**ESKOM TRANSMISSION**

**LIMPOPO EAST CORRIDORES: FOSKOR – SPENCER PROJECT**

 **400KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINES AND SPENCER MTS UPGRADING**

**CONSULTATION MEETING**

**10 FEBRUARY 2017 AT DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE**

 **(TZANEEN)**

| **Item No.** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| 1. | Welcome & introduction The Project Leader, Ms Brenda Makanza declared the meeting opened welcomed all in attendance. She apologized that the venue for the meeting had to change on the last minutes. She introduced the study team as composed of:**Ms Brenda Makanza** (Diges Group – Project Manager)**Mr Moses Mahlangu** (Diges Group – Public Participation Leader) **Mr Livhuwani Rasilingwane** (Diges Group – Public Participation Officer) **Mr Khazamula Chauke** (Diges Group – Public Involvement Officer) |  |
| 2. | Apologies:It was indicated that Eskom representatives would join the meeting later as they were still in town trying to find the venue.  |  |
| 3. | PresentationMs Brenda Makanza gave a presentation by referring to* The purpose of the meeting
* The need and scope of the project (Eskom representative assisted by explaining the need and justification in detail. He indicated that some of the technical aspects of the project will be explained better by the project manager. It was suggested that representatives of the municipalities could put their questions in writing so that the engineer responsible for the project could be asked to respond)
* The study process to be followed (Technical and Public Participation)
* The corridors to be investigated were explained using a map
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| Discussion |
| **Question/Comment** There was a concern raised about the attendance as the venue was changed in the evening of the 09th February 2017. Most people might have driven to Giyani? The commentator wanted to if there apologies received since the attendance was very low.**Response:** The Public Participation team explained that the venue was changed by the officials of the district municipality. Efforts were made to phone invited people at 08H00 but some were attending other meetings and other people were not in their offices.**Question/Comment (Lt Col Davel)**Lt Col Davel commented that the army was using three farms in the study area and these farms have been consolidated into a single training area. He mentioned that the military object to the option where the power line will be erected/established over the army training area since it will either hamper/stop the required training. Training activities will constantly blow up the proposed Eskom power lines.   **Response:**The comment is noted and will be considered when taking the study process further into the EIA Phase. Currently two alternatives with deviations are being investigated and inputs such as the one from the Defence Force will influence the decision of the EAP in recommending a more viable route for detailed investigation in the EIA Phase. At this stage possibilities are that the EAP might decide to deviate route 2 for the proposed power line (the route going through the army base) or route 2 might be dropped completely. **Question/Comment** The municipalities under the Mopani DM are experiencing capacity problems in terms of electricity supply. He wanted to know if the proposal for the development of this project was informed by the challenges phased by the municipalities or what?**Response:**It was confirmed that the project was aimed at addressing all capacity challenges within the Spencer Substation supply zone. **Question/Comment** The municipality draw up IDP which tend to give an indication of what development and expansions are planned for the next five years. Eskom is encouraged to study the IDPs of the municipalities when planning such projects because this then tend to assist municipalities in planning with confidence that electricity supply will not be a challenge. **Response:**The comment is noted. Eskom has what is called Transmission Development Plan which in most case is aligned with the IDPs of municipalities. The new substation coming in this Limpopo East Corridor (Nzhelele Substation) will also help to de-load Spencer substation and ensure reliability of electricity supply in the area. **Question/Comment** How old is Spencer Substations?**Response:**Spencer Substation was built in June 1999 |
| **Way Forward and Closure**In the absence of further questions the project leader thanked all in attendance and indicated that a Draft Scoping Report will be produced and circulated for comment. The public will be given thirty days to comment on the report. It was also explained that if there are any further comments or questions they can be forwarded to Mr Mahlangu and he will either send them to Eskom or to the project leader. |

