

MINUTES

PROPOSED FORSKOR-MERNSKY 275KV±130KM POWERLINE AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATION WORKS

Meeting Details

Date: 20th September 2012

Time: 09:00- 12H00

Venue: Sefapane Lodge, Phalaborwa

Re: Municipality, Councillors

Facilitator: Margen Industrial Services:

Ben Koma
Moses Mahlangu

Consultant: Nsovo Environmental Consultant:

Munyadziwa Rikhotso
Amukelani Shiundlana

Proponent: Eskom Transmission:

Henry Nawa
Phuti Makweya
Thamsanqa Ngcobo

Attendance Register

The register is attached as Annexure A

Purpose of the Meeting:

- Explain the EIA process followed to date.
- Report to stakeholders about the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
- Discuss further issues of concern.
- Outline and discuss the way forward.

Presentation by:

- Mr. Henry Nawa gave a presentation on the project background and the construction process.
- Mrs Munyadziwa Rikhotso presented the EIA Process (Technical and PPP) and the way forward.

General Comment

The public participation meeting was arranged for Ward Councilors, Municipality Officials and Tribal Authorities around Burgersfort under the Greater Tubatse Local Municipality. The minutes as recorded hereunder are the reflection of the presentation and discussion of the meeting held with attending stakeholders.

The minutes were captured and recorded with the help of a tape recorder and are not written as verbatim pronouncement but merely as summary of what was said. Hence questions, comments and issues raised at the meeting are not linked to particular persons.

ITEM	PRESENTATION
Opening Prayer:	<p>Mr. S. Mphego from Community Service Department within the Greater Tubatse Local Municipality requested Mr. A Sekhukhune to open the session with prayer.</p> <p>Attendance registers were circulated for signing.</p> <p>Mr. Mphego advised all present of the safety protocol and requested Councilor Moagi to facilitate the proceedings of the meeting.</p>
Welcome and Introductions	Councilor Moagi officially welcomed all in attendance and requested that each attendee introduces themselves.
Presentation	Ms Rikhotso explained the EIA studies conducted and Mr. Henry Nawa gave a presentation about the background of the project.

ISSUES AND RESPONSE	
QUESTIONS/ISSUES/COMMENTS RAISED (Not linked to specific individuals)	RESPONSE
Due to the new being constructed parallel to the existing line, Eskom is going to take more land and hence affect the size of the agricultural fields. It was then asked if Eskom was prepared to compensate the communities that are going to be affected in this way?	Eskom negotiates for the servitude with each affected landowner and compensation is paid according to the size of the land taken after evaluations are conducted.
Communities understand the issue of compensation but the feeling is that normally compensation is not relative to what is on the land. It was suggested that Eskom consider paying a monthly or annual fee.	Eskom employs independent valuers to determine the value of the affected property as per Eskom guidelines and country laws. It should be noted that Eskom does not buy land per se but the servitude rights. Resettlement is a possibility, but only as the last option. This also takes in to account landowners' agreement conditions.
What will be the empowerment benefits i.e. skills transfer and use of local labor, for youth community in this project?	Eskom uses a tender system and the selected contractor is only advised to use local skills and labor. There are also corporate social responsibilities that are procured by Eskom and local / affected residents could submit request for such assistance.

	Locals can also benefit from economic spin offs such as small business activities within the area.
Will Eskom send inspectors to oversee the construction so as to avoid unnecessary destruction to the plants and areas such as burial grounds?	During the construction phase of the project Eskom will employ an Environmental Control Officer to ensure that guidelines as stipulated in the authorization, EMPr and communal agreements are adhered to.
How far should the power line be from the residential house / structures?	The servitude is 47m wide and the construction of dwellings is not allowed within the servitude. Normally it is recommended that other structures are erected 10m away from the servitude.
Are the local people not going to experience power shortage as a result of this new line? If the project is intended to draw electricity from Merensky Substation to Foskop Substation and we also have a growth in the development of new mines around the area of Steelpoort-Burgersfort area we think this will affect the reliability of electricity supply in the Greater Tubatse LM area.	Merensky Substation has enough capacity to handle the demand. To add on to this there is a new supply of electricity to the Greater Tubatse Local Municipality by way of Duvha-Leseding powerline. There is also a new substation called Senakangwedi which is going to be constructed in the area to ensure reliability of electricity supply.
One of the attendees advised that the presentation fonts on the hard copy of the presentation materials are not visible enough.	It was agreed that the fonts of the presentation material will be increased and that the electronic copy will be made available to Mr. Mphego – the public participation manager of Greater Tubatse local municipality.
The Greater Tubatse Local Municipality is already having electrification backlog. The construction of a powerline through villages that are without electricity may be resisted by such communities.	It was cautioned that the project should not be allowed to unnecessarily raise communities' expectations. The municipality has its local electrification plans that are subject to local IDP, priority projects, and related guidelines. It was further advised that each community through its local governance and leadership may formalize the issue of electrification of houses and forward it to Eskom.

Way Forward

- The attendees were advised that the closing date to comment on the project is the 30TH Eskom
- The attendees were further advised that after the comment period the Final Environmental Impact Report will be compiled and submitted to DEA for a decision and that all registered stakeholders will be informed of the decision of the authority and information on how to appeal will be circulated.