

**BACKGROUND
INFORMATION DOCUMENT
AND
INVITATION TO REGISTER
AND COMMENT**



49 3rd Avenue, Highlands North, 2192
P O BOX 2363 Highlands North, 2037
T: 0114401817
F: 0866079481
E: mokgope@gmail.com
Website: www.mokgope.co.za

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SCOPING PHASE

**PROPOSED AGGENEIS - PAULPUTS 400kV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE AND
UPGRADE OF SUBSTATIONS, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
JULY 2016**

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides an overview of the proposed project, and indicates how interested and affected parties can become involved in the project, and contribute to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

INTRODUCTION

Mokgope Consulting cc has been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a form of a full EIA

for a linear activity of the proposed Aggeneis-Paulputs 400kV transmission power line, which also entails the upgrade of the substations

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd is currently proposing to construct a 400kV transmission power line from Aggeneis substation, approximately 5km south west of the town of Aggeneys, to Paulputs substation, approximately 35km north east of the town of Pofadder within the Khai-Ma local Municipality, within the jurisdiction of

Namakwa District Municipality in Northern Cape Province. The total length of the proposed transmission power line would be approximately 97km. A general locality map of the study area is attached. Both Aggeneis and Paulputs are existing substations which would require technical

upgrades to accommodate the new power line.

Based on the anticipated growing demand of electricity in the Northern Cape, there may be a risk that the demand exceeds the supply of electricity. Consequently, the risk of load shedding would not be

The aim of the newly proposed Aggeneis-Paulputs 400kV transmission power line is to ensure that adequate and reliable electricity supply in the Northern Cape Province is achieved. Furthermore, the proposed transmission line would: avoid current and future possible voltage

The proposed linear activity is located in the Khai-Ma Local Municipality, within the jurisdiction of Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed transmission power line would possibly run through

avoided. As a result, Eskom identified the need to strengthen the existing transmission system between the Aggeneis and Paulputs substations by means of constructing a 400kV transmission power line and the upgrade of the substations.

collapse; contribute to a more flexible electrical network; improve the overall reliability of the electrical systems, which would benefit electricity users in the region; and sustain economic growth in the affected province.

various farms and / or private properties, of which most of them have been identified through a deeds search. A map showing properties crossed by the proposed alternative corridors is attached.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No 107 of 1998, Amended 2 August 2010), the applicant, Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, requires the approval from the Environmental Authority, which is

the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The proposed development will undertake activities as listed in Government Notice No. Listing Notice 1 R983, Listing Notice 2 R984 and Listing Notice 3 R985 and summarised below:

The number of the relevant notice:	Activity No and relevant Notice:	Description of each listed activity:
No R 983	12 (xii) (a)(b): of Listing Notice 1 of 2014	<p>(xii) The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100m² or more: Where such development occurs:</p> <p>(a) Within a watercourse; and</p> <p>(c) Within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</p> <p><i>The footprint working area for each of the tower structures to be constructed would exceed the threshold of 50m². Some of the tower structures will be constructed within a watercourse and within 32m of a watercourse. The watercourses will be impacted during the construction phase of the project and rehabilitation will be undertaken prior to the operational phase.</i></p>
No R 983	14: of Listing Notice 1 of 2014	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.</p> <p><i>Oil collection dams will be built to collect and store transformer oils in cases of spillages at the substations. The biggest transformer in a substation could contain up to 180m³ of oil. The oil dams will be built to accommodate a capacity of 216m³ of transformer oil. Therefore the capacity of the oil dams will exceed the threshold of 80m³ but less than 500m³.</i></p>
No R 983	47: of Listing Notice 1 of 2014	<p>The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where the expanded capacity will exceed 275 kilovolts and the development footprint will increase.</p> <p><i>Both Aggeneis and Paulputs substations will entail an upgrade of their capacity and footprint increase to accommodate the 400kV transmission capacity.</i></p>
No R 983	49 (v)(a)(c): of Listing Notice 1 of 2014	<p>The expansion of:</p> <p>(v) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100m² or more:</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse; and</p> <p>(c) within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p> <p><i>Both substations Aggeneis and Paulputs will be expanded to accommodate the proposed powerline. The expansion footprint exceeds the threshold of 10m², and will be expanded within 32m of a watercourse.</i></p>
No R 984	9: of Listing Notice 2 of 2014	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex.</p> <p><i>The proposed project involves the construction of a 400kV transmission power line from the Aggeneis substation (approximately 5km south west of a mining town of Aggeneys) to Paulputs substation (approximately</i></p>

