge (ZLED) philosophy. Even rain falling on the ash dump will be collected and recycled. The Kusile power station will receive water from the Kendal pipeline and will also recycle water for re-use.
32	The Wilge River is still very clean and Eskom must do their utmost to keep it that way.	Mr Peter Glintzer, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 4	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Noted, see comment above
33	What specific water studies are being done to monitor the rivers around the power station?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	The specialist studies during the Impact Assessment Phase will determine the type and extent of monitoring required for the rivers surrounding the power station. Biomonitoring and surface water sampling are being undertaken around the Kusile power station from Kendal in the south to the west of Klipfonteinspruit. Additional

				monitoring points near the power station are being investigated. Reports of the water quality monitoring are available at site on request. Also, water quality performance reporting is done at the EMC meetings.
34	How comprehensive will the monitoring of water resources be, because it could take months for potential water pollution to reach the four Topigs boreholes.	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Six water pollution monitoring stations are being used inside the grounds of the power station and outside. Monitoring is being done in a 2.5 km radius by independent consultants.
35	I am worried about the close proximity of Alternatives 1 and 2 to our abattoir and home. The health inspector said extensive changes must be made to an abattoir that is operated near a railway line. A survey team visited the farm and told me that the preferred corridor will go through two of our kraals, a store, three houses and will be 50 metres from our house.	Mr Nadia van Vuuren, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 1	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom will compensate landowners for all structures that have to be moved or changed due to an Eskom development.
36	What will be transported?	Mr Bruce Wait, Landowner, Onverwacht Portions 23 and 26	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Limestone will be transported and it will be used in a process of minimising SO ₂ emissions from the power station.
37	My farm and the access road will be affected by the railway line.	Mr Thami Sondiyazi, Landowner, Onverwacht Portions 18 and 22	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Landowners will not be cut off from their properties, Eskom will engage with landowners to agree on the best access approaches.
38	I would prefer the corridor not to go through my chicken coups, but rather through the area of my property where there are no buildings.	Mr Thami Sondiyazi, Landowner, Onverwacht Portions 18 and 22	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Noted
39	Topigs is very concerned about water pollution – both to the rivers and the groundwater and have drilled boreholes on its property to monitor the water. Can Eskom make a financial contribution to this borehole monitoring programme? A decline in water quality will have an impact on its business.	Dr Pieter Vervoort, Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	Eskom is monitoring water resources around Kusile Power Station to determine what impact the construction has on the resource, and manage any risks to prevent water pollution.
40	The water in the Klipfonteinspruit has increased recently. Does Eskom discharge into the spruit?	Dr Pieter Vervoort, Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in	Eskom does not discharge anything into the spruit, but surface water from their construction operations may have a slight

			Pretoria.	impact. However Eskom is now improving the stormwater management. Eskom also suggested that Topigs contact the Department of Water Affairs for an investigation on other water users who could be discharging into the spruit.
B. PROCESS ISSUES				
1	In case of oil and fuel spillages, there should be an emergency plan.	Ms A Cele, Department of Health	Written response to the BID in July 2009	This will be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan
2	Waste must be managed properly.	Ms A Cele, Department of Health	Written response to the BID in July 2009	This will be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan
3	Ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations.	Ms A Cele, Department of Health	Written response to the BID in July 2009	This will be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan
4.	In case of a disaster, a detailed plan should be in place.	Ms A Cele, Department of Health	Written response to the BID in July 2009	This will be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan
5	Eskom contractors are performing pegging activities on our properties without our knowledge ostensibly for the proposed railway line.	Dr Danie Visser and colleagues, Topigs.	Meeting held between Eskom and Topigs during March 2009 regarding Eskom projects.	An apology was made on behalf of Eskom and informed Topigs that there is a strict protocol that Eskom follows before entering land and that it was obviously ignored. This behaviour is unacceptable and strong representation will be made to the Eskom department concerned.
6	People were working in the area and on our properties without informing us beforehand.	Ms Hester Glinzer Farm Onverwacht Portion 4	Comments during site visit on 9 June 2009	Noted and conveyed to Eskom.
7	All emissions should be in compliance of the National Environmental Air Quality Act.	Ms A Cele, Department of Health	Written response to the BID in July 2009	An Air Quality Assessment will be undertaken in the EIA phase of the project.
8	The ridge on my farm where the proposed railway line will go has a rich biodiversity. The	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht	Written comment on 3 August 2009	The terrestrial ecologist has already been out on site in the winter months and will be

