

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Nicolene Venter

From: Nicolene Venter
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 4:19 AM
To: 'obaloyi@environment.gov.za'; 'lmahlangu@environment.gov.za';
'mrabothata@environment.gov.za'; 'pskepe@environment.gov.za'
Cc: 'Tinashe Maramba'; Mahlatse Monareng; Phuti Mathekga
Subject: Pluto-Mahikeng EIA Project: Notification of Commencement of the Impact Assessment Phase
Attachments: Pluto-Mahikeng EIA Newsletter-FINAL.pdf; Appendix A-DEA FSR Acceptance&POS Approval.pdf; Appendix B-Locality Map.compressed.pdf

Dear Stakeholder,

Please find attached notification letter for your perusal.

Kind regards,

Nicolene Venter
Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement Practitioner
Imaginative Africa (Pty) Ltd
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PIERRE VAN RYNEVELD, 0157
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Please, consider our environment. Before printing this e-mail ask yourself: "Do I need a hard copy?"

20 June 2018

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAHIKENG MAIN TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION AND A 400kV PLUTO-MAHIKENG POWER LINE (DEA Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1051)

EIA NEWSLETTER

We trust that you, as a registered Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) and stakeholder, have received all the various public documents that have been distributed to date regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that is being conducted for the proposed construction of the Mahikeng Main Transmission Substation in Miga (near Mahikeng) and the new 400kV powerline that will start from Pluto Main Transmission Substation (near Carletonville) and end at the proposed Mahikeng Main Transmission Substation in Miga, in the Gauteng and North West Provinces. If you have not received the public documents, you are most welcome to submit your request to us, in writing by e-mail, fax or letter (contact details below), and we will forward the relevant document(s) that you are interested in. You are also welcome to download the Final Scoping Report (FSR) from our website (<https://baagi.co.za/> select **public documents**)

This EIA Newsletter aims to further facilitate your understanding of the proposed substation and power line and the EIA process, including the Public Participation Process (PPP), being followed. The first phase of the EIA process (i.e. the Environmental Scoping Study) has been completed, and the desktop/preliminary specialist assessments and proposed EIA process have been captured in the FSR. The FSR and its supporting documents, including the Plan of Study (PoS) for the EIA phase, were submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) on Wednesday the 2nd of May 2018 for the Department's review and acceptance.

The DEA accepted the FSR and approved the PoS for the proposed EIA process on the 13th of June 2018. The letter stated that the Department was satisfied with the FSR i.e. the FSR complied with the minimum requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. It is important to note that the Department requested additional information that must be incorporated in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The acceptance and approval letter received from the DEA is attached to this letter (Appendix A) and can be downloaded from our website (website link above).

1 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE SCOPING PHASE

The Environmental Scoping Study identified and evaluated potential environmental impacts (positive and negative) associated with all aspects of the proposed project. In terms of the EIA Regulations, *feasible and reasonable* alternatives were discussed within the Scoping Report.

As you may recall, the scoping phase started with three (3) proposed corridors, namely:

- Proposed Alternative Corridor 1 (green)
- Proposed Alternative Corridor 2 (purple)
- Proposed Alternative Corridor 3 (orange)

During the consultation process, you will recall that a 50-day extension of the scoping phase was submitted to the DEA to provide you as interested and/or affected parties (I&APs) and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the Revised Draft Scoping Report. The information regarding the need for the extended scoping phase and the reasons for the deviations of Corridor 2 were included in our letter dated 26 February 2018 and were as follows:

- A private conservation area was found to exist in the section between Carletonville and Goedgevonden Village (closer to Goedgevonden Village). The corridor in this section had to be re-aligned;
- The section between Lichtenburg, past Bakerville towards Ottoshoop has been discarded so as not to traverse the Molemane Eye Nature Reserve, the sensitive Marico Biosphere Reserve and Photo Voltaic developments (solar farms) which received Environmental Authorisations; and
- Avoid the possible dissecting of Buhrmannsdrif Agricultural Small Holdings.

