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30 April 2007

Dear Stakeholder

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
PROPOSED STEELPOORT INTEGRATION PROJECT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

You have been identified as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) of the PROPOSED STEELPOORT INTEGRATION PROJECT and have therefore been included in our IAP database. Please find a Background Information Document (BID) attached. This BID provides information on the proposed projects, and explains how you can become involved in the public participation process. Any comments or queries would be welcomed and should be directed to the public participation consultant. The relevant contact details are provided in the BID.

We trust that you will find the information provided useful, and we look forward to receiving your comments or queries.

Yours Sincerely

Nicolene Venter or Marti Moolman of Afrosearch at:
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Hatfield
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Fax: (012) 362-2463
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Afgehandel is. Besoendereerde van hierdie proses kan op versok gelewer word.
bedryf te tree. Hierdie voorgestelde PBS is die onderwerp van 'n aparte OIS-proses, wat byna
stasie in die Mpumalanga-provincie. Hierdie pompegeigskeema (PBS) is gekeduleer om teen 2014 in
Beperek 'n nuwe pompegeigskeema sowat 40 km noordwes van Eskom se bestaande Simpon Sub-
As deel van die evaluering van 'n reeks opties om elektrisiteit te voorsien, beplan Eskom Holdings
opwerkingsproses.

Transmissiestrukturen op 'n deurlopende grondslag beplan, oprig en uitbrei, ter ondervenig van die
behoefes van elindverbruikers te voorsien, moet Eskom sy infrastruktuur van opwerkingsvorme en
indien Eskom Transmission sy mandaat en verbindelik geset en doen om in die toenamende

die opwerkingskapsellet en die vrag na elektrisiteit.
einindverbruiker oorgrip word. Daarom word vereis dat elektrisiteit doeltreffend van die opwerkingsasaleg na die
opgewek word. Vereeniging van die gebrek word soos dit gevorderbaar en bekoosbaar krag aan sy
verbruikers in Suid-Afrika. Elektrisiteit kan nie gevorder word nie en moet dus gevorder word soos dit
Eskom Holdings Bpk is verantwoordelik vir die voorsiening van betroubare en bekoosbare krag aan die

Doris van die voorgestelde projek

- n kant van die gevied wat ondersoek sal word;
 - spesialisstudies wat ondernem moet word; en
 - n aanduiding van die potensiale impaklike geslagsgrande met die voorgestelde projek en die
verduidelikking van die memassie aktiwiteite wat deur Eskom Transision beplan word;
 - n dorlig van die voorgestelde projek wat deur Eskom Transision beplan word;
 - Die volgende indigting word in hierdie dokument vervat, met die doel om die bogendomde toe te lig:
waat nu mening aangespreek behoor te word.
 - die voorstelde projek en die studiegebied.
 - proses ondernem gaan word; en
 - die mogwilingsproses en die studies wat tydens die omgewingsbestekopenname- en impakstudie-
oorigte bied van:
- Hierdie dokument stel dit ten doel om, as 'n belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde party (B&GP), in
voorts diit ook aan hoe u by die projek betrokke kan raak, inligting kan ontvang of standpunte te opper
waarvan u mening aangespreek behoor te word.

Die doel van hierdie dokument

AGTERGROND-INLIGTINGSDOKUMENT (AID)

LIMPOPOPROVINSIE

STEELPOORT INTEGRASIEPROJEK

OPRGITING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE
OMGEWINGSIMPAKESTUDIEPROSES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED

STEELPOORT INTEGRATION PROJECT

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

Aim of this Document

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), with an overview of:

- the environmental process and studies to be undertaken during the Environmental Scoping and Impact Assessment phases; and
- the proposed project and the study area.

It further indicates how you can become involved in the project, receive information, or raise issues, which need to be addressed.