	time span allocated for the specialist studies (September/October 2009) is too short to assess the biodiversity of the area. Many grass species are only visible during winter (flowering) and then there are species only visible in summer.	532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	in response to the DSR	going to site again in the summer months (September/October 2009) to cover all the flowering seasons. Additionally all available information on the area will be included in the study.
9	The bridge over the N4 must be in accordance with SANRAL's standards, procedures and requirements. An agreement with SANRAL will have to be completed prior to commencement of the engineering design and construction activities. Mr Edwin Kruger at SANRAL headquarters is the bridge engineer and should be contacted with everything you require.	Mr Mike Yorke-Hart, SANRAL	Written comment on 14 August 2009 in response to the DSR	Noted.
10	Will interested and affected parties receive a copy of the proceedings to see if their comments have been recorded?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	A report of the meeting will be sent to all who attended and that all comments are captured in the Issues and Response Report that is part of the EIA documentation.
11	Topigs will give no access to their property if arrangements are not made well in advance.	Representative of Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	Noted
C. SOCIAL ISSUES				
1	What will the impact be on security at the surrounding farms during the construction phase with an influx of many construction workers? How safe will our cattle be?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 9 June 2009 in response to the BID	Measures will be outlined in the Environmental Management Plan (part of the EIA phase of the project) and all workers will have to adhere to these measures or requirements. Eskom will further engage a security management plan to ensure an integrated security.
2	The service road next to the railway line will be used for theft.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	Noted. The security plan will address this issue.
3	Wire should not be used for the fence on either side of the railway line, because the wire will be	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht	Public meeting to present the DSR	Noted.

	stolen and our cattle will either be run over by a train or be stolen. Rather build a cement palisade that will be much more efficient and will also last much longer.	532 JR, Portions 58 and 59, Mr Pieter van Vuuren, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 1 and other stakeholders.	on 6 August 2009	
4	What times will the train enter and exit the power station, because it will make quite a noise if it is going to be at night.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59, Mr Pieter van Vuuren, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 1 and other stakeholders.	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	This can only be answered after Eskom has had discussions with Transnet to see where the trains can fit into the schedule.
5	All the people living around the power station are invited to contact Eskom with any problem regarding the new power station and associated infrastructure. I would also like to thank all the people attending the meeting for taking part in the process. Anybody with an Eskom-related problem can also contact the Kusile Environmental Management Committee (EMC) to inform Eskom of the problem.	Mr Abram Masango, Eskom (Executive Project Manager for Kusile)	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Noted.
6	The EMC meets every second month and all interested and affected parties as well as local authorities are welcome to attend. All problems relating to the power station may be discussed. Attendants to the EMC will also be taken for a site visit to see how the construction of the power station is progressing. The meetings normally last about two hours and people are informed of a meeting about six weeks in advance.	Mr Jonathan Szöke, Environmental Control Officer for Kusile power station	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Noted.
7	We are all concerned about the possibility of theft during the construction of the railway line and during operation. Thieves will use the railway line as an access point to enter the area and steal their animals.	Mr Manie Venter, Landowner, Onverwacht, Mr Van Vuuren and other landowners	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom security will be controlling access to the railway line and service road.
8	A strong fence, preferably a cement palisade, on either side of the railway line is vital.	Mr Pieter van Vuuren, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 1 and	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Farming activities will be protected during construction and operation of the railway line.

		other stakeholders		
9	Crime is a reality and criminals will use the railway line and service road to gain entry to the farms. There will also be crime during construction and not only animals will be stolen but cables as well.	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom will engage the Police to become more involved in the area of the proposed railway line. He asked the farmers to become part of this crime campaign and join forces with Eskom and the Police. It was requested to the farmers to give any ideas on how to tackle crime to Eskom and the Police.
10	Landowners are also worried about security, both personally and for the animals. I am alone on the farms for most of the time and will feel unsafe if there is an influx of workers into the area.	Mr Nadia van Vuuren, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 1	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Noted. This will also be addressed in the integrated security management plan.
11	I would have liked the railway line to be more towards Balmoral, but does not have any argument with the current process. I am also worried about the potential increase in crime with construction workers entering the area.	Mr Bruce Wait, Landowner, Onverwacht Portions 23 and 26	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Noted. This will also be addressed in the integrated security management plan.
12	Topigs bought the farm for its isolation and for the safety associated with that. These considerations are now seriously being compromised by Eskom's proposed developments.	Dr Pieter Vervoort, Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	Noted. Eskom will endeavour to minimise and avoid any activities that could compromise the functioning of this operation. Eskom foresees this to be a joint participative venture.
13	Topigs is very concerned about generally poor safety that is associated with railway lines and their maintenance roads, especially due to the access that it provides.	Representative of Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	Noted. The security management plan will address this.
14	Topigs is very concerned about security and would like to work closely with Eskom to prevent any crime in the area.	Representative of Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	Eskom will arrange for Topigs management to meet with Eskom's protective services. It was agreed by all that safety and security is a priority for neighbouring farms to the power stations and that neighbours, Eskom and the police should be informed of incidences and work together to prevent crime.

