

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

SCOPING PHASE

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH
USUTHU TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

(13 & 25 OCTOBER 2016)

OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Usuthu 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 – Usuthu 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 Usuthu 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.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
1	Mr M Ndwandwe	Will the proposed station at Mkhuze be an electricity generation station?	The Iphiva Substation proposed in Mkhuze is a 400/132 kV transmission substation. It only transmits electricity. The 400 kV transmission lines from Normandie substation will feed Iphiva substation. 132 kV lines will exit the proposed Iphiva substation and feed into the existing distribution network.
2	Mr M Ndwandwe	To what extent will the Usuthu Traditional Council be affected by the proposed corridors?	The Usuthu Traditional Council is affected by the Normandie - Iphiva lines. The Usuthu Traditional Council area falls within the proposed corridor labelled D - E.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
3	Mr MS Mahlambi	Why is the proposed corridor to the extent of 2km whereas only 55m is needed for the power lines?	<p>The 2km corridor enables Eskom to find the best alignment within the corridor. The size of the corridor makes it possible for Eskom to avoid constraints and areas of importance along the corridor.</p> <p>The preferred corridor will be narrowed down to 55m during the servitude negotiation process.</p>
4	Mr MS Mahlambi	If the family does not wish to leave their graves on the affected site, who will be responsible for the associated reburial costs?	<p>When selecting the final alignment within the corridor, graves and graveyards are avoided as much as possible. Overhead power lines can also cross over graves and graveyards to avoid reburial and potential damage.</p> <p>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> <p>In such cases, it would be the preferred option to work around the communal graveyard, hence the leeway provided by the 2km servitude right, whereas only 55m is needed.</p>
5	Mr DA Zulu	If a designated plot of land has six rondavels, will Eskom rebuild all those six (6) rondavels?	<p>The servitude negotiation process is a private matter between Eskom and the affected landowner. Different landowners may have different requirements.</p> <p>Property evaluator will assess the value of the built structures e.g. six rondavels and then a contractor will build similar structures at a new location. It can also be at the discretion of the owner whether 6 identical rondavels or a house equivalent to the value of six rondavels is built.</p>
6	Mr M Hlatshwayo	What happens if the proposed corridor passes through a communal graveyard?	<p>When selecting the final alignment within the corridor, graves and graveyards are avoided as much as possible. Overhead power lines can</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			<p>also cross over graves and graveyards to avoid reburial and potential damage.</p> <p>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>
7	Mr Amon Zulu	<p>Since we are aware that power lines must be as straight as possible (avoid zig-zag), how are power lines of this magnitude going to pass through peoples' homesteads since people have built without following a particular pattern?</p>	<p>The 2km corridor enables Eskom to find the best alignment within the corridor. The size of the corridor makes it possible for Eskom to avoid constraints and areas of importance along the corridor, including houses.</p> <p>The preferred corridor will be narrowed down to 55m during the servitude negotiation process.</p>
8	INKosi Zulu	<p>Most community members are familiar with the proposed power lines as they have seen them all around the country. There is therefore no need to deliberate about them because the presentation is clear and speaks about the need to strengthen the power supply.</p> <p>It is also understood that proper channels for communication will be maintained throughout the EIA investigations and the community will be kept informed.</p>	<p>Inkosi Zulu's remarks were noted, with thanks.</p>
9	INKosi Zulu	<p>I am concerned about issues that could arise for families who have graves within their homesteads. I am of the opinion that community members should be using allocated graveyards as it provides for better planning for developments.</p>	<p>Overhead power lines can cross over graves and graveyards to avoid reburial and potential damage.</p> <p>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>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			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.
10	Mr Mhlongo	In the eventuality that people are relocated, will they be compensated for their crops which have been cultivated.	All landowners will be compensated for any loss resulting from the relocation and restrictions within the servitude.
11	Mam' Ndabezitha	Will it still be safe to farm beneath the power lines?	<p>Eskom, as a leading energy provider in South Africa stays up-to-date with international knowledge and research which guides them on the impacts of exposure to electromagnetic fields from overhead power lines.</p> <p>There is no conclusive evidence on health effects. However, Eskom has adopted a precautionary principle which ensures that they safeguard the environment and human health. Eskom does not allow people to live underneath the power lines and within the servitude of the overhead power lines.</p> <p>Yes, most farming and agricultural practices except for sugar cane and commercial forestry, can still be practiced under transmission power lines, provided there is adherence to safe working clearances and crop height restrictions.</p>
12	Mrs MK Ndwandwe (Ndunakazi)	There are houses within Usuthu Traditional Council which were built without the consent of the Traditional Council. Some people are using more land than what they were originally allocated. All these issues will be considered should these houses be affected by the power lines.	<p>It was clarified that Eskom will not use the entire 2km corridor. As such, given the distribution of households in the rural settlements, it is possible to avoid houses. Therefore, it is possible to find a servitude of 55m within the 2km corridor.</p> <p>Eskom will try and avoid houses as much as possible. However, in instances where houses are unavoidable, negotiations for relocation will be done with the relevant household and in close consultation with the relevant Traditional Council.</p> <p>A Relocation Action Plan will be prepared which will take into consideration all the standards and principles which will guide the relocation.</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
13	Mr M Xulu	Thank you to the EIA team for the information and for a detailed presentation regarding the proposed project.	Mr Xulu's appreciation remarks were noted, with thanks.