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| **Public Meeting****Grietjie Community Meeting** **Record of Proceedings of the Meeting****(10th of February 2017)** |
| **Remarks:** The meeting was meant to explain the project to Mr Mike Joseph, the chairperson of Grietjie Nature Reserve so that he can advise on how to consult the community of Grietjie 6KU (different farm portions). Unfortunately Mr Mahlangu misunderstood the purpose and attended the meeting alone with the intention of meeting Mr Joseph and yet community members expected Mr Mahlangu to come with Eskom representative so that he could respond to concerns of the Grietjie community. Mr Mahlangu apologized for the misunderstanding and undertook to make arrangement to come and meet the Grietjie community with Eskom.  |
| **Opening and Welcoming:** Mr Joseph welcomed all in attendance and introduced Mr Mahlangu. He indicated that members who attended the meeting are those who are likely to be affected by the proposed power line. Other landowners who may be affected wer not able to make the meeting ans so the group of people who would be affected is larger than that which was present at the meeting. |
| **Remarks on the Proceedings of the meeting:** Mr Joseph mentioned that he was going to raise concerns as a chairperson of Grietjie Nature Reserve. Largely these concerns would affect most landowners. However, it was advised that other members should raise their concerns as property owners who are likely to be affected by the power line. |
| **Presentation:** Using a map Mr Mahlangu spoke about:* The proposed project as involving the construction of a 400kV power line between the existing Foskor Substation near Phalaborwa and the existing Spencer Substation near Mohlabaneng
* The extension of Spencer Substation to accommodate the 1x500MVA, 400/132kV transformer
* The study will investigate a 3km buffer for the 55m servitude in each corridor.
* The EIA study will include both the technical and Public Participation process
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| **Discussion/Question**Questions were raised and it was agreed that Mr Mahlangu will convey these questions to Eskom for response in writing and clarification in a meeting. The following questions were asked:***From Mr Mike Joseph as a chairperson of Grietjie Nature Reserve**** Grietjie Nature Reserve would like to know the exact meaning of a buffer (3km) and what is the legal implication of the buffer zone to the community especially those that have structures and houses in the buffer. What are Eskom’s obligations and entitlements, what are the affected landowners obligations and entitlements.
* How does the buffer affect the property owners if they want to build? What about existing structures.
* What is the health implication of the presence of a power line close to a residential area? The electromagnetic effect of power lines close to residential area causes cancer. What mitigation measures is Eskom going to put in place if this line is constructed in the Grietjie Nature Reserve?
* Who is going to control contractors during the construction period? We are concerned about safety, environment, and potential crime and poaching.
* Eskom is requested to explain if bringing the power line from Medupi power station instead of Foskor substation would be a better option?
* Gritejie would like a technical explanation (in layman’s terms) as to how the proposed line would strengthen Spencer (it appears as if Foskor is being strengthened)
* The Grietjie Nature Reserve wishes to bring to Eskom’s attention that an application to the MEC will be submitted to declare the farm Grietjie as a protected area.

***Comments from Other Grietjie Community Members:**** Eskom is requested to come and explain the position of the 55m power line servitude within the 3km corridor. The community is concerned about the potential visual impact the power line will have in the area but if the power line is to be constructed in Grietjie, it must be on the northern side of the existing power line.
* The issue of a 3km buffer is a concern to the community. Eskom is encouraged to consider investigating a smaller buffer. At this stage we are not sure what are the obligations of the community in terms of this 3km buffer and what are the obligations of Eskom? A clear explanation is requested because clarity on the issue of buffer will also help the community to decide if the project is welcomed or objected to.
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| **Way Forward*** Mr Mahlangu will compile the minutes and send them to Mr Joseph for confirmation
* Once confirmed to be accurate the minutes will be forwarded to Eskom to give responses
* A meeting will be arranged for Eskom to come and explain the responses to the questions above
* Mr Mike Joseph will identify a suitable venue for the meeting.
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**CONSULTATION MEETING**