The following information is captured in this document with the aim of providing you with the above information:

- an overview of the proposed project planned by Eskom Transmission;
- a description of the key activities which form part of the EIA process;
- an indication of the potential impacts associated with the proposed project and the specialist studies to be undertaken;
- a map of the study area indicating the alternatives identified for investigation within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;

Overview of the proposed Project

Eskom Holdings Ltd is responsible for the provision of reliable and affordable power to its consumers in South Africa. Electricity cannot be stored and therefore must be used as it is generated. It is, therefore, required that electricity must be efficiently transmitted from the point of generation to the end user. It is vital that transmission capacity keeps up with both electricity generation capacity and electricity demand.

If Eskom Transmission is to meet its mandate and commitment to supply the ever-increasing needs of end-users, it has to plan, establish and expand its infrastructure of generation capacity and transmission lines on an on-going basis, in support of the generation processes.

As part of its assessment of a range of electricity supply options, Eskom Holdings Limited is planning a new Pumped Storage Scheme approximately 40 km north-west of Eskom's existing Simpon Substation in the Mpumalanga Province. This Pumped Storage Scheme (PSS) is scheduled to be in operation by 2014. An EIA for the proposed PSS is the subject of a separate EIA process, which is nearing completion. Details of this process can be provided on request.

In order to integrate this PSS into the electricity transmission network, Eskom Transmission is proposing the following:



- The construction of a new 400 kV substation, in close proximity to the PSS.
- This new substation is to be supplied via two 400 kV Transmission lines looping in and out of the existing Duvha-Leseding 400 kV Transmission line. These two lines are proposed to be constructed in parallel, each requiring a servitude width of approximately 55 m.
- A 400 kV Transmission line between the proposed Steelpoort and the existing Merensky Substation. A servitude width of approximately 55 m is required for the establishment of this new Transmission line.
- Associated works to integrate the proposed new substation into Eskom's electricity Transmission grid (including the construction of service/access roads, the construction of a communication tower at the substation site, etc).

This project is to be known as the Steelpoort Integration Project.

Technically feasible alternative substation site and Transmission line alignment corridors have been identified for investigation within the EIA process. These are reflected on the attached map. Through the EIA process, preferred alternative Transmission line alignments and a substation site will be nominated. Should the project be authorised by DEAT, Eskom will then enter into a servitude negotiation process with each affected landowner. The process of negotiating a servitude is independent of the EIA process, and will be undertaken directly by Eskom Transmission.

Proposed construction schedule for the proposed Steelpoort Integration Project

Depending on the issuing date of the Environmental Authorisation, and should a positive Environmental Authorisation be issued by the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (N DEAT), and to address the increasing demand for electricity, it is proposed that Eskom will commence with construction in 2009. The construction period for the proposed 400kV Transmission power lines are estimated to be 26 months in total. This includes the clearing of the servitude, construction of the towers and the stringing of the conductors. The construction period for the proposed Steelpoort substation is estimated to be 13 months in total.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, No 107 of 1998), Eskom requires authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (N DEAT) (in consultation with the Limpopo provincial Department of Environment) for the undertaking of the proposed project. In order to obtain authorisation for this project, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process forms part of the initial planning process of a new Transmission line. Route alternatives (corridors) are identified (typically based on technical feasibility), and the number of options are narrowed down based on environmental criteria through the EIA process. The findings of the EIA determine those areas in which impacts can be anticipated to be significant, and results in the nomination of a preferred corridor for environmental authorisation (by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism).

Eskom Transmission has appointed Savannah Environmental, as independent environmental consultants, to undertake the EIA. As part of these environmental studies, all I&APs will be actively involved through a public participation process. Savannah Environmental has appointed Afrosearch to undertake the required public participation process.

An EIA consists of various phases, as depicted in the figure 1.

The EIA for the proposed Steelpoort Integration Project is currently in the Scoping Phase. This project has been registered with National DEAT under Application Reference Number 12/12/20/866.

Eskom Transmission het Savannah Environmental het Africosearch aangeset om die openbare deelnameproses te ondernem. As deel van hierdie proses, sal alle B&GFE aktiewe betrokke wees oor 'n openbare deelnameproses. Savannah Environmental aangeset om die openbare deelnameproses te voortrek.

