

6 EIA PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

6.1 Introduction

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed new 400/132kV substation is comprises two main phases, namely the Scoping phase and Impact Assessment phase. This report documents the tasks which have been undertaken as part of the Scoping phase of the EIA. These tasks include the public participation process and the documentation of the issues which have been identified as a result of these activities.

The Scoping Phase of an EIA serves to define the scope of the detailed assessment of the potential impacts of a proposed Project. The Environmental Scoping Phase has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998), as read with Government Notices R 543 (Regulations 26-30), 544, 545 and 546 of the NEMA. The objectives of the Scoping Phase are to:

- Ensure that the process is open and transparent and involves the Authorities, proponent and stakeholders (see **Chapter 2 and 6**);
- Identify the important characteristics of the affected environment (see **Chapter 7 and 8**);
- Ensure that feasible and reasonable alternatives are identified and selected for further assessment (see **Chapter 4**);
- Assess and determine possible impacts of the proposed Project on the biophysical and socio-economic environment and associated mitigation measures (see **Chapter 8**); and
- Ensure compliance with the relevant legislation (see **Chapter 5**).

6.2 Authority Consultation

6.2.1 Consultation with Authorities

The relevant authorities required to review the proposed Project and provide an Environmental Authorisation were consulted from the outset of this study, and have been engaged throughout the project process. The competent authority for this project is the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The Western Cape Department of, Environment and Development planning (DEA&DP) and the City of Cape Town are noted as the key commenting authority.

Authority consultation included the following activities:

- Submission of an application for authorisation in terms of NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) on **13 March 2013**

Following the submission of the application for authorisation DEA acknowledged receipt thereof in the form of an Acknowledgement of Receipt letter (dated **27 March 2013**, see **Appendix B**). The DEA reference number allocated to this application is **14/12/16/3/3/2/508** and the NEAS Reference Number is **DEA/EIA/0001780/2013**.

6.2.2 Consultation with other Relevant Authorities

Background information regarding the proposed Project was provided to the other relevant authorities, together with a registration and comment form formally requesting their input into the EIA process. The authorities include *inter alia*:

- Western Cape Department of, Environment and Development planning (DEADP)
- Department of Water Affairs;
- City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality;
- Cape Nature Conservation;
- Heritage Western Cape;
- Department of Energy;
- Department of Transport and Roads;
- Department of Public Works;
- Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries; and
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) – head office.

6.3 Environmental Scoping Study

6.3.1 Overview of the Public Participation Process

A comprehensive Public Participation Process (PPP) was implemented as part of the Scoping Phase of the EIA. The PPP aims to:

- Ensure all relevant stakeholders and I&APs have been identified and invited to engage in the scoping process;
- Raise awareness, educate and increase understanding of stakeholders and I&APs about the proposed Project, the affected environment and the environmental process being undertaken;
- Create open channels of communication between stakeholders and the project team;
- Provide opportunities for stakeholders to identify issues or concerns and suggestions for enhancing potential benefits and to prevent or mitigate impacts;
- Accurately document all opinions, concerns and queries raised regarding the Project; and
- Ensure the identification of the significant alternatives and issues related to the Project.

(a) Identification of stakeholders or I&APs

The identification and registration of I&APs is an ongoing activity during the course of the EIA. Please note however that only a registered I&AP is entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions made to the competent authority by the applicant or the EAP managing an application, and to bring to the attention of the competent authority any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, provided that comments are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by the competent authority or any extension of a timeframe agreed to by the applicant or Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP). Lidwala EPS will develop, maintain and constantly update an electronic I&AP database for the Project (see **Appendix C**). I&APs for this Project have been identified using the following:

- Existing I&APs databases from other projects in the area;
- I&APs identified through networking by the project team;
- Placement of newspaper advertisements in the Cape Times, Weskusnuus and the Table Talk. The advertisements were placed during the week of **22- 26 April 2013**;
- Placement of site notices at the proposed site locations (**Appendix D**);
- Distribution of Background Information Documents (BIDs);
- Discussions with community leaders and relevant ward councillors;
- Completed comments sheets; and
- Attendance registers at meetings.

All comments and issues submitted by I&APs during the course of the EIA will be recorded in a comment and response report.

(b) Notification and Advertisements

In accordance with the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations, the Project was advertised in regional newspapers. The purpose of the advertisement was to notify the public about the proposed Project and to invite them to register as I&APs (see **Appendix D**). The relevant advertisement dates undertaken during Scoping is listed in **Table 6.1** below.

Table 6.1: Date on which the EIA notification adverts were published

Newspaper	Publication Date	Language
Cape Times	25 April 2013	Afrikaans and English
Weskusnuus	24 April 2013	English and Afrikaans
Table Talk	25 April 2013	Afrikaans and English

The Project, the environmental impact assessment process was widely announced with an invitation to the general public to register as I&APs and to actively participate in the PPP. This will be achieved by using:

- Print media advertisements in English and Afrikaans that were placed in the Cape Times, Weskusnuus and the Table Talk newspapers;
- Key Stakeholders were contacted telephonically and informed of the Project and the EIA process;
- A Background Information Document (BID) and comment sheet were produced in English and Afrikaans detailing the proposed Project and explaining the EIA process. The BID was emailed and posted to I&APs;
- Copies of the BID were made available to I&APs as and when requested. Public documents were also made available in public libraries and other local public venues.