**08 FEBRUARY 2017 AT MAJEJE TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY**

 **(majeje traditional authority)**

| **Item No.** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| 1. | Welcome & Introduction The administrator of the Majeje Traditional Authority, Mr Mabobo welcomed all in attendance and thanked the study team for coming to the area to come and talk to the traditional authority about the proposed project. Mr Mabobo expressed his gratitude for ndabezitha, Chief Ntsanwisi for joining his subjects in the meeting. He also thanked Mr Moses Mahlangu for taking the initiative of contacting him to set up the meeting.Mr Mabobo requested Mr Moses Mahlangu to introduce the study team and proceed to give the presentation. The team was introduced as:**Ms Brenda Makanza** (Diges Group – Project Manager)**Mr Moses Mahlangu** (Diges Group – Public Participation Leader) **Mr Livhuwani Rasilingwane** (Diges Group – Public Participation Officer) **Mr Khazamula Chauke** (Diges Group – Public Involvement Officer)**Mr Douglas Mampuru** (Eskom Transmission Land and Right) and**Mr Henry Nawa** (Eskom Transmission Project Manager) |  |
| 2. | Apologies:No apologies were tendered. |  |
| 3. | PresentationThe presentation on the project was given as follows: Mr Mahlangu explained * The purpose of the meeting
* The whole EIA process to be followed (Technical investigation and Public Participation Process)
* General Issues Associated with Transmission Power Lines

Mr Henry Nawa explained the project by referring to the need and the scope of the projectMr Mampuru explained the process of servitude acquisition. He mentioned that an independent valuer is appointed to evaluate the compensation amount that must be paid and a negotiator will come and talk to the traditional authority about the conditions that must be included in the agreement |  |
| Discussion |
| **Question/Comment (Mr Baloyi)**He commented that the community appreciate that Eskom is consulting the owners of the land before coming up with contractors to the area. He mentioned that some developers also come and talk to the community and make good promises but during construction they normally renege on the commitments made. He advised Eskom to be consistent. Usually problems come when contractors come with outsiders to come and work in the construction activities. Mr Baloyi appealed to Eskom to first consider the local people for employment and for any other economic benefits that might come from the project.**Response:** The comment is noted. Eskom usually give such jobs on tender basis and the contractor who wins the contract is encouraged to employ local people. It is important to note that in the main this type of work requires skilled labour but small jobs might come up in the area where bush clearing is done or on the terrains where digging of foundations requires digging by hand. **Question/Comment (Mr Baloyi)**It is a concern to us that Eskom as a developer also appoint the valuer**Response:**Eskom appoint professional independent valuers but landowners are free to appoint their own valuer as long he is qualified to do the job **Question/Comment (Jabulani)**Wanted to know if the proposed power line was also going to traverse residential areas or not.**Response:**The route of the proposed power line is supposed to go through areas where there is no human settlement. Sometimes it does happen that the power line affect some families such that they must be relocated. In such cases Eskom will assist the family that must be relocated by helping them to build a new house somewhere.**Question/Comment (Mr Shilote).**Mr Shilote wanted to know if the proposed power line is similar to the one close to R71 road.**Response:**It was explained that the proposed power line is a 400kV power line and that there is no 400kV power line in the area. The 400kV power line coming out of Foskor substation is the one going to Burgersfort/Steelpoort direction **Closing Comment (Ndabezitha, Chief Ntsanwisi)**Chief Ntsanwisi gave a closing comment by indicating that at this stage the community has no objection to the power line coming to the area. He mentioned that from the presentation it is clear that a final route has not been decided and the traditional authority considers this as an exercise of letting the community know that there is a project coming in their area. Chief Ntsanwisi indicated that his understanding was that real negotiations about the compensation, jobs and other economic conditions will be discussed once the project is authorised and the position of the route is known. [The study team confirmed that this was correct]  |
| **Way Forward and Closure**Mr Moses Mahlangu indicated a Draft Scoping Report will be produced and circulated for comment. The public will be given thirty days to comment on the report. It was also explained that the minutes of the meeting will be circulated before being used in the Draft Scoping Report. |