Voorberek op grond van omgewingsvryheid (gevolg van op teregheidsvlak bereikende reetes (korridors) word gevind) word geskep van nuwe transmissiekruglyn. Alternatiewe OIS vorm die aanvanklike beplanningsproses van 'n nuwe transmissiekruglyn. Alternatiewe OIS-regulasies ondernem.

Die OIS-regulasies wat kragtens Artikel 24(5) van die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur (NEMA, Wet NO. 107 van 1998) gepubliseer is, benodig Eskom magtiging van die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toeisme, in konsultasie met die Provinciale Departement van Omgewingsbestuur (Limpopo provinsie, moet hul omtrentlike omgewingsbestuurdeprojek te ondernem. Ten einde magtiging vir hul projek te beklemtoon, moet hul omwattende en onafhanklike omgewingsbestuurdeprojek in ooreenstemming met die bestuurdeprojek te ondernem.

Die Omgewingsimpaakstudieproses

In die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsbestuur word gevind dat Eskom magtiging van die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toeisme is, benodig gelyk soos in die OIS-regulasies. Die ophrigtingstryd vir die voorberekde Steelpoort Substasie word op sowat 13 maande bereken.

Die ophrigtingstryd vir die voorberekde 400 kV Transmissiekruglyn word in totaal op 26 maande bereken. Dit sluit die skoonmaak van die servituut, die ophrigting van die torings en die beraadslag van die opgravingstrydperk vir die voorberekde 400 kV Transmissiekruglyn in. Afhanglik van die datum van so 'n magtiging, word dit voorstellen dat Eskom in 2009 met ophrigting sal begin. In dien die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsbestuur die voorberekde projek magtig, en daarnevir is. Die ophrigtingstryd vir die voorberekde Steelpoort Substasie word op sowat 13 maande bereken.

Voorberek de ophrigtingskodeskele vir die voorberekde Steelpoort Integrasieprojek.

Hierdie projek sal as die Steelpoort Integrasieprojek bekendstaan. Die OIS-proses geskep word op die begaanbare alternatiewe terreine vir die subsasie en die roetebellynig van die korridors vir die transmissiekruglyn ondersoek. Die OIS-proses sal die subsasie terrein en allematiewe roetebellynings vir die transmissiekruglyn beplanne. Tegniese kaart aangesek is binne die OIS-proses geskep. Die afleermateve word om die transmissiekruglyn ondersoek. Sou die projek duur die terreine die subsasie en die servituut met elke en Toeisme gemaagig word, sal Eskom dan 'n ondernemelingsproses vir die servituut met die bestuurdeprojek begin. Die OIS-proses sal die subsasie terrein en allematiewe roetebellynings vir die transmissiekruglyn ondersoek en 'n gespesiale annedelingsmak mak rekenende die terreine die subsasie en die megabane transmissiekruglyn beplanne. Die OIS-proses geskep word op die begaanbare alternatiewe terreine vir die subsasie en die roetebellynig van die korridors vir die transmissiekruglyn beendig.

Tegniese haalbare alternatiewe terreine vir die subsasie en die roetebellynig van die korridors vir die transmissiekruglyn beendig. Hierdie projek sal as die Steelpoort Integrasieprojek bekendstaan. Die OIS-proses geskep word op die begaanbare alternatiewe terreine vir die subsasie en die roetebellynig van die korridors vir die transmissiekruglyn beendig. Geplannede transmissiekruglyn beendig. Geplannede transmissiekruglyn beendig. Subsasies, 'n Transmissiekruglyn tussen die voorberekde Steelpoort- en die bestaannde Merensky en 400 kV Transmissiekruglyn net 'n wylde van ongeveer 55 m word vir die vestiging van hierdie transmissiekruglyn beplanne. Daar word voorberek dat hierdie twee lynne parallel oopgerig word, elk met 'n servituut van sowat 55 m in wylde.