General project notices were erected at various public places in and around the study area (**Appendix D**). The official site notices were erected as per the NEMA EIA Regulations at all five alternative sites identified.

A second round of advertisements was published in order to notify the public about the availability of the Draft Scoping Report as well as to invite the public to attend the Public Meetings. The advertisement reflected the date and venue where the Public Meetings were to take place (see **Appendix D**).

(c) Background Information Document

The Background Information Document (BID) that briefly describes the proposed Project was compiled in English and Afrikaans and was distributed to all identified I&APs. The BID introduces the proposed Project and contains background information on the Project, the proponent, consultants and proposed process to be followed. It also includes a locality map, and a registration/comment sheet inviting I&APs to submit details of any issues, concerns or inputs they might have with regards to the proposed Project. The BID was distributed via e-mail and post to the I&APs identified through networking and was also distributed to the attendees at the Public Meetings including the placement in public locations indicated in **6.3.2**. A copy of the BID is included in **Appendix E**.

(d) Meetings

A Public meeting were held during the review period of the draft Scoping Report. One-on-one interactions were also held as required. The purpose of these meetings was to present the I&APs with information pertaining to the Project and the process being followed, as well as to document and discuss any issues which the public wish to raise.

Invitations to the Public Meeting and open day were extended in advertisements, letters, telephone and public notices at numerous relevant public places. In addition to the public meeting key stakeholder focus group meetings have also been undertaken. **Table 6.2** provides the date and venue where the public meeting, open day and key stakeholder focus group meetings were held and an indication of attendance.

Table 6.2: Public Meetings

Date	Type of Meeting	Venue	Attendance
13 August 2013	Focus Group Meeting with the City of Cape Town & Cape Nature	Milnerton Library Auditorium	7 members of the City of Cape Town and one from Cape Nature
13 August 2013	Public Meeting	Koeberg Visitors Centre	No members of the public
14 August 2013	Focus Group Meeting with the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	DEA&DP 7th Floor Boardroom, Utilitas Building, 01 Dorp Street, Cape Town	3 Members of DEA&DP
14 August 2013	Open Day	Koeberg Visitors Centre	No members of the public
15 August 2013	Landowner Focus Group Meeting Alternative 4		3 members

Minutes of meetings held with I&APs were taken and were forwarded to the attendees for verification of their issues. The minutes of the consultation have been within the Final Scoping Report (**Appendix E**). The comments raised during the public participation process described above, were recorded in the Comment and Response Report and have been included in the Final Scoping Report.

(e) *Ongoing Consultation and Engagement*

In addition to the public documents distributed to I&APs, there will be ongoing communication between the applicant, the EIA team and I&APs throughout the EIA process. These interactions include the following:

- In addition to the project announcement letters, a letter will be sent out to all registered I&APs providing them with an update of the Project once the Scoping report has been approved;
- Interactions with I&APs will take place in English and Afrikaans where required;
- Feedback to stakeholders, individually and collectively;
- Written responses (email, faxes and letters) will be provided to I&APs acknowledging issues and providing information requested (dependent on availability);
- As per the NEMA EIA regulations, particular attention will be paid to landowners, and neighbouring communities, specifically where literacy levels and language barriers may be an issue.

The consultation with all stakeholders and I&APs will continue into the Impact Assessment and EMP phase. Consultation will continue and will include:

- Distribution of all project information and findings to I&APs;
- EIA feedback open days and public meetings; and

- Information in the media and press.

6.3.2 Public Review of the Draft Environmental Scoping Report

The draft Environmental Scoping Report was made available for review for a period of **41 calendar days** from **24 July 2013** to **2 September 2013** at the following public locations within the study area, which are readily accessible to I&APs:

- Koeberg Public Library
- Milnerton Library
- Wesfleur Public Library
- Koeberg Visitor Centre
- Lidwala Website

The availability of the draft Environmental Scoping Report was advertised in the following newspapers on **23rd and the 24th of July 2013 (Appendix E)**:

- Cape Times
- Table Talk
- Weskusnuus

All registered I&APs were notified of the availability of the report in writing. Comments received during the review period have been included in the comment and response report (**Appendix E5**).

6.3.3 Final Environmental Scoping Report

The final stage in the Environmental Scoping Study process entails the capturing of responses and comments from I&APs on the draft Scoping Report in order to refine the Environmental Scoping Report, and ensure that all issues of significance are addressed. The final Environmental Scoping Report has been submitted to DEA for review and decision-making.

6.4 Conclusion

This chapter discussed the various tasks that have been undertaken as part of the scoping phase of the EIA process. The main component includes the Public Participation Process that has been undertaken as part of the scoping phase. The Environmental Scoping Phase has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 108 of 1998), as read with Government Notices R 543, 544, 545 and 546 of the NEMA.