

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR ESKOM'S
NORTHERN KWAZULU-NATAL STRENGTHENING PROJECT**

SCOPING PHASE

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH
OTHAKA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

(12 OCTOBER 2016)

OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Emathongeni Traditional Council**.

For the benefit of all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), a list of all community meetings held is provided hereunder. For ease of reference, a separate record for each meeting has been prepared.

These meetings were conducted as part of the Public Participation Process, which was designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to all I&APs during the Scoping Phase.

NO	MEETING WITH	VENUE	DATE
1	Makhasa Traditional Council	Makhasa Tribal Court (Hluhluwe)	12 Sept 2016
2	Nibela Traditional Council	Nibela Tribal Court (Hluhluwe)	13 Sept 2016
3	AbakwaHlabisa Traditional Council	AbakwaHlabisa Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	14 Sept 2016
4	Mdletshe Traditional Council	Mdletshe Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	14 Sept 2016
5	Mpembeni Traditional Council	Mpembeni Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	15 Sept 2016
6	Myeni/Ntsinde Traditional Council	Myeni Tribal Court (Obonjeni)	20 Sept 2016
7	Ngwenya/Ntsinde Traditional Council	Ngwenya Tribal Court (Mkuze)	20 Sept 2016
8	Ndlangamandla Traditional Council	Ndlangamandla Tribal Court (Pongola)	21 Sept 2016
9	Sibiya Traditional Council	Sibiya Tribal Court (Pongola)	22 Sept 2016
10	Msibi Traditional Council	Msibi Tribal Court (Emgulatshani)	23 Sept 2016
11	Simelane Traditional Council	Simelane Tribal Court (Pongola)	26 Sept 2016
12	Gumbi Traditional Council	Gumbi Tribal Court (Pongola)	27 Sept 2016
13	Emgazini Traditional Council	Emgazini Tribal Court (Pongola)	28 Sept 2016
14	Ntshangase Traditional Council	Ntshangase Tribal Court (Pongola)	29 Sept 2016
15	Mavuso Traditional Council	Mavuso Tribal Court (Pongola)	03 Oct 2016
16	Klwana Traditional Council	Klwana Tribal Court (Piet Retief)	03 Oct 2016
17	Msiyane Traditional Council	Msiyane Tribal Court (Louwsberg)	04 Oct 2016
18	Empangisweni Traditional Council	Empangisweni Tribal Court (Langkraans)	05 Oct 2016
19	Khambi Traditional Council	Khambi Tribal Court (Gluckstadt)	06 Oct 2016
20	Emathongeni Traditional Council	Emathongeni Tribal Court (Vryheid)	07 Oct 2016
21	Hlahlindlela Traditional Council	Hlahlindlela Tribal Court (Swart Umfolozi)	12 Oct 2016
22	Othaka Traditional Council	Othaka Tribal Court (Nqutu)	12 Oct 2016
23	Mandlakazi Traditional Council	Mandlakazi Tribal Court (Emondlo)	13 Oct 2016
24	Usuthu Traditional Council	Usuthu Tribal Court (Nongoma)	13 Oct 2016
25	Dlamini Traditional Council	Dlamini Tribal Court (Nongoma)	18 Oct 2016
26	Ndlela Traditional Council	Ndlela Tribal Court (Paulpietersberg)	18 Oct 2016
27	Bhovungane Traditional Council	Bhovungane Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	19 Oct 2016
28	Mthethwa Traditional Council	Mthethwa Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	20 Oct 2016
29	Mpukunyoni Traditional Council	Mpukunyoni Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	21 Oct 2016
30	Usuthu Traditional Council	Usuthu Tribal Court (Mtubatuba)	25 Oct 2016
31	Gumbi Traditional Council	Gumbi Tribal Court (Nongoma)	26 Oct 2016
32	Mandlakazi Traditional Council	Mandlakazi Tribal Court (Pongola)	28 Oct 2016

