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# EPSILON SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED TURN-INS

## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

### VOLUME II – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

Project ref: 294-04

DEA ref: 12/12/20/887

October 2011

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## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS**

**BID** – Background Information Document

**CPA** – Community Property Association

**DEA** – Department of Environmental Affairs

**DSR** – Draft Scoping Report

**DEIAR** – Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

**EMF** – Electronic Magnetic Fields

**EMP** – Environmental Management Plan

**EIA** – Environmental Impact Assessment

**EAP** – Environmental Assessment Practitioner

**EIR** – Environmental Impact Report

**Eskom TX** – Eskom Transmission (the Applicant)

**FA** – Farmers Association

**FEIAR** – Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report

**FGM** – Focus Group Meetings

**FS DTEEA** – Free State Department of Tourism, Environmental and Economic Affairs

**FSR** – Final Scoping Report

**I&AP** – Interested and Affected Party

**LM** –Local Municipality

**MMC** – Members of Mayoral Committee

**NEMA** – National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)

**NW DACE** – North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment

**PoS for EIA** – Plan of Study for EIA phase of the project

**POD** – Public Open Day

**PPP** – Public Participation Process

**PS** – Power Station

**RoA** – Record of Authorisation

**SR** – Scoping Report

**SS**–Substation

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### I. Description of the study area

The study area is situated between Potchefstroom and Viljoenskroon. This area falls under three local municipalities, namely Tlokwe Local Municipality, Matlosana LM and Moqhaka LM. Stakeholders in the receiving environment are mainly landowners that are active in commercial farming and landowners that are registered as Community Property Association (CPA). Other two key landowner structures are the Highveld Park and the army base (Department of Defence) on the farms Modderfontein 383 IP. The township of Khuma in Stilfontein is close to the route of the power line that will be coming from Mercury Substation to the proposed Epsilon Substation. The consultation process conducted through Scoping and EIA phase was adapted to suite the need of the different communities in the receiving environment in terms of language, convenience to attend meetings and receive information.