Taking the outcome of the specialist studies into consideration, Corridor 3 (orange) has been discarded and Corridor 1 (green) and Corridor 2 (purple, with deviation as previously communicated) has been approved for detailed studies in the impact phase.

2 IMPACT PHASE

Detailed assessments were undertaken by the various environmental specialists between the months of February and May 2018 for the proposed project to verify and/or amend the desk-top studies done during the scoping phase

During the EIA Phase, the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAR) will be made available for public review and comment for a period of at least 30 days as legislated in the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended). The DEIAR will include the key summary of the specialist field assessments. The availability of the DEIAR will be advertised in the same local and regional newspapers as used during the scoping phase and registered I&APs and stakeholders on the project database will be notified in writing.

The Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (FEIAR) will be updated with the comments/concerns/issued raised during the DEIAR review period before it is submitted to the DEA.

2.1 Locality Map

The Locality Map, showing the three (3) proposed Mahikeng Main Transmission Substation sites and Corridor 1 (green) and Corridor 2 (purple) is attached as Appendix B.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

Public involvement is one of the cornerstones of an effective EIA as it is your comments that add value to the environmental process. We therefore, once again, request your active participation in this phase of the EIA as your knowledge of the local area will be valuable to the various specialist studies that will provide input into the project.

4 WAY FORWARD

Please note that public involvement is a two-way communication and consultation process and we kindly request that you as an I&AP, stakeholder or possibly affected landowner:

- provide us with the contact details of your neighbour, friend or family member who you believe should be informed regarding the proposed Transmission Substation and 400kV Transmission Power Line; or
- provide them with our contact details and request them to contact us directly.

The public participation process is an ongoing process throughout the environmental authorisation application process. You will therefore be informed through and advertisements of the various stages of the EIA, as and when required.

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that a series of meetings will be held towards the end of July and beginning of August 2018 at venues as centrally located as possible. As soon as the logistics for these meetings have been finalised, you as a registered I&AP and stakeholder, will be invited and/or notified of the meetings.

Should you, during this Impact Assessment Phase, require any additional information or wish to submit comments on the specialist studies for the proposed project, you are welcome to forward your inputs, in writing, to the Public Participation Office (contact details below).

We look forward to your contributions.



Nicolene Venter

Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement Practitioner

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Appendix A: DEA Letter of Acceptance of FSR and Approval of PoS

Appendix B: Locality Map



environmental affairs

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1051

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PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Maramba

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MAHIKENG MAIN TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION AND 1X400KV PLUTO-MAHIKENG POWERLINE WITHIN THE MERAFONG, DITSBOTLA, RAMOTSHERE MOILAO, JB MARKS AND MAHIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTH WEST AND GAUTENG PROVINCES

The final Scoping Report (SR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated May 2018 and received by this Department on 03 May 2018 refer.

This Department has evaluated the final SR and the PoSEIA dated May 2018 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22 (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the Environmental Impact Assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA and the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following additional information is required and must be incorporated in the EIAr:

- **Contact details of the Gauteng Provincial Department**

It has been noted that you have included the contact details of the official who does not review the EIA applications as a contact person. Please note that this will result in the relevant information or comments not being incorporated in the application, as the report will be forwarded to the section not responsible for the review of EIA. Therefore, you are requested to amend accordingly the details in the application form and ensure the EIA section is given an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed development.

- **Activities applied for**

Ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice, listed activities and sub-activities are applied for, that they are specific and can be linked to the development activity/ies or infrastructure in the project description.

Furthermore ensure that a detailed description is provided for this listed activity in the EIAr. The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.

The listed activities in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and relevant to the proposed development.

- The Department has noted that you have applied for the activity, GN R. 327, Activity 12 which read as "The development of – (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more", however, you have described the triggering activity as follows:

- *"The proposed project will involve construction of a Substation with a physical footprint of approximately 1km X 1km".*

Therefore, you are required to describe the substation footprint in terms of square metres and not in kilometres.