Table 1: List of traditional council and community meetings held during Scoping Phase

Please note the following:

- In some instances, and where possible, two sessions of community meetings were held in one day. First session held at 10h00 and the second session held at 14h00.
- Two sessions were held with Gumbi Traditional Council. The first and second session were held on 27 September 2016 and 26 October 2016 respectively.
- The first meeting with Usuthu Traditional Council scheduled for 13 October 2016 was cancelled due to inaccessibility to the area and bad weather. A repeat meeting was successfully held on 25 October 2016.
- The first meeting with Mandlakazi Traditional Council scheduled for 13 October 2016 was cancelled due to bad weather and lack of representation. The second meeting was successfully held on 28 October 2016.

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1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Attendance – Othaka Traditional Council

Annexure A provides a list of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) who attended the meeting.

1.2 Attendance – Eskom Holdings SOC Limited

The following representative was in attendance:

Name	Position/Role
Mr Gugu Mvelase	Eskom Network Planning

1.3 Attendance – Public Participation Team

The following representatives were in attendance:

Name	Organisation	Position/Role
Ms Bongji Shinga	Wakhiwe SES	Public Participation Team Leader
Ms Lungelo Chamane	Wakhiwe SES	Public Participation Officer
Mr Sibusiso Khaba	Wakhiwe SES	Community Liaison Officer

2. FORMAT OF THE MEETING

All protocols at the Othaka Traditional Council were observed. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

All information was presented in isiZulu and all proceedings were conducted in isiZulu.

3. INFORMATION CIRCULATED

Information and handouts distributed at the meeting included the following:

- Attendance Register.
- Background Information Document (isiZulu version).
- Comment Sheet (isiZulu version).
- Map showing the project study area and proposed corridors.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETINGS

The primary objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- Introduce the proposed Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening Project to the community and initiate discussions as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.
- Outline the environmental authorisation process that will be followed in undertaking the EIA process.
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input in the EIA process; and

- Advise on the ongoing public consultation process, identification of issues and next phases in the process.

5. CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

The following information was presented at the meeting:

- Background and description of the project.
- The need and motivation of the project.
- The description of the EIA process.
- The description of the Public Participation Process.
- The study area and proposed alternative corridors and substation.
- The locality of the communities in relation to the proposed corridors.
- Submission of comments, project timeframes and future phases of the EIA.

6. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

All comments raised and discussed were recorded at the meeting including responses provided. In instances where responses were not readily available, comments were noted for passing on to the relevant officials.

Due to the remoteness of most rural areas, an alternative method for submission of comments was provided to the community. Community members were advised to submit any additional comments to the Secretary of the Traditional Council, who will thereafter liaise with the Public Participation Office for collection.

7. COMMENTS RAISED AND DISCUSSED

This section presents a summary of comments raised and discussed at the meeting.

Please note: In some instances, the PPP team did not capture the name of the person raising the issue. This however does not diminish the value of the question or issue raised. The person raising the issue has therefore been referred to as "A Stakeholder".

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
1	A Stakeholder Othaka TC	Thank you to the EIA team for the information. When will the Othaka area be electrified?	It was explained to Othaka Traditional Council that the proposed Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening is dealing with high voltage transmission lines. The question on the electrification of Othaka area will be forwarded to the relevant Eskom office which deals with household connections, for a response.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
2	Mr S Masondo	I would like to request that the EIA team reports back to the Traditional Council about the outcome of the EIA, irrespective of whether the Othaka area is affected or not.	It was confirmed that all registered I&APs (including Traditional Councils) will be kept updated of progress and of the outcome of the EIA.
3	A Stakeholder Othaka TC	What happens in cases where dwellings need to be relocated and graves are also in in the backyard?	<p>When selecting the final alignment within the corridor, graves and graveyards are avoided as much as possible.</p> <p>Eskom acknowledges that graveyards have high social importance and are treated with the sensitivity they deserve.</p> <p>Overhead power lines can cross over graves and graveyards to avoid reburial and potential damage. However, should the proposed project have a direct impact on the graves a reburial process will be facilitated with the assistance of a heritage specialist, Ingonyama Trust, affected family members and the relevant traditional council.</p> <p>Eskom ensures that the reburial process is subjected to the relevant customs and traditions of the affected family. Eskom pays all the costs associated with the reburial as agreed with the affected family.</p>

