

5 August 2015

Our Ref: J31314

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Dear Mr. Baxter

**RE: ESKOM EIA CONCERNS FOR THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (DEA Ref. No: 12/12/20/944)**

**General Comment**

**COMMENTS ON THE REVISED DRAFT EIR, DEA REFERENCE NO. 12/12/20/944 BY JIM BAXTER**

The main concern that I have as an IAP are the proposed transmission lines from Bantamsklip.

I understand that the transmission lines have been put "on hold", but this draft EIR still includes Batamsklip as a candidate. As such, I am submitting comment and should the transmission lines ever be released from "on hold", then would ask that my comments below are taken into account and I am again requested for comment.

Attention is drawn to the Eskom report, GP Report\_08/61, Public Version dated October 2008. This document is imbedded to save you looking for it:-



Grid-Report.pdf

Also attention is brought to the statement on the Draft EIR itself:-

**General Response**

Your comment is noted. GIBB confirms that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Bantamsklip Transmission lines has been put on hold and GIBB has had no further instruction from Eskom in terms of proceeding with the EIA.



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GIBB Holdings Reg: 2002/019792/02  
Directors: R. Vries (Chairman), Y. Frizlar, B Hendricks, H.A. Kavthankar, J.M.N. Ras  
Arcus GIBB (Pty) Ltd, Reg: 1992/007139/07 is a wholly owned subsidiary of GIBB Holdings.  
A list of divisional directors is available from the company secretary.

### **Comment 1:**

A power station at Bantamsklip will be less advantageous, as 765 kV transmission lines will be required through difficult terrain, which would result in substantial additional cost at the Bantamsklip site. Quite clearly the Eskom report from 2008 recommends Thyspunt to better improve the health of the national power grid.

After some effort in gaining access to the detailed maps of the proposed transmission line routes, maps 10 and 11 (which had to be collected at the Arcus Gibb offices) as they were not generally available on the web and were too large to email out to me, I can very much agree with the statements made from the two sources indicated above with respect to the transmission lines from Bantamsklip.

### **Response 1:**

Your comments are noted but please also note that not only were transmission integration factors considered as a key to the selection of a preferred site but also a number of other factors as listed below. GIBB made use of the findings of a specialist integration workshop, which was conducted in November 2009, to determine which impact categories (both environmental and technical) have more relative importance than others. This led to the ranking of impact categories and determination of the key "decision factors" to be used in site selection which is

- Transmission integration factors;
- Seismic suitability of the sites;
- Impacts on dune geomorphology;
- Impacts on wetlands;
- Potential conservation benefits;
- Impacts on heritage resources;
- Economic impacts;
- Impacts on invertebrate fauna; and
- Impacts on vertebrate fauna.

### **Comment 2:**

I live in the Uilenkraals river valley, and can further point out a few more issues with building transmission lines from Bantamsklip, notably the following:-

Map 10 – Batamsklip Bacchus Alt 2, at the point where the transmission lines will cross the Uilenkraals river, the transmission lines themselves have been placed directly over the farmhouse Goedvertrouw, a thriving dairy farm owed and lived in by Philip DeVilliers.

This same transmission line then proceeds directly over the top of Grootkop, again which is very difficult terrain to cross, especially in winter. Note also that the Uilenkraals river bed becomes a wetland in winter.

Where this particular proposed transmission line will cross the Uilenkraals, I am concerned with the effect that it may have on wildlife, such as fish eagles, marshal eagles, owls, a variety of geese and

bird life that fly up and down the Uilenkraals valley morning and night and would have to negotiate these transmission lines if it were built.

There is also two or three troupes of baboons which are resident in Uilenkraals river bed and the terrain surrounding Grootkop, which is not developed, or is used to harvest protea. I am concerned that the disturbance made in creating the transmission lines will cause them to leave this area.

Salmonsdam Nature Reserve is a popular nature destination and if this Tx line was built, it would be visible from the reserve.

**Response 2:**

Your comments are noted and have been forwarded to the Bantamsklip Transmission Line EIA Team for their response, if and when the EIA is resumed.

Yours faithfully  
For GIBB (Pty) Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'S' or 'J' with a flourish.

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Nuclear-1 EIA Team