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**CONSULTATION MEETING**

**08 FEBRUARY 2017 AT MASHISHIMALE CPA**

 **(Mashishimale traditional authority)**

| **Item No.** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| 1. | Welcome & Introduction The Chief Councilor of Mashishimale Community Property Association, Mr RS Shayi welcomed all in attendance and thanked the study team for coming to the area to present and talk to the CPA about the proposed project. He also thanked Mr Moses Mahlangu and Mr Chris Shai for setting up the meeting.The Chief Councilor introduced members of the CPA and Mr Moses Mahlangu introduced the study team as:**Ms Brenda Makanza** (Diges Group – Project Manager)**Mr Moses Mahlangu** (Diges Group – Public Participation Leader) **Mr Livhuwani Rasilingwane** (Diges Group – Public Participation Officer)**Mr Roy Muroyi** (Diges Group) **Mr Khazamula Chauke** (Diges Group – Public Involvement Officer) |  |
| 2. | Apologies:An apology that Eskom Team could not attend was tendered. |  |
| 3. | PresentationUsing a map as point of reference Ms Brenda Makanza gave a presentation by referring to* The purpose of the meeting
* The need and scope of the project
* The study process to be followed (Technical and Public Participation)
* The corridors to be investigated (here farms belonging to the Mashishimale CPA were mentioned)
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| Discussion |
| **Question/Comment (Mr Chris Shayi)**What is the timeframe associated with this project. When will construction start and how long will it take before operation start?**Response:** Construction of a project of this magnitude is estimated to take between two to four years. At this stage it is envisaged that the line will be energized in 2022.**Question/Comment (Mr Chris Shai)**The Mashishimale CPA is operating a game reserve on its farms and there is a concern about poaching during the construction phase of the project. Now the question is who will manage the construction workers? What are the working hours during the construction phase?**Response:**Eskom appoint an Environmental Control Officer who ensures that there is compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorization and EMPr. The appointed contractor is responsible for his construction crew and he is usually expected to present a method statement on how is he going to look after the environmental and safety issues. Usually working hours are during the day and there is no work done on public holidays and weekends. **Question/Comment (Mr Chris Shai)**Wanted to know if the servitude of the proposed power line is going to be fenced or it will stay open**Response:**The servitude stay open with access roads for maintenance. Landowners are allowed to continue with their farming activities even within the servitude except that trees of certain heights are not allowed inside the servitude under the power line. Keeping the servitude clean becomes the responsibility of Eskom. **Question/Comment (Mr Chris Shai)**Mr Chris Shai wanted to know if there are certain sections of this power line that are going to be constructed underground**Response:**In South Africa power lines of this size are never constructed underground. **Question/Comment (Mr Chris Shayi)**Mr Shayi wanted to know as to what will happened during the construction period because they have what is considered to be hunting season and during that time the Mashishimale CPA would not allow construction activities on their properties. **Response:**The Mashishimale Traditional Authority and The Mashishimale CPA are encouraged to raise such issues and conditions during the negotiation for servitude if the line is authorized for construction through their properties. |
| **Way Forward and Closure**Kgoshigadi Shayi gave a closing comment that the project is basically welcomed in the area. The understanding is that Eskom will come and negotiate issues of compensation and job opportunities once the project receive environmental authorizationMr Moses Mahlangu indicated a Draft Scoping Report will be produced and circulated for comment. The public will be given thirty days to comment on the report. It was also explained that the minutes of the meeting will be circulated before being used in the Draft Scoping Report. |

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|  **Meeting with Mr Dusty Joubert****Selati Game Reserve** **09 February 2017** |
| **Remarks**. Mr Dusty Joubert is the manager of Seleti Game Reserve and is responsible for about fifteen farms that are owned by different individuals. The owners of these different farms form a board of shareholders of Seleti Game Reserve. Mr Moses Mahlangu met with Mr Dusty Joubert to get advice on how to consult the different landowners in the area.  |
| **Presentation:** Mr Mahlangu explained the project and using a map potentially affected farms in the Selati Game Reserve were identified. It was mentioned that the EIA regulations requires that Interested and/or Affected Parties be consulted.  |
| **Way Forward*** It was agreed that Mr Dusty Joubert will present the project to the board of Selati Game Reserve shareholders. The board will meet on the 17th of February 2017. The board will decide on how to consult, that is either through a subcommittee or attorneys or through Mr Dusty Joubert.
* Mr Dusty Joubert will inform Mr Moses Mahlangu about the decision of shareholders
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**CONSULTATION MEETING**