8. NEXT STEPS IN THE EIA PROCESS

The following information was outlined as part of the way forward:

- All members of the public will be advised of the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public review.
- Communication with Othaka Traditional Council will continue for the duration of the EIA.
- All traditional councils will be informed whether they are or not affected by the preferred corridor when environmental authorisation has been issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

9. CLOSURE

The Public Participation Team thanked all participants and closed the meeting.

Refreshments were served afterwards.

ANNEXURE A: ATTENDANCE LIST AND REGISTERS

Copies of attendance registers are provided as Appendix E of the Draft Scoping Report and can be requested from Ms Lungelo Chamane, Email: lungelo@wakhive.co.za, Tel: 079 116 5703

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1	Ms	N	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Council member	071 818 2669	Emondlo	3105
2	Mr	J	Limako	Othaka TC	Council member	079 013 4009	Emondlo	3105
3	Mr	A	Nkumane	Othaka TC	Council member	072 303 0841	Emondlo	3105
4	Mr	E	Mtshali	Othaka TC	Council member	073 873 0990	Emondlo	3105
5	Mr	P	Ngema	Othaka TC	Council member	073 029 5844	Emondlo	3105
6	Mr	P	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Council member	072 314 6277	Emondlo	3105
7	Mr	S	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Council member	073 060 4262	Emondlo	3105
8	Mr	M	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Council member	071 934 8874	Emondlo	3105
9	Mr	MJ	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Community member	084 675 1646	Emondlo	3105
10	Mr	BM	Mlotshwa	Othaka TC	Community member	073 361 7029	Emondlo	3105
11	Mr	W	Buthelezi	Othaka TC	Community member	079 994 7943	Emondlo	3105
12	Mr	Sipho	Masondo	Othaka TC	Deputy Chairperson	083 428 8868	Vryheid	3100
13	Ms	Londiwe	Mazibuko	Othaka TC	Secretary	073 774 4591	Vryheid	3100
14	Ms	Ntombi	Mpungose	Othaka TC	Community member	073 717 9016	Vryheid	3100
15		KM	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Community member	082 849 5651	Vryheid	3100
16	Mr	J	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Inkosi	076 095 662	Vryheid	3100
17		Q	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Community member	072 943 4350	Vryheid	3100
18		B	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Community member	073 228 2852	Vryheid	3100
19		R	Mdlalose	Othaka TC	Community member	072 785 4088	Vryheid	3100
20		P	Khumalo	Othaka TC	Community member	073 308 6626	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
21		ME	Khumalo	Othaka TC	Community member	076 118 5337	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
22		A	Dlamini	Othaka TC	Community member	082 256 9581	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
23		A	Ndima	Othaka TC	Community member	076 541 4656	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
24		RT	Maduna	Othaka TC	Community member	073 082 6169	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
25		PS	Sangweni	Othaka TC	Community member	072 616 1715	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
26		PS	Dlamini	Othaka TC	Community member	071 353 4920	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
27		M	Zungu	Othaka TC	Community member	083 980 0555	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
28		BS	Mhlongo	Othaka TC	Council member	073 209 0625	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
29		PG	Mncube	Othaka TC	Council member	083 489 7082	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
30		JB	Shabalala	Othaka TC	Council member	073 206 6905	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
31		P	Buthelezi	Othaka TC	Council member		Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
32		P	Zulu	Othaka TC	Council member	063 245 3741	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105
33		M	Khumalo	Othaka TC	Council member	072 310 9921	Ntseka, Emondlo	3105