

2017

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT: ENVIRONMENTAL
AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT REPORT FOR THE
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 131KM
FOSKOR-MERENSKY POWERLINE FROM 275KV TO 400KV
AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATION WORKS IN LIMPOPO
PROVINCE**

JUNE 2017



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of December 2014 as amended in April 2017, require that the organs of State together with interested persons and the general public be informed of any application and also be afforded an opportunity to comment on the application. Similarly the application for Environment Authorization amendment Part 2 requires same engagement.

Public Participation Process (PPP) is any process that involves the public in problem solving and decision-making and it forms an integral part of the BA process. The PPP provides people who may be interested in or affected by the proposed development, with an opportunity to provide comments and to raise issues or concern, or to make suggestions that may result in enhanced benefits for the project.

Chapter 6, Regulation 39 through 44, of the EIA Regulations stipulates the manner in which PPP should be conducted as well as the minimum requirements for a compliant process. These requirements include (but not limited to):

- (a) fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to the public at the boundary or on the fence of —
 - (i) the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken;
- (b) giving written notice to —
 - (i) the occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
 - (ii) the owners, or persons in control of, and occupiers of that land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;
 - (iii) the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site or alternative site is situated and any organisation of rate payers that represent the community in the area;
 - (iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;
 - (v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and
 - (vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;
- (c) placing an advertisement in —
 - (i) one local newspaper

The primary purpose of the report is as follows:

- To outline the PPP that was undertaken;
- To synthesise the comments and issues raised by the key stakeholders, I&APs; and

- To ensure that the BA process fully address the issues and concerns raised, if any.

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

The Public Participation principle holds that those who are affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the decision-making process i.e. the public's contribution will influence the decision. One of the primary objectives of conducting the PPP is to provide I&AP's with an opportunity to express their concerns and views on issues relating to the proposed project. The principles of public participation are to ensure that the PPP:

- Communicates the interests of and meet the process needs of all participants
- Seek to facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.
- Involves participants in defining how they participate.
- Is as inclusive and transparent as possible, it must be conducted in line with the requirements of Regulations 39 - 44 of the EIA Regulations.

3 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The Public Participation approach adopted in this process is in line with the processes stipulated in Regulation 39 - 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS DURING CALL TO REGISTER AS INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

4.1 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) identified include pre-identified stakeholders (government department), landowners, district Municipalities, tribal authorities as well as the general public.

4.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DATABASE

In accordance with the requirements of the 2014 EIA Regulations (regulation 42), a register of I&APs must be kept by the public participation practitioner.

In fulfilment of this requirement such a register has been compiled and is constantly updated with the details of involved I&AP's throughout the process including their comments. The database is attached as **Appendix E7**.

4.3 SITE NOTICES

Site notices were placed at conspicuous areas on different dates as depicted in the Table below:

Date	Area
25 October 2016	Foskor substation Along R36 at the entrance of Ga Moraba village.
26 October 2016	The Oaks IAS Tuck Shop Mshefane Park, Burgersfort
27 October 2016	Merensky substation On the fence around a communication tower near Burgersfort

Photographic evidence of the site notices are attached as **Appendix E1**.

4.4 DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICES TO SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS/ OCCUPIERS

Notification letters were posted to stakeholders and landowners on the 28th October 2016 (Refer to **Appendix E3** for Registered Mail) whereas other site notices were hand delivered to landowners/occupiers of the land on the 25-27 October 2016. These notifications were informing them of the proposed project as well as affording them an opportunity to comment or raise any issue that they might have. Further, the stakeholders and the landowner were given a 30 day calendar period to respond to the letters as per the NEMA 2014 Regulations.

4.5 MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE SITE IS SITUATED AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES

The project falls under Mopani and Sekhukhune District Municipalities within the Limpopo Province. Notification and request for comments were submitted to the Municipalities and other Stakeholders including:

- Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism;
- Limpopo Department of Water and Sanitation;
- Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- SANPARKS;
- Tribal Authorities; and
- South African Heritage Resources Agency.

4.6 PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Advertisements were published in English, Sepedi, Tsonga and Afrikaans in the following newspapers:

- The Star newspaper edition of the 24th October 2016 and
- Mopani and Letaba Herald newspapers editions of the 28th October 2016
- Beeld on 24 October 2016

The advertisements were aimed to further inform the I&APs of the proposed activity and to invite them to participate in the PPP process. Proof is attached as **Appendix E2**.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING DRAFT EA AMENDMENT REPORT PHASE

5.1 NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT EA AMENDMENT REPORT FOR REVIEW

The Draft EA Amendment Report was made available to the public from the 18th April 2017 for a period of at least 30 days. The availability of the draft EA Amendment Report was advertised on The Star newspaper on the 24th April 2017 and Letaba Herald on the 28th April 2017.

The copies of the draft EA Amendment Report were placed at

- Burgersfort Public Library;

- Phalaborwa Public Library;
- The Oaks Tribal Office;
- Nsovo website.

Copies of the draft EA Amendment Report were submitted to various Organs of State for review and comments including the:

- National Department of Environmental Affairs;
- Limpopo Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism;
- Limpopo Department of Water and Sanitation;
- Limpopo Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.
- Limpopo Department of Agriculture.
- Maruleng Local Municipality;
- Greater Tubatse Local Municipality; and
- Baphalaborwa Local Municipality.

Refer to **Appendix E9** for the proof of delivery of draft EA Amendment report.

5.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public and Focus Group meetings were arranged and held as indicated below:

Date	Time	Venue	Address
Public Meetings			
15 May 2017	10:00-12:00	Fetakgomo Greater Tubatse Local Municipality	1 Kanstania Street, Burgersfort
15 May 2017	14:00-16:00	Diphuthi Primary School	The Oaks Village
16 May 2017	10:00-12:00	Sefapane Lodge and Safaris	Copper Road (Off R71) Phalaborwa, 1390
Focus Group Meeting			
1 June 2017	09:00 – 14:00	Nsovo Environmental Consulting	40 Lyncon Road, Carlswald, 1684

Various parties (I&APs, Municipal representatives, Ward Counsellors and the client) attended the meetings; however, no one attended the public meeting at Sefapane Lodge Safaris. Refer to **Appendix E11** for agenda, minutes of meetings, attendance registers, photographs taken during the meetings and comment sheets.

6 SYNTHESIS OF ISSUES AND RESPONSE

See attached **Appendix E6** for issues or concerns raised by the I&APs as well as the responses provided by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner.

7 CONCLUSION

The Public Participation Process was undertaken in fulfilment of the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of December 2014. The PPP will continue throughout the project life cycle. Any comments made on the draft EA Amendment Report will be appropriately addressed and further submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs together with the final EA Amendment Report.