Teneinde hierdie PBS by die transmissienetwerk van elektrisiteit te integreer, doen Eskom

Transmissie die volgende aan die hand:

Hierdie nuwe subsasie sal voorsein word vir twee 400 kV Transmissiekruglyn wat in ringlyn in en uit die bestaannde Duvha-Leseding 400 kV Transmissiekruglyn maak. Daar word voorberek dat hierdie nuwe subsasie sal voorsein word vir twee 400 kV Transmissiekruglyn wat in ringlyn in

Hierdie nuwe subsasie sal voorsein word vir twee 400 kV Transmissiekruglyn wat in ringlyn in

Teneinde hierdie PBS by die transmissienetwerk van elektrisiteit te integreer, doen Eskom

- Ten endie aan hierdie OIS-proses deel te neem, moet u uself op die projek se database registrer. Ingelyke die OIS-regulasies, word u aan dag gevestig op u verantwoordelikhede as n B&GP.

U verantwoordelikhede as n B&GP:

U sal per pos of e-pos, n persoonlike kennisgewing van alle beskikbare dokumentasie en spesialewms vir kommentaar ydene s ekse fase ontvango.

Di is belangrik dat tersake-like B&GP die staanspoor van die voorgestelde projek geïdentifiseer en by die openbare deelnameproses betrek word. Ten einde die doeltreffende opeenhou deelname te verseker, die openbare deelnameproses sluit, n paar noodge stappe in soos voorgestel in Figuur 2.

Die hoofdoelwit van openbare deelname tydens hierdie OIS sal wees om B&GP deernydt met tye van die proses vir openbare oorsig beskikbaar geset sel word. Kommentar te lewer op die bewindingsge van die OIS-verslag (Bestekopname en Impakluerung), wat ten kan word. As deel van hierdie openbare deelnameproses sal u die geleenthed gebed word om genoegsame en deursigtige inligting te voorstin, sodat effektiewe deelname regdeur die proses verseker word. As deel van hierdie openbare deelnameproses sluit, n paar noodge stappe in soos voorgestel in Figuur 2.

Openbare deelname is die hoofdoelwit van NEMA beheertalle aspekte van OISs, insluitend openbare deelname-project. Die beghinsels van NEMA beheertalle aspekte van enige OIS, soos ook die gevval sal wees vir hierdie voorgestelde

Die openbare deelnameproses

Spesialiststudies sal deur bestandde inligting, veldwaarmemings en insite van die openbare deelname-kwessies, word as belangrik bestempel. Ons druk dit op die hart om betrokke te rakk by die proses.

1. In Bestekopnamesstudie, waar in potensiële knelpunte wat gepaard gaan met al die alternatiewe wat gespecifiseer is, gesavaluer sal word en n voorkleur voorstel gemaak word vir oorweging tydens die OIS-fase.
2. In Gedetailleerde beraming van potensiële wesenlike impakte wat met die alternatiewe wat gespecifiseer is, gesavaluer sal word by n konsep Omgewingsbestuurplan.

Hierdie spesialiststudies sal in twee fasies ondervinn word:

- Impakte op die maatskapplike omgewing, insluitend grondgebruk en toeriste-potensiaal
- Impakte op topografie, hidrologie, grondwater, klimaat en besoedeling
- Impakte op vistele gehalte en estetika
- Impakte op erfenisgeriene
- Impakte op grond en landboupotensiaal
- Impakte op volellewe
- Impakte op ekologie, fauna & flora

In Antal potensiële omgewingsimpakte is gesavalueer wat met die projek gepaard gaan. Hierdie potensiële impakte sal as deel van die OIS deur die volgende spesialiststudies gesavalueer word:

Wat is die potensiële omgewingsimpakte wat met die voorgestelde projek gepaard gaan?

Hierdie projek is by die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerisme geregistreer. Die OIS vir die voorgestelde Steelpoort Integrasieprojek is tans in die Bestekopnamefase. Ons sou ook reeds sy singnsommer 12/20/866.

In OIS bestaan uit verskeie studiums, soos in figuur 1 uitteengestel word.

What are the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project?