- The following activity, GN R. 327, Activity 24 (i) - the development of a road with a reserve wider than 13, 5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres has been applied for, however, the description does not provide details with regard to the size of the road in terms of road width. Therefore, you are requested to provide the size of the road in terms of its length and width.
- The Department has noted that you have applied for GN R. 324, Activity 12: "The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan" with the following description:
 - *The construction of the proposed transmission line will involve the clearing of vegetation for the final preferred route and site.*

The Department needs clarity in terms of whether there won't be any clearance during the construction of the substation as proposed. It was further noted that the area also fall within a CBA. Therefore; if there will be any clearance during substation and power line, you need to amend your description to talk to such clearance.

The Department has further noted that activity GNR 324, Activity 12 was copied as it is from the regulations, and doesn't specify which activities and/or sub-activities are triggered by the proposed development. Please ensure that when you submit the draft EIAr you include only sub-actives that are linked to the proposed development and also ensure that an amended application form is submitted with the relevant activities triggered by the proposed development.

- **Project description and proposed alternatives**

It was noted that for the substation and corridor alternatives, three alternatives were investigated. However there is no indication of which one is the preferred alternative. Please ensure that a preferred alternative is indicated in the EIAr as well as the preference in terms of specialists.

Furthermore no detailed description was provided for the three substation alternatives investigated. Please provide a detailed description of any identified alternatives for each investigated substation sites separately. Also ensure that the proposed activity alternative sites are feasible and reasonable, and include the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per the requirement of the EIA Regulations, as amended.

- **Layout, regional and Locality as well as sensitivity Maps**

A copy of the final site layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible. The layout map must indicate the following:

- Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
- Buffer areas;
- All “no-go” areas.

A sensitivity layout plan overlaid by the sensitive features and the buffer zones i.e. wetland and also the existing structure in the vicinity of the proposed development must be submitted as part of the report for analysis of the effect of the proposed project on the environment. Please ensure all features are clearly indicated on the legend of the sensitivity layout plan.

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR illustrate the different proposed alignments and above ground storage of fuel. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

- **Specialist studies**

Please ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations in the specialist studies are addressed and included in the final EIAr and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

- **Public Participation Process (PPP)**

All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the draft SR and submitted as part of the final SR must be taken into consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAr) in respect of the proposed development.

You are also required to address all issues raised by Organs of State and I&APs prior to the submission of the EIAr to the Department. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

The EAP must, in order to give effect to Regulation 8, give registered I&APs access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report in writing within 30 days before submitting the final EIAr to the Department. The EIAr must also include comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended and the PPP must be in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations.

- **Submission of Draft EIAr**

When submitting a draft EIAr ensures that you submit another copy to Department’s Biodiversity Planning Directorate.

- **General comments**

Please note that the Department will undertake a site inspection prior to or upon receipt of the draft EIAr for comment.

You are hereby reminded that should the EIA fail to comply with the requirements of this acceptance letter, the project will be **refused** in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 published under Government Notice R982 in Government Gazette No. 38282 dated 04 December 2014, as amended ('the EIA Regulations, 2014'), with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999.

You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD and one (1) hard copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIAr) to the Department.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