D. ECONOMIC ISSUES				
1	This project will have a negative financial influence on my property.	Mr Jorné Buys, Bossemanskraal 8	Written response to the BID in July 2009	Noted. The EIA phase will include a Social Impact Assessment (SIA), which will investigate and report on these aspects.
2	The influx of people and equipment will have a negative influence on the neighbouring farms.	Mr Jorné Buys, Bossemanskraal 8	Written response to the BID in July 2009	Noted. The SIA proposed in the EIA phase will address this.
3	There will be a socio economic impact on the community due to the dividing of farms by the railway line.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 9 June 2009 in response to the BID	A Social Impact Assessment is proposed to be undertaken in the EIA phase of the project.
4	I am worried about my shed/barn that is next to the railway line. Please see that the proposed railway line does not affect my shed/barn.	Mr Hans Coertze, Onverwacht 30.	One-on-one visit 30 July 2009	Noted. This will be investigated during the Impact Assessment Phase.
5	The proposed railway line will impact on the cattle and game crazing patterns, decrease the carrying capacity of my farm, reduce the profitability and land value of my farm of 200 ha.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	Noted. The agricultural and SIA studies will address these issues.
6	If the construction of the railway line is not managed correctly the cattle can be exposed to poisonous plants. Alien vegetation will also grow in the disturbed areas in the long term if not monitored.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	Noted. The agricultural, SIA and ecological specialist studies will address these aspects.
7	The railway line will cut my farm in half and marginalise the western portion of my farm.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	Noted. The EIA specialist studies will investigate this. These include agricultural and SIA.
8	The railway line will impact on the part of my farm with the highest value due to the winter grazing grass (<i>Digitaria eriantha</i> - <i>Smutsvinger</i>) growing there.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Written comment on 3 August 2009 in response to the DSR	Noted. The agricultural and land specialist study will investigate this. Also, this information should be provided to the land evaluator.
9	Will Eskom not be flooding the market with gypsum resulting in many gypsum mines having to close down?	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom has undertaken a study to determine the market for gypsum, and the study has revealed that such a market exists. The availability of gypsum will compliment the current industry rather than

				negatively impact on it.
10	When will Eskom start negotiating with the affected landowners?	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	The EIA must first be finalised, because the preferred alternative is needed to see which landowners will be affected. In order to speed up this process, Eskom will start negotiating with landowners and take out options on a railway servitude before the EIA has been finalised.
11	Eskom must come up with some form of compensation to counter the devaluation of property, because a railway line will decrease the value of a farm.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	It was indicated that this should be mentioned to the independent evaluator when he/she visits to evaluate the properties.
12	I do not want to have my property cut up into small unusable portions that cannot be used for farming. I would like the railway line to run on the borders of the farms. I prefer Alternative 3, because it will have the smallest impact on my property.	Mr Manie Venter, Landowner, Onverwacht	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Noted
13	All three alternatives run through the middle of my farm of 300 hectares and this will make the farm uneconomical to farm. Eskom should rather buy the whole farm, because it will not be worth my while to farm on a property that is split in two.	Mr Johan Kotzé , Landowner, Kortfontein Portion Farm 2/ Farm Bossemanskraal Portion 1	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom will only buy a whole farm as the very last option if it shows that a small property will no longer be economically viable after the impact of an Eskom project. Options such as moving the route of the railway line to the side of a farm will first be investigated.
14	I was planning on building a series of small dams on my property for trout fishing as well as chalets. I do not want to spend any more money on the farm, because anglers would not like to catch trout next to a railway line.	Mr Johan Kotzé , Landowner, Kortfontein Portion Farm 2/ Farm Bossemanskraal Portion 1	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Noted. This will be investigated in the agricultural study, and independent land evaluation.
15	What will the form of compensation be that Eskom offers for a servitude on a farm.	Mr Johan Kotzé , Landowner, Kortfontein Portion Farm 2/ Farm Bossemanskraal Portion 1	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom negotiates an option to buy a servitude on the strip of land needed for the railway line. Only options are currently taken out, because the corridor has not been finalised. This payment will be determined by the current property prices in the district. An ex gratia payment to