**02 MARCH 2017 AT MODJADJI TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY**

 **(Modjadji traditional authority offices)**

| **Item No.** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| 1. | Welcome & Introduction The chairperson of the Modjadji Traditional Authority, Mr John Malatji welcomed all in attendance and thanked the study team for coming to the area to come and talk to the traditional authority about the proposed project. The protocol to be followed was confirmed. It was agreed that the agenda as proposed by Diges Group would be followed and Mr Malatji would facilitate the meeting. Mr Malatji gave brief description of the structure (organogram) of the Modjadji Traditional Authority and the area governed by the traditional authority. It was indicated that it is always difficult to get all members of the council to attend meetings but the few that attended were mandated and permitted by the queen and the council to hear what development Eskom wanted to bring to the area. Members of the Modjadji Traditional Authority in attendance were introduced. Mr Moses Mahlangu introduced the study team and Eskom. Farms that belonged to the Modjadji Traditional Authority as listed in the farm list provided by Diges Group were confirmed.  |  |
| 2. | Apologies:Mr Malatji indicated the administration of the Modjadji Traditional Authority consisted of twenty five council members and seven executive members. These members are serving on part-time basis because most of them are full-time employees elsewhere. As such council members, executive committee members and the queen could not attend the meeting on the day but they knew about the meeting. He however, indicated that proceedings of the meeting will be presented to the different structures of the Modjadji Traditional Authority. |  |
| 3. | PresentationThe presentation on the project was given as follows: Mr Henry Nawa explained the need and justification for the project. Mr Nawa mentioned that Spencer Substation was experiencing transformation constraints and for it to be able to service the Limpopo corridor had to be upgraded. The upgrading will involve the extension of the footprint of the substation to accommodate 1 x 500MVA, 400/132kVtransformer. It was also indicated that the project will also include the construction of 400kV power line between Foskor substation and Spencer substation to feed the Spencer substation.Mr Mampuru explained the process of servitude acquisition. He mentioned that an independent valuer is appointed to evaluate the compensation amount that must be paid and a negotiator will come and talk to the traditional authority about the conditions that must be included in the agreement. Ms Brenda Makanza explained * The purpose of the meeting
* The whole EIA process to be followed (Technical investigation and Public Participation Process)
* General Issues Associated with Transmission Power Lines
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| Discussion |
| **Question/Comment** There were no questions asked relating to the presentation and explanations given on the proposed project. Mr John Malatji commented that:* The Modjadji Traditional Authority has established a formula of ensuring that the compensation paid for the land for any project in villages must benefit the local people in that particular village and the administration of the Modjadji Traditional Authority. He mentioned that the method of how the money paid for projects was going to be divided was still going to be communicated to headmen and communities.
* Should villagers that are going to be affected by the project ask about compensation, Mr Malatji advised that they must be referred to the traditional office.
* Members who attended the meeting were representing the queen and the council and therefore the study team must accept assurance that the message will be disseminated to the different structures of the Modjadji Traditional Authority and the communities in the potentially affected villages.
* In general the Modjadji Traditional Authority welcome and accept the project. Issues of compensation will be discussed once the position of the route is determined.
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| **Way Forward and Closure**Mr Moses Mahlangu indicated a Draft Scoping Report will be produced and circulated for comment. The public will be given thirty (30) days to comment on the report. It was also explained that the minutes of the meeting will be circulated before being used in the Draft Scoping Report. |