A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified. These potential impacts will be assessed through the following specialist studies:

- Impacts on ecology, fauna & flora
- Impacts on avifauna
- Impacts on soils and agricultural potential
- Impacts on heritage sites
- Impacts on visual quality and aesthetics
- Impacts on topography, hydrology, groundwater, climate and pollution
- Impacts on the social environment

These specialist studies will be undertaken in two phases:

1. A desk-top Scoping Study, wherein potential issues associated with all alternatives identified will be evaluated and a preferred alternative nominated for consideration in the EIA phase.
2. A detailed assessment of potentially significant impacts associated with the nominated preferred alternative/s identified in the Scoping Phase. Practical and achievable mitigation measures will be recommended in order to minimise potentially significant impacts identified. These recommendations will be included within a draft Environmental Management Plan.

Specialist studies will be informed by existing information, field observations and input from the public participation process. As people residing in the area are most familiar with the local issues, your input is considered important and we urge you to become involved in the process.

The Public Participation Process

Public participation is the cornerstone of any EIA, as it will be for this proposed project. The principles of NEMA, govern many aspects of EIAs, including public participation.

The key objective of public participation during this EIA will be to provide I&APs with sufficient and transparent information on an on-going basis in order to ensure effective participation throughout the process. As part of this public participation process you will also be provided with the opportunity to comment on the findings of the EIA Report (Scoping and Impact Assessment), which will be made available for public review during the process.

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the proposed project. In order to ensure effective public participation, the public participation process includes a number of steps, as depicted in Figure 2.

You will receive personal notification by mail or e-mail of all documents available for comment, and due dates for comment at every stage.

Your responsibilities as an I&AP:

In terms of the EIA Regulations, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in this EIA process, you must register yourself on the project database.
- You should inform any other parties who may be interested and/or affected by the proposed project about the EIA process and encourage them to become involved.
- You must ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by DEAT and that any extension of a timeframe agreed to by DEAT and the applicant (i.e. Eskom).
- You are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that you may have in the approval or refusal of the application for the proposed Steelpoort Integration Project.

Our responsibilities as Independent Environmental Consultants:

In terms of the EIA Regulations, our responsibilities for the public consultation process include:

- We must ensure that sufficient information regarding this proposed project is made available to you, either through the BID or providing information as and when requested.
- We must ensure that you have an understanding of the proposed project to be able to comment informatively and to enable you to submit any concern in an informed manner.
- We must ensure that the following actions are taken:
 - the contact details provided by you are entered into the project database and that you are sent all further information releases
 - if you send us queries or comments, we respond in writing
 - if you call us, your details and queries / comments are recorded. Should we not be able to answer your question immediately, your call will be returned as soon as possible with a response.

How to become involved

1. By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your participation, which has been advertised in the local newspaper.
2. By mailing, faxing or e-mailing the attached Registration and Comment Form to Afrosearch.
3. By attending the meetings to be held during the course of the project. Should you register as an I&AP you will automatically be invited to attend these meetings. The public meeting date will also be advertised in the local newspaper. Please be on the lookout for these advertisements.
4. By telephonically contacting us if you have a query, comment or require further project information.
5. By reviewing the draft Environmental Scoping Report and the draft Environmental Impact Report within the 30-day review periods that will be stipulated in the advertisement and well as in your personalised letter.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become actively involved in the process and provide comment or concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key part of the Environmental Studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying Registration and Comment Form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this proposed project, and are ensured that your comments and/or concerns raised regarding the proposed project are noted. The public participation consultants will respond to all comments and queries received during the course of the project.

We look forward to your contributions.

COMMENTS & QUERIES / KOMMENTAAR EN NAVRAE

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 E-mail:iafrica@icon.co.za marti@afrosearch.co.za

Ous sien uit na u bydræes.

B&GP vir hierdie voorgesettele projek geregisstreer. U is dan verskrik dat die bydræes deur u gelewer, gedurende die verloop van die projek ontvrag word.

Ous moet dus aan om gevrek te maak van die geleenthede wat die openbare deelnameproses u bied om maklike toegang tot die proses van helaanvryde deel van die OIS.

30-dee oorsigperiodes te evaluer. Die datum van die konsep omgewingsimpakverslag binne die sowel as d.m.v. persoonlike korespondensie aangesetu word (Indien u as B&GP geregisstreer het).