The number of the relevant notice:	Activity No and relevant Notice:	Description of each listed activity:
		35km north east of the town called Pofadder) in the Northern Cape Province. The length of the power line will be approximately 97km, depending on the final route alignment.
No R 985	14 : of Listing Notice 3 of 2014	<p>The development of: (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10m² or more;</p> <p>Where such development occurs: (a) within a watercourse; (c) within 32m² of a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</p> <p>(a) In Northern Cape: ii. Outside urban areas, in: (dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority.</p> <p><i>The footprint working area for each of the tower structures to be constructed will exceed the threshold of 10m². Some of the tower structures will be constructed within a watercourse and within 32m of a watercourse.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed power line routes will overlap with numerous non-perennial rivers and drainage lines The watercourses that will be affected will be determined along the final chosen route alignment prior to construction phase of the project.</i></p> <p><i>The watercourses will be impacted on during the construction phase of the project and rehabilitation will be undertaken prior to the operational phase.</i></p>

PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An Environmental Impact Assessment process is being conducted for the proposed project to:

- Determine the need of the proposed development;
- Investigate possible alternatives for the proposed development and propose recommended alternatives to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA);
- Determine the feasibility of the proposed development;
- Determine environmental impacts that may be associated with the proposed development;
- Identify any mitigation measures to mitigate, treat or avoid the envisaged impacts to make the proposed development more environmentally viable;
- Determine if adequate services are available for the development;
- Identify any Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) and provide them with adequate time and information to comment (provide concerns and / or suggestions) on the proposed development; and
- Provide the DEA with sufficient information to make an informed decision.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The following objectives are applicable:

- Informing I&APs of the proposed development;
- Providing I&APs with an understanding of the project and its consequences;
- Providing the I&APs an opportunity to comment on the proposed development;
- Providing a structure for communication of project information and any comments associated with the project; and
- Providing a channel to gather information relevant to the project.

The public participation process aims to promote the project in a socially acceptable manner. All parties must feel free to discuss any and all matters with the Public Participation contact.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to provide **written comments** regarding this project. Please provide your name, contact details (preferred method of notification) and an indication of any direct

business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the application to the contact person indicated below within 30 days from **26 July to 26 August 2016**.

The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is in the process of being compiled. Once completed, the DSR will be available for review. Furthermore, final dates for public meetings are yet to be confirmed.

Should you wish to attend the upcoming meetings, please contact the person indicated below for further information. Please also complete the registration form in the next page and return to us by 26 August 2016.

Environmental Assessment Practitioner:	Mokgope Consultants cc
Contact person:	Ms Judith Fasheun
Postal address:	P O Box 2363, Highlands North, 2037
Contact number:	076 876 2672
Fax:	086 607 9481
E-mail:	judy@mokgope.co.za

INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES REGISTRATION FORM



Attention: Judith Fasheun
Tel.: 076 876 2672
Fax: 086 607 9481
Email: judy@mokgope.co.za

PROJECT NAME:

**Proposed Aggeneis-Paulputs
 400kV Transmission Powerline and
 Upgrade of Substations, Northern Cape**

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Please complete and return to us by 26 August 2016

Date:			
Name of Organisation			
Name of Interested and Affected Party/			
Postal Address			
Tel		Fax	
Email			
I would like to receive documents for comments as follows:	CD	Written hard copy	Email
I would like to be contacted as follows	Post	Fax	Email
In terms of GNR 982 (EIA process regulations) I disclose below any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that I may have in the approval or refusal of the application: YES OR NO			
COMMENTS (please use separate sheets if you wish)			
I suggest that the following issues of concern be investigated in the EIA:			
I suggest the following for the EIA process and / or the public participation process: Any other comments:			
Please ask the following of my colleagues/friends to register as I&APs for this EIA			
Office Use only	Date Received		
	Status		