				compensate for valid financial losses and infrastructure changes will also be made to the landowner. Eskom will pay a landowner for all disturbances caused by its projects.
16	When will Eskom commence with negotiations.	Mr Johan Kotzé , Landowner, Kortfontein Portion Farm 2/ Farm Bossemanskraal Portion 1	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom can only start with servitude negotiations once the EIA has been finalised, because the exact corridor is needed to see what landowners will be directly affected.
17	What will happen if a landowner does not want to sell to Eskom? Will Eskom expropriate a property?	Mr Johan Kotzé , Landowner, Kortfontein Portion Farm 2/ Farm Bossemanskraal Portion 1	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom will always negotiate to the very last end and that expropriation is not an option that Eskom likes to use.
18	Should corridor alternative 1 or 3 be recommended for the railway line, it would result in the loss of about 70 hectares of the Topigs farm that will be cut off from the rest of their farm land.	Representative of Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	Eskom would ensure that farmers still have access to the rest of their land. Eskom will engage with the affected farmers to address these concerns.
19	Topigs said they would like to negotiate with Eskom on investigating the possibility that Eskom buys the portion that may be cut off so that the railway servitude may become a border of their land.	Representative of Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	Noted. Eskom will engage with Topigs through the properties land purchasing processes.
E. OTHER				
1	The railway line over the bridge at the Wilge River is in a bad state and some of the sleepers are not bolted to the railway line.	Mr Johan Coertze, Onverwacht 30.	One-on-one visit 30 July 2009	Noted. Have passed this observation on to Transnet.
2	Why was it decided to build Kusile and not expand Kendal power station? The community was not informed about Kusile and we were never part of that public participation process.	Mr Peter Glinzter, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 4	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Kendal power station could not be extended due to technical challenges including space limitations, operational challenges, to name a few. The scoping and EIA reports provide a list of media publications at which adverts for the project and invites to I&APs were published. Furthermore, all registered I&APs were

				requested to invite other community members. Detailed information on the public participation process can be viewed on: www.eskom.co.za/eia/Kusile power station (on public participation chapters)
3	Were any air quality studies done during the EIA for Kusile power station.	Dr Paul Meulenbeld, Landowner, Onverwacht 532 JR, Portions 58 and 59	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Airshed Planning Professionals have done various air quality models for the power station. The air quality reports, and all other specialist reports and submission reports, can be viewed on: www.eskom.co.za/eia/Kusile power station
4	Models can be done, but one can only see what the air quality will be once the power station has been operational for two or three years.	Dr Danie Visser, Topigs	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Air quality monitoring has take place, as research, for over twenty years. A monitoring station has been operating at Phola for over a year.
5	How many people will be employed by the Kusile power station and what will Eskom do to prevent an informal settlement from developing at the power station.	Mr Johan Kotzé , Landowner, Kortfontein Portion Farm 2/ Farm Bossemanskraal Portion 1	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Approximately 300 people will be working at the power station once it is operational. The informal settlements can be managed with co-operation from all interested and affected parties.
6	Will the farms in the neighbourhood be bought out for the coal deposits underneath?	Mr Peter Glintzer, Landowner, Farm Onverwacht Portion 4	Public meeting to present the DSR on 6 August 2009	Eskom will not buy farms for the purposes of mining, as coal will be supplied from a new mine to be established.
7	<p>Topigs stated that they were not consulted in the EIA for the Kusile Power Station and had therefore not been provided the opportunity to comment on the access road. The access road to the power station was part of the Environmental Authorisation granted for the construction of the power station. Clarity is required on the proposed status of the R545.</p> <p>Topigs SA requires a 5 km pig-free zone around their buildings, thus a public road where pigs can be transported poses a serious risk to their total disease free operation.</p>	Representative of Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	<p>The ECA EIA Regulations required for the interested and affected parties as well as neighbours to be notified of the project and allowed to participate, but did not stipulate the distance from the proposed development.</p> <p>In this regard, the project team undertook the following activities:</p> <p>All directly affected landowners on Site X and Site Y were contacted directly, and their details obtained. Also, a conveyancer was used due to the difficulty to obtain relevant information.</p>

				<p>Public notices were placed in a range of newspapers (April/May 2006) to notify the broader public (including local, regional and national), including neighbours of the sites. The advertising was very broad, and covered a range of locations, to enable all interested and affected parties, including neighbours to be notified. Once the DSR was released, notices were placed in a range of publications (in September 2006), notifying the public of the availability of the report and the public meetings.</p> <p>Open houses and public meetings were held in a range of locations (Witbank, Phola and Kendal), and were accessible to anyone who wished to attend.</p> <p>Once the draft EIA Report was released for public comment, notices were placed in numerous publications again (in November 2006). Open houses and public meetings were once again held in Witbank, Phola and Kendal, to present the findings of the EIA report, and were accessible to the broad public. A comprehensive public notification process was undertaken for the Kendal North/Kusile EIA project.</p>
8	Topigs provided that they would like to know who has leased Eskom's land, as they would like to ensure that they are no pigs grown within a 5km radius from their operation.	Representative of Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	Noted. The list of lessees and their location was provided.
9	Can Eskom provide details on the final fencing arrangement of the power station. Will the station and its infrastructure be fenced off and will Eskom's land be fenced off.	Dr Pieter Vervoort, Topigs	Meeting with Topigs on 19 August 2009 in Pretoria.	The power station and its infrastructure within the footprint of the station will be fenced off. Eskom's extra land will be leased out and the lessee's will be responsible for the fencing of their land.