5. Duer ons telefonies te kontak indien u 'n navraag of kommentaar het, of indien u verder belangstelling vir die projek vatbaar.

4. Duer ons telefonies te kontak indien u 'n navraag of kommentaar het, of indien u verder belangstelling vir die projek vatbaar.

3. Duer die vergaderings sal in die plaslike koorante geادverteer word. Wees assiebel op die of-e-pos.

2. Duer die aangemeense registrasie-en kommentaarom te voltooi en dan aan Afrosearch te pos, faks geardeerter is, te reageer.

1. Duer per telefoon, faks of e-pos op ons uitnodiging vir u deelname, wat in die plaslike koorant toekomsdigte belangrig sal ontvaag:

o die kontakbesondernemende dier u opdrag deur die projek se databasis ingesluit word, sodat u alle nie daar en dan kan antwoord nie, sal ons u so gou moontlik met 'n antwoord terugskakel.

o daar skriftelik op navrae of kommentare gereageer word;

teken lewer en enige kenplukte op enige wye te kan kommunikeer.

Dns moet toetsien dat u voldoende kennis dra van die aantaltekele projek om intelligente kommentaar te lewer,

gemak word, het sy eer die AfID of dier die projek hierdie voorgesettele projek aan u beskikbaar volgende in:

Ingevolge die OIS-regulasies, sluit ons verantwoordelikhedever die openbare konsultasieproses die

Ons verantwoordelikhede as onafhanlike omgewingskonsultante:

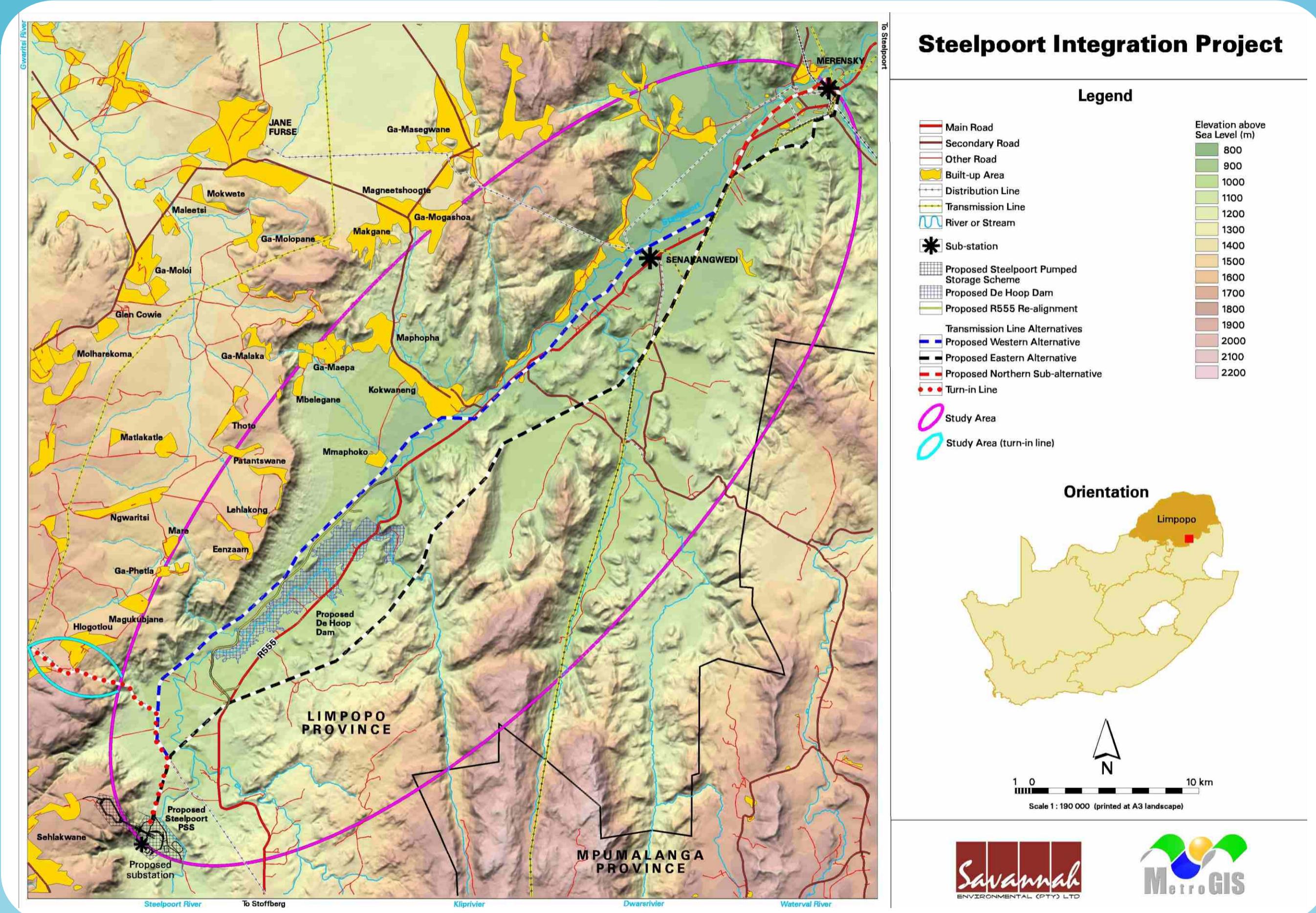
Die projek beken dat die openbare konsultasieproses die wat u moontlik kan he by die goedkeuring of weiering van die aansoek vir die voorgesettele appikant (d.i. Eskom).

