

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

SCOPING PHASE

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH
MTHETHWA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

(20 OCTOBER 2016)

OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Mthethwa 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 – Mthethwa 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 Mthethwa 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 Petros Mavuso	Electricity supply in the area is indeed very weak. When it rains, electricity supply is interrupted. I hope that the Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening project will be a success.	The proposed project will assist in improving the electricity supply and satisfy future electricity demands.
2	Mr Isaac Ngcobo	Will it still be safe for livestock to graze beneath the power lines?	Based on available information, there is no evidence which suggest that livestock could be affected when grazing beneath the power lines. Structures are, however, not permitted underneath the power lines because there is a risk of towers or power lines falling onto them. Eskom designs are according to the International Standards. There are two

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			<p>acceptable limits that are adhered to; within the servitude and outside of the servitude.</p> <p>A lot of literature on the matter is available to share with the public. Because these standards are adhered to, Electro Magnetic Fields (EMFs) do not have an impact on the human health, even if you live underneath the power line.</p>
3	Mr MJ Xulu	<p>Thank you to the EIA team for the presentation. I would like to request the team to take note that there are some areas within the Mthethwa Traditional Council which have not been electrified.</p>	<p>It was explained to Mthethwa Traditional Council that the proposed Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening is dealing with high voltage transmission lines.</p> <p>The electrification of Mthethwa area will be forwarded to the relevant Eskom office which deals with household connections, for their consideration.</p>
4	Mr VS Maseko	<p>Thank you to the EIA team for recognising and respecting the Traditional Council. According to my knowledge, the high voltage power lines which are proposed in the area do not possess any danger and will not change the community's way of life. Other matters will be negotiated if the Traditional Council is affected.</p>	<p>The team appreciated Mr Maseko's reflection and understanding of the proposed project.</p>
5	Mr JH Ndlangamandla	<p>Electricity in the area is unstable and we hope that the Eskom project will be a success.</p> <p>I am also very glad that the project was introduced after the local government elections. Otherwise, we would have thought that this is another tactic to influence people to vote for a particular political party.</p> <p>The Mthethwa Traditional Council will follow-up on the progress of the proposed project. We already have 400 kV power lines in the area, and we are aware of the safety measures that are often put in place for the community during the construction phase.</p>	<p>Mr Ndlangamandla's comments were noted, with thanks.</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
6	Mr JH Ndlangamandla	It is pleasing to note that Eskom ensures that affected people are well taken care of and houses will be built for them if they need to be relocated.	Negotiations will be done with the relevant household and in close consultation with the relevant Traditional Council. In cases whereby houses need to be relocated, Eskom appoints a contractor to build houses for the affected families. All costs associated with relocation become Eskom's responsibility.
7	Mr DE Nxumalo (Holomisa)	Thank you to the EIA team for the information and understandable presentation.	Mr Nxumalo's comments were noted, with thanks.
8	Mr MS Zwane	Thank you to the EIA team for transporting** Izinduna to the meeting, for recognising the Traditional Council, and for adhering to necessary protocols before commencing with work in the community.	Mr Zwane's words of appreciation were noted, with thanks. It was confirmed that the EIA team will ensure that protocol is observed at all times. The community and leaders will be kept updated of the progress of the EIA process.
9	Mr PE Maduma	Thank you to all Izinduna for responding positively to the invitation to attend the meeting for the proposed Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening Project.	The active response and participation by the relevant Izinduna's was also acknowledged by the EIA team.
10	Mr PE Maduna	What will happen to households that are within the proposed corridor?	Eskom will not use the entire 2km corridor. They will only negotiate for a servitude of 55m within the 2km corridor. 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. For the relocation of houses, Eskom appoints a contractor to build houses for the affected families in area that has been agreed upon. All costs associated with relocation become Eskom's responsibility.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
11	Ms Sifiso Buthelezi	Are potential job opportunities only referring to people with qualifications in electrical engineering or will there be opportunities for unskilled labour?	The community was informed that the construction of power lines is of a technical nature and requires specialised skills. The main contractor will be appointed to construct the power lines and local sub-contractors will be given opportunities to tender for general or unskilled work. Where possible, Eskom supports and encourages the use of local labour.
12	Mr Isaac Ngcobo	Thank you to the EIA team for the presentation. We have constant issues with unreliable power supply.	The proposed project will assist in improving the electricity supply in the Northern KZN areas and satisfy future electricity demands.

***The Izinduna were assisted with transport due to transport challenges and accessibility in the area. This was done to facilitate a combined public meeting with all relevant representatives of Mthethwa Traditional Council.*

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 Mthethwa 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@wakhwe.co.za, Tel: 079 116 5703

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1	Mr	A	Nkosi	Mthethwa TC	Committee member		Egodeni, Paulpietersburg	3170
2	Mr	Simon	Maseko	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	084 900 5751	Blink Water, Paulpietersburg	3170
3	Mr	Simon	Zwane	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	079 331 4906	Tholakele, Paulpietersburg	3170
4	Mr	M	Kunene	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	076 625 2525	Paulpietersburg	3170
5	Mr	JH	Ndlangamandla	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	076 771 1095	Vova Kleinfontein, Paulpietersburg	3170
6	Mr	DE	Nxumalo	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	079 035 1195	KwaZithulele, Paulpietersburg	3170
7	Mr	PM	Mavuso	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	071 762 4046	Mbuzane, Paulpietersburg	3170
8	Mr	BE	Mthali	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	078 582 1543	Thaphamasi, Paulpietersburg	3170
9	Mr	ME	Dlaba	Mthethwa TC	Committee member		Egodeni, Paulpietersburg	3170
10	Mr	M	Mkhwanazi	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	071 442 2299	KwaVeli Ezibomvu, Paulpietersburg	3170
11	Mr	DS	Nene	Mthethwa TC	Committee member	071 561 3830	Sokesimbone, Paulpietersburg	3170
12	Mr	JM	Xulu	Mthethwa TC	Committee member		Paulpietersburg	3170
13	Mr	IB	Ngcobo	Mthethwa TC	Community member	082 269 7565	Egodeni, Paulpietersburg	3170
14	Mr	PE	Maduna	Mthethwa TC	Community member	073 865 9112	Egodeni, Paulpietersburg	3170
15	Mr	Sifiso	Buthelezi	Mthethwa TC	Secretary	078 582 1543	Egodeni, Paulpietersburg	3170