

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

**SCOPING PHASE**

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH  
SIBIYA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

**(22 SEPTEMBER 2016)**

## OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Sibiya 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
<b>9</b>	<b>Sibiya Traditional Council</b>	<b>Sibiya Tribal Court (Pongola)</b>	<b>22 Sept 2016</b>
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 – Sibiyi 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 Sibiyi 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	Mr Mvumeleni Malinga	Based on my observation and understanding from the presentation, the KwaSibiya community is not directly affected by the proposed Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening Project because the power lines are more likely to stretch closer to the main road from Pongola towards Piet Retief.	The proposed corridor is 2km wide and the actual alignment has not been determined. Only a servitude of 55m will be used within the 2km corridor.  Although the community may not be directly affected, it is important that they are informed of the EIA process as the corridor affects the area within their jurisdiction.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
2	Mr M Ntshangase	What measures are followed by Eskom if the recommended corridor has graves?	<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> <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>
3	Mr Elizabeth Mntungwa	A common problem in the KwaSibiya area is that each household only has one electricity meter box irrespective of how many inhabitants the household has, hence electricity supply becomes erratic when overloaded.	<p>It was explained that the initial phase of electrification was to install one electricity meter box per household irrespective of the size of the household.</p> <p>Households which can afford to increase voltage can do so at their own expense. It is understood that the second phase of electrification will address the issue of increasing the voltage of meter boxes.</p>
4	Induna Zibuse Mncube	<p>There are houses in Ward 3 (Emageqweni) that have no electricity. How soon will the electrification process start for Ward 3?</p> <p>An Eskom official from Vryheid had last stated that a collective of 50 houses must need electricity before the electrification process can begin for the area. Can Eskom connect ward 3 to ward 6 in the interim?</p>	<p>Eskom officials from Vryheid (electrification planners) will be engaged to check progress and the possibility of connecting Wards 3 to 6.</p> <p>Mr Mvelase indicated that he will follow up with Eskom Officials in the Vryheid office.</p>
5	Mr Mhlekeseni Zwane	I live in Ward 3 and have applied for electricity connection. At the time of the application, I was told that I would be liable for a certain fee and that the local councillor would have to be present for the application. An Eskom Official from Vryheid indicated that ward 3 would be electrified before the end of 2016.	<p>Eskom officials from Vryheid (electrification planners) will be engaged to check progress and the possibility of connecting Wards 3 to 6. It is also possible that houses within Ward 3 have been categorised as in-feeds.</p> <p>Mr Mvelase indicated that he will follow up with Eskom Officials in Vryheid office.</p>

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
6	A Stakeholder Sibiya Traditional Council	According to my knowledge, the distribution of electricity is often separated by areas or regions. Half of Pongola consumers are supplied from Empangeni and the other half from Newcastle. Which area between Empangeni and Newcastle will have its network strengthened so as to increase the supply of electricity in Pongola?	The Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening Project will be drawing power from the Normandie power station which is 18km from Piet Retief, to a new substation to be built at Mkhuze.  Some networks do not have the capacity to supply electricity in large volumes, and some substations have small transformers. Eskom has a number of strengthening projects in the pipeline that have been prioritised.

## 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 Sibiya 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@wakhiwe.co.za](mailto:lungelo@wakhiwe.co.za), Tel: 079 116 5703

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1	Mr	WE	Sibiya	Sibiya TC	Community member	083 879 7666	Pongola	3170
2	Mr	MZ	Nhlengethwa	Sibiya TC	Community member	079 264 5777	Pongola	3170
3	Ms	ZR	Ndlangamandla	Sibiya TC	Community member	079 704 6469	Pongola	3170
4	Ms	C	Kunene	Sibiya TC	Community member	071 406 5373	Pongola	3170
5	Mr	LM	Sibiya	Sibiya TC	Community member	083 588 2444	Pongola	3170
6	Mrs	Fikile	Phakathi	Sibiya TC	Community member	072 686 5203	Pongola	3170
7	Mrs	D	Malinga	Sibiya TC	Community member	072 395 8927	Pongola	3170
8	Mrs	E	Mtungwa	Sibiya TC	Community member	079 757 3254	Pongola	3170
9	Mrs	TM	Sibiya	Sibiya TC	Community member	073 105 5526	Pongola	3170
10	Ms	S	Hlabisa	Sibiya TC	Community member		Pongola	3170
11	Ms	T	Nkosi	Sibiya TC	Community member	079 844 1050	Pongola	3170
12	Mr	Z	Ncube	Sibiya TC	Community member	078 075 9130	Pongola	3170
13	Mr	P	Motha	Sibiya TC	Council member		Pongola	3170
14	Mr	M	Mtshali	Sibiya TC	Council member	072 184 8456	Pongola	3170
15	Mr	M	Sibiya	Sibiya TC	Council member	072 277 8142	Pongola	3170
16	Mr	MA	Malinga	Sibiya TC	Community member	072 172 1065	Pongola	3170
17	Mr	M	Zwane	Sibiya TC	Community member	083 472 8361	Pongola	3170
18	Mr	J	Mavuso	Sibiya TC	Council member	083 684 8309	Pongola	3170
19	Mr	D	Vundla	Sibiya TC	Community member	076 260 8658	Pongola	3170
20	Mr	MS	Ntshangase	Sibiya TC	Community member	071 169 5744	Pongola	3170
21	Mr	MS	Sukazi	Sibiya TC	Council member	082 638 8615	Pongola	3170
22	Mr	MB	Zwane	Sibiya TC	Council member	073 734 4773	Pongola	3170
23	Mr	SJ	Zwane	Sibiya TC	Council member	072 788 0467	Pongola	3170