Toeërsme is tussen die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toeërsme en die word binne die tydramewerk wat deur die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toeërsme goedgekeur of vervaag is, en dat enige verlewing van 'n tydramewerk word binne die tydramewerk wat deur die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toeërsme goedgekeur of vervaag is,

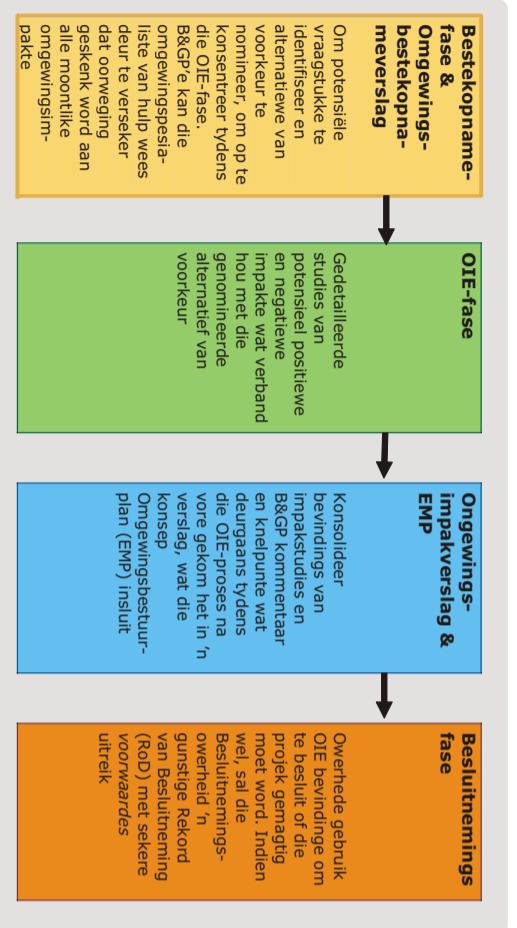
U moet toetsien dat enige kommentaar rakende die voorgesettele projek betrekksame en betrokke te staan.