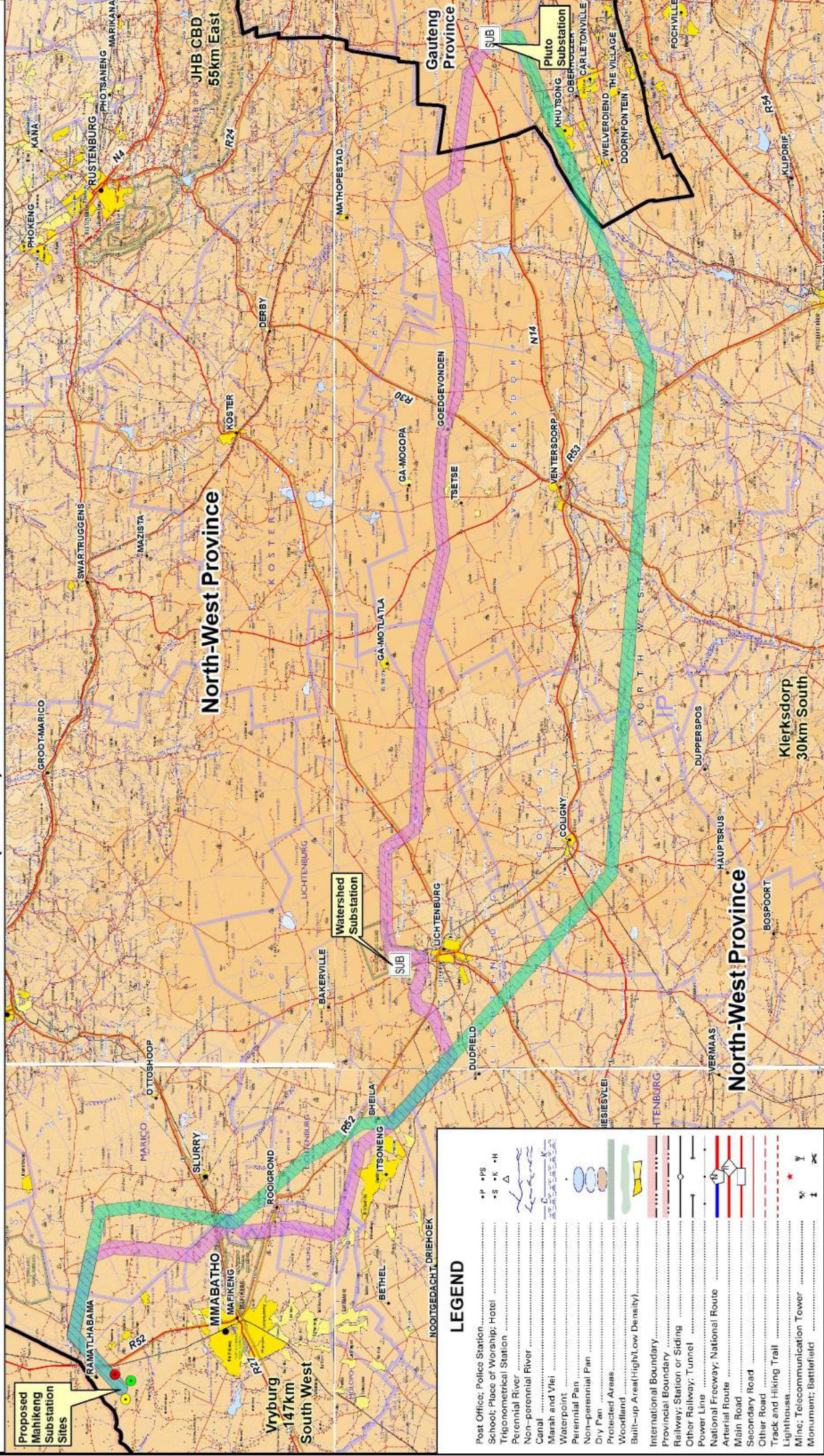
Letter Signed by: Ms Olivia Letlalo

Designation: Control Environmental officer: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 13/06/2018

cc:	Name	Organisation	Telephone	Email
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	Dr P Mokaila	Bokone Bophirima: DREAD	(018) 389 5146	pmokaila@nwpg.gov.za
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	Dr B. Mokgethi	JB Marks Local Municipality	(018) 299 5003	cynthiac@tlokwe.gov.za

DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED MAHIKENG SUBSTATION AND 1 X 400KV POWERLINE FROM PLUTO SUBSTATION TO MAHIKENG SUBSTATION (250KM) - NORTH-WEST & GAUTENG PROVINCES



LOCALITY MAP

Datum: WGS 84
Data Source:
ENPAT 2001
Chief Surveyor General



Baagi
Environmental
Consultancy

Prepared by: Andre Zanolli GIS
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Date: 14 May 2018