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 Usuthu 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@wakiwe.co.za, Tel: 079 116 5703

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1	Ms	IL	Mthethwa	Usuthu TC	Secretary	079 297 0012	Lindizwe, Nongoma	3950
2	Mr	DH	Nyawo	Usuthu TC	Vice Chairperson	071 113 4428	Embonjeni, Nongoma	3950
3	Mrs	KM	Ndwardwe	Usuthu TC	Council member	084 784 8650	Ophiyaweni, Nongoma	3950
4	Mr	PG	Gwala	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 493 4965	KwaMcwembe, Nongoma	3950
5	Mr	L	Mbatha	Usuthu TC	Council member		Mahlombe, Nongoma	3950
6		AM	Mncwango	Usuthu TC	Messenger	072 323 4457	Manzimakhulu, Nongoma	3950
7	Ms	AB	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	073 359 6126	Nongoma	3950
8		BE	Khumalo	Usuthu TC	Community member	076 708 9332	Nongoma	3950
9		P	Ndwardwe	Usuthu TC	Community member		Nongoma	3950
10	Mr	Bongani	Nzuza	Usuthu TC	Community member	078 388 8378	Nongoma	3950
11		MS	Dube	Usuthu TC	Councillor	071 080 4737	Nongoma	3950
12		JR	Mabanga	Usuthu TC	Councillor	073 240 4845	Nongoma	3950
13		ZR	Mabanga	Usuthu TC	Council member	082 059 2317	Ezilonjeni, Nongoma	3950
14		MV	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Community member	073 421 5112	KwaMinya, Nongoma	3950
15		AM	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Community member	063 093 4551	KwaMinya, Nongoma	3950
16	Mr	Gilbert	Gwala	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 493 4965	Mncwembe, Nongoma	3950
17		MS	Ndwardwe	Usuthu TC	Council member	079 646 4007	Nongoma	3950
18		H	Qwabe	Usuthu TC	Council member	073 950 9030	Nqobathi, Nongoma	3950
19	Mr	Amon	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	078 362 8131	Bangumuzi, Nongoma	3950
20		GS	Dlamini	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 326 0993	Hlathidunge, Nongoma	3950
21		MS	Zondo	Usuthu TC	Community member	076 010 319	Ebungwini, Nongoma	3950
22		N	Ngcobo	Usuthu TC	Council member		Ebungwini, Nongoma	3950
23	Mr	Musa	Kunene	Usuthu TC	Community member	076 505 6695	Sbonda, Nongoma	3950
24		MW	Mnguni	Usuthu TC	Ibamba	071 440 5656	Ekubuseni, Nongoma	3950
25		EM	Ngema	Usuthu TC	Community member	083 973 8999	Zwide, Nongoma	3950
26		F	Mfeka	Usuthu TC	Community member		Okhalweni, Nongoma	3950
27		E	Khumalo	Usuthu TC	Community member	076 216 9293	Vuma, Nongoma	3950
28		DA	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 855 0055	Nongoma	3950
29		YS	Mhlongo	Usuthu TC	Council member	079 553 6851	Nongoma	3950
30		H	Mngomezulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 725 6395	Nongoma	3950
31		MT	Nxumalo	Usuthu TC	Council member	076 917 7938	Nongoma	3950
32		MF	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	076 123 0083	Nongoma	3950
33	Ms	Thandi	Mthembu	Usuthu TC	Community member	076 744 7022	Nongoma	3950
34	Mr	Elijah	Simelane	Usuthu TC	Community member	078 000 4299	Nongoma	3950
35		M	Manqele	Usuthu TC	Community member	072 158 5535	Nongoma	3950
36		M	Nkwanyana	Usuthu TC	Community member	079 196 7472	Nongoma	3950

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
37		M	Ndwandwe	Usuthu TC	Community member	079 085 5779	Nongoma	3950
38		T	Ntombela	Usuthu TC	Community member	079 646 5001	Nongoma	3950
39		BN	Ntombela	Usuthu TC	Community member	076 959 2177	Nongoma	3950
40		SS	Ntshangase	Usuthu TC	Community member	083 496 2366	Nongoma	3950
41		NM	Simelane	Usuthu TC	Council member		Nongoma	3950
42	Mr	David	Ngcobo	Usuthu TC	Council member	076 089 8755	Nongoma	3950
43		VM	Mnguni	Usuthu TC	Councillor	062 392 7430	Nongoma	3950
44		BN	Thabede	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 571 6253	Nongoma	3950
45	Mr	Enoch	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	076 588 0033	Nongoma	3950
46		G	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 460 9206	Nongoma	3950
47		G	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 462 7699	Nongoma	3950
48		PN	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Council member	072 051 5192	Nongoma	3950
49		LA	Mangele	Usuthu TC	Community member	073 346 2217	Nongoma	3950
50		Z	Zulu	Usuthu TC	Community member	072 021 9357	Sbonda, Nongoma	3950
51		T	Dlamini	Usuthu TC	Community member	079 454 0873	Sbonda, Nongoma	3950
52		P	Zondo	Usuthu TC	Community member		Sbonda, Nongoma	3950
53	Ms	Zodwa	Nkwanyana	Usuthu TC	Community member		Sbonda, Nongoma	3950
54		ML	Ntuli	Usuthu TC	Community member		Sbonda, Nongoma	3950