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| **Public Meeting****Olifants North Game Reserve Community Meeting** **Record of Proceedings of the Meeting** |
| **Remarks:** The meeting was held at the offices of ONGR. Mr Joe Pearson assisted in organizing the meeting. Residence that are members of North Olifants Game Reserve (Balule) were expected to attend but it would seem that in the main, attendees were from Grietjie farm. Mr Sean Nielson was supposed to represent Maseke community but unfortunately he did not turn up for the meeting.  |
| **Opening and Welcoming:** Mr Joe Pearson welcomed all in attendance and thanked Mr Moses Mahlangu for initiating the meeting.  |
| **Introductions and Apologies:** Mr Mahlangu introduced the study team and all other attendees introduced themselves. No apologies were recorded.  |
| **Presentation:** The presentation on the project was given as follows: Mr Henry Nawa explained the need and justification for the project. He mentioned that Spencer Substation was experiencing transformation constraints and for it to be able to service the Limpopo corridor it had to be upgraded. The upgrading will involve the extension of the footprint of the substation to accommodate 1 x 500MVA, 400/132kVtransformer. It was also indicated that the project will also include the construction of 400kV power line between Foskor substation and Spencer substation to feed the Spencer substation.Mr Mampuru explained the process of servitude acquisition. He mentioned that an independent valuer is appointed to evaluate the compensation amount that must be paid and a negotiator will come and talk to property owners about the conditions that must be included in the agreement. Ms Brenda Makanza explained * The purpose of the meeting
* The whole EIA process to be followed (Technical investigation and Public Participation Process)
* General Issues Associated with Transmission Power Lines.
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| **Discussion/Question**Comments, issues and questions were raised and responded as follows: * Mr Mike Joseph indicated that to him it was not clear how Foskor substation would strengthen Spencer since Foskor was fed from 275kV power lines. There is also EIA process going on for another 275kV power line to Foskor substation. This is confusing

***Mr Nawa explained that sometimes back Eskom received an Environmental Authorization (EA) to construct a 275kV power line from Meresnky substation in Steelpoort to Foskor substation. Now Eskom is applying for amendment of this application to an EA for a 400kV power line. The other EIA process referred to by Mr Joseph is for an EA amendment. The construction of a 400kV power line from Merensky substation to Foskor substation will then make it possible for Foskor substation to feed Spencer substation with a 400kV power line.**** Mr Mike Joseph further raised a concern about the obligations of Eskom versus the obligations of landowners relating to the buffer area for the proposed power line route. He wanted to know what each party can do and cannot do within the buffer zone. Mr Joseph expressed a concern about the width of the buffer (3000m) which means Eskom is free to put the power line anywhere within such a wide buffer in the landowners’ farms. He suggested that maybe Eskom should consider reducing the width (size) of the buffer to something like 500m

***It was explained that a wider buffer will assist Eskom and landowners to easily negotiate a servitude of 55m, especially if there are obstacles on the way of the proposed route. Once the powerline is constructed with a servitude of 55m, the buffer becomes irrelevant. Mr Nawa emphasized that landowners can still practice their agricultural activities under the power lines except planting tall trees or using irrigation systems on their cultivated land. Eskom strictly prohibit the erection of building structures within the servitude**** Landowners raised a concern about the health risk posed by live power lines which generate electromagnetic fields that can course cancer for animals and human beings. They are also worried that poaching will increase during the construction phase

***Eskom has conducted investigation about the magnetic field and the related impacts as a result of a power line traversing a particular area. At this stage there is no conclusive evidence that power lines generate electromagnetic fields that poses health risk to the environment or animals. Even studies that have been conducted in other countries do not show that power lines are a threat to animals and human beings in terms of magnetic effect.******The contractor appointed for the construction of the power line and substation will be expected to submit a method statement which outlines his approach in terms of environmental management. Construction crew will be taken through environmental induction during which issues of environmental management will be explained*** * Though landowners do not want the power line through their pristine environment, they understand the need for the strengthening of electricity supply in the area of Phalaborwa-Tzaneen-Giyane. It was suggested that if the other alternative cannot be recommended and the line has to go through Grietjie-Balule-Maseke area, landowners request that the new power line be placed along the existing power line on the northern side of this existing power line.

***The comment is noted and the project manager (EAP) will consider this request when deciding on the route to be recommended for EIA phase detailed study*** |
| **Way Forward*** Mr Moses Mahlangu will compile the minutes and circulate them to all attendees for confirmation before being used in the Draft Scoping Report
* The scoping report will be circulated to all stakeholders for review before it is submitted to the authority as a final document
* All registered stakeholders will be advised about the decision of the authority regarding the recommendations of the scoping report and about the start of the EIA Phase.
 |