U moet enige party wat moontlik belang kan stel in of geaffekteer kan word deur die voorgesettele projek, inlig van die OIS-proses en hulle aanmoedig om

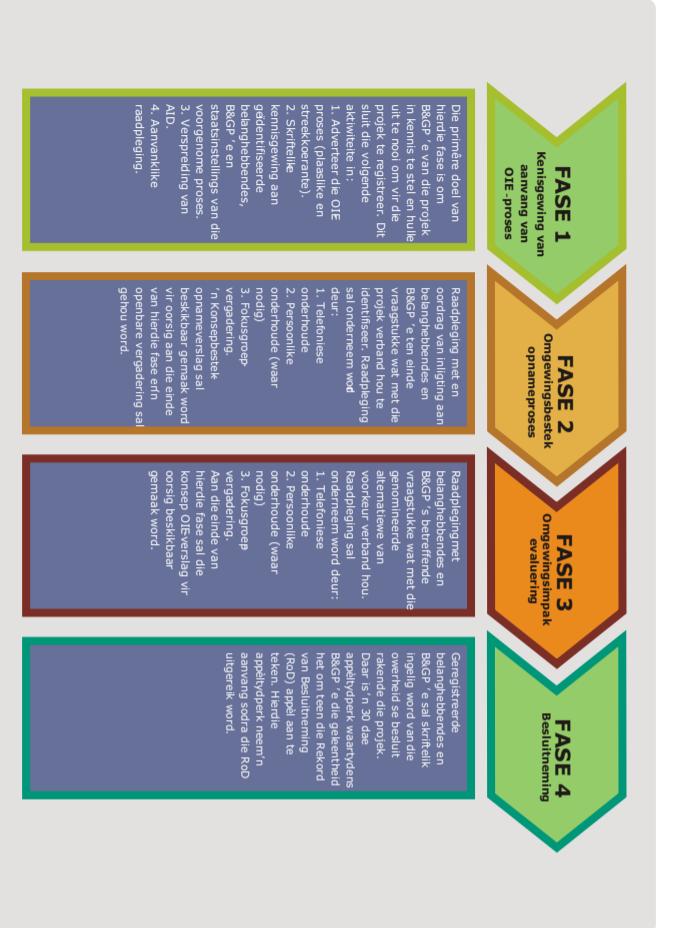
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED STEELPOORT INTEGRATION PROJECT



OMGEWINGSIMPAKEVALUERINGSPROSES OPRIGTING VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE STEELPOORT INTEGRASIEPROJEK LIMPOPOPROVINSIE



Figuur 1. Verskillende fases van die omgewingsimpakvaluieringsproses



Figuur 2. Verskillende stappe in die Publiek Deelname Proses



Figuur 2. Verskillende stappe in die Publiek Deelname Proses

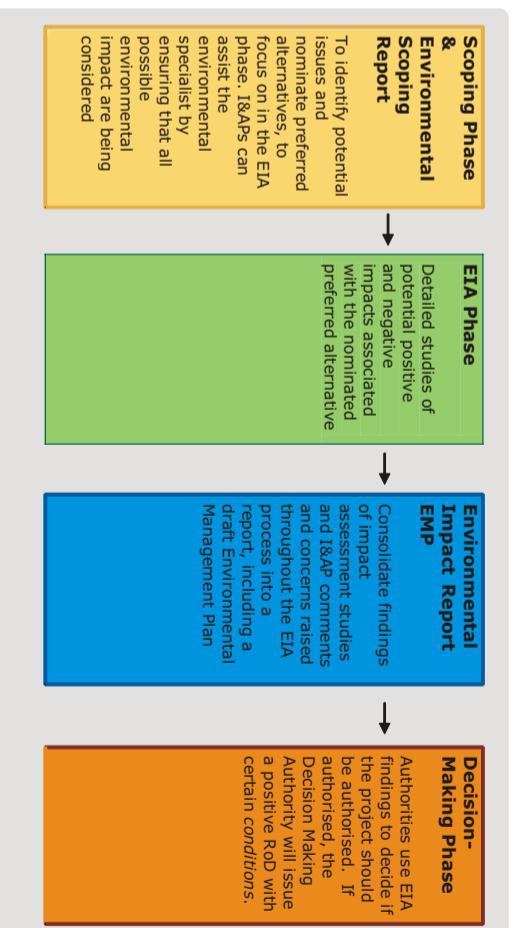


Figure 1. Various phases of an Environmental Impact Assessment