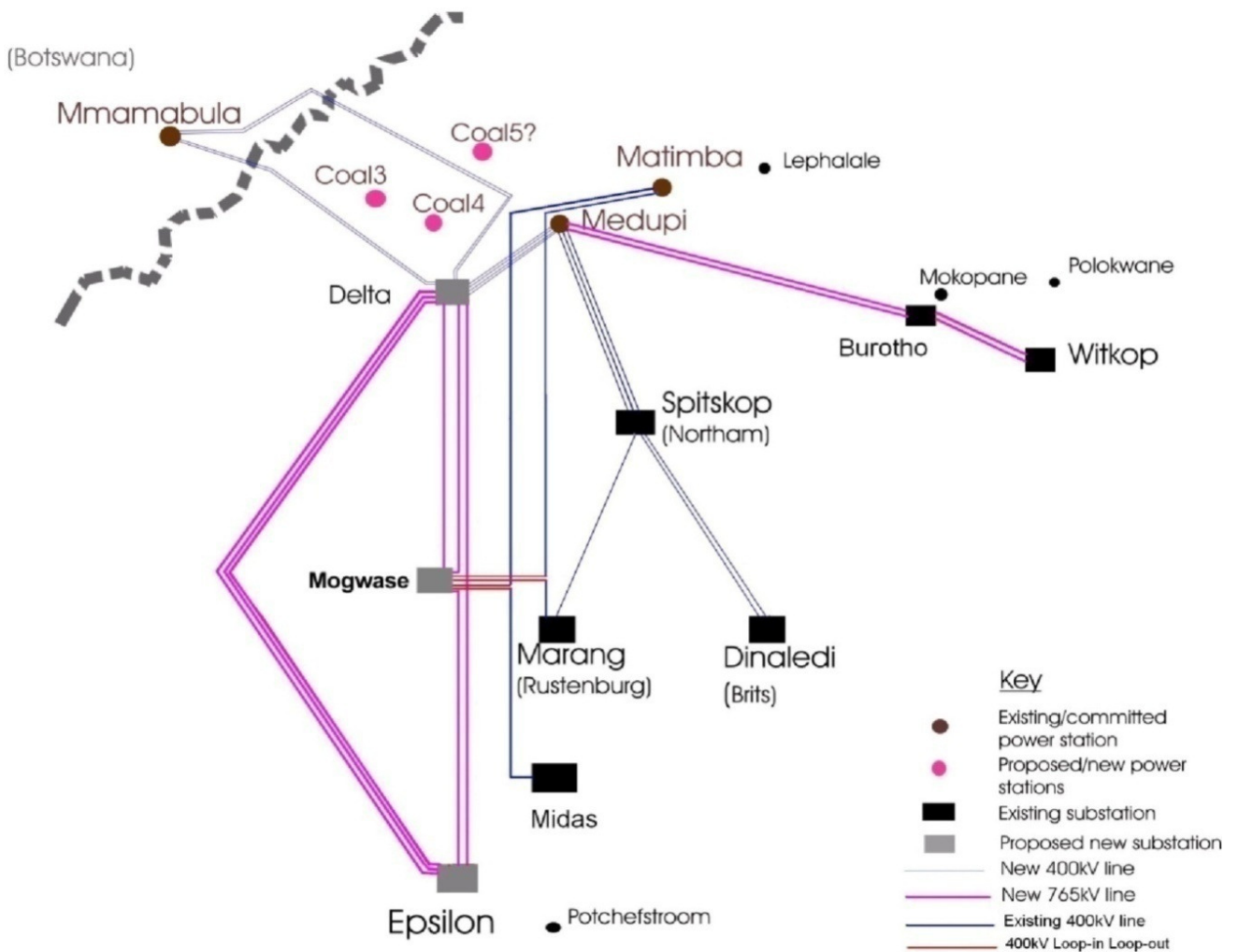


Figure E1: Schematic Diagram of Mmamabula-Medupi Integration Project

## II. Approach to Public Participation Process (PPP)

This project forms part of the Mmamabula – Medupi Integration project (See schematic representation above) hence meetings and any other relevant information (e.g. newsletters) relating to Epsilon Project included information about other relevant components of the Mmamabula-Medupi Integration Project.. Margen Industrial Services (Margen) handled the PPP for the following projects, and this is considered to have been beneficial for the I&APs in that it provided continuity in the consultation process:

- 4 x transmission power lines between Mmamabula PS in Botswana and the proposed Delta substation near Lephale (Mmamabula-Delta Project);
- 6 x transmission power lines from Delta substation to Epsilon substation (Delta-Epsilon Project);
- 2 x transmission power lines from Medupi PS to Dinaledi substation near Brits (Medupi-Dinaledi Project);
- The establishment of Epsilon substation and associated turn-ins, and
- The establishment of Mogwase substation and associated turn-ins (Mogwase Substation Project).

The following PPP activities were undertaken:

- Identifying I&APs.
- Developing and managing a stakeholder database.
- Dissemination of project related information through various mediums.
- Undertaking focus group meetings and public meetings.
- Addressing stakeholders' queries.
- Providing documentation of captured information (Minutes)
- Ensuring that issues raised are incorporated into the EIA process.

The above PPP activities were guided by the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, Chapter 6 (Section 56 – 59) of EIA Regulations as follows:

- Regulation 56 – site notices placed in the study area; written notices with Background Information Document distributed to identified stakeholders including landowners in the study area and the local municipalities; announcing the project to the public through advertising in the local newspaper in English, Afrikaans and SeTswana.  
**(See Annexure 4)**
- Regulation 57 – Established and maintained a Register of interested and affected parties **(See Annexure 3)**
- Regulation 58 – Registered stakeholders were given opportunities to comment on the draft reports for different stages of the study (Scoping, Extended study for scoping and the environmental impact report). Comment periods on the draft reports were allowed:
  - From 17 July 2007 to 22 June 2009- Draft Scoping Reports
  - From November 2011 Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

- Regulation 59 – Comments from stakeholders are included in the reports in the form of minutes of all meetings held, submitted written comments and in the form of the Comments and Response Report. **(See Annexure 8)**

### III. Landowners consultation

Consultation with landowners in the study area was through farmers associations in the study area, one-on-one approach and through talking to representatives of structures that owned properties like CPA and managers of these structures. This refers to Vaal River FA, Potchefstroom District Farmers Union and Barolong Community Property Association. During the investigation of suitable sites for the substation, eight sites were identified and the owners of these sites were consulted on an individual basis.

### IV. Issues and concerns from various sectors of stakeholders

Issues and concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the proposed project are captured in the Comments and Responses Report (CRR) (Annexure 8) that has been updated since inception in January 2007. The main issues and concerns raised by stakeholders and general responses to these issues are summarized in the following table:

Issue / Concern	Remark	General Response
Economic	Job opportunities & job losses	An economic impact assessment has been undertaken during EIA phase to determine the impact of the project on agricultural productivity (food security) of the area. It must, however, be emphasized that these kinds of projects involve high expertise that requires specialization; this project will only create few jobs like clearing of bushes. The economic study did not focus on the ability of this project to create direct employment as was inquired by the community in Khuma.
The issue of the ability of the project creating jobs for local people was explained by Eskom representative and the PPP Team is of the opinion that stakeholders accepted the explanation.		
Safety & Well being	Health risks emanating from Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) and threat to food security because the substation is too big	There is no conclusive evidence regarding the impact of EMFs from power lines on living organism (See Annexure 13 on Volume 1 – Main Report).  Soil Potential and Economic studies have been conducted and the preferred substation site has been chosen taking this factor into account.
The copy of the report on EMF study is included in the main report and can be read on the Eskom website ( <a href="http://www.eskom.co.za/eia">www.eskom.co.za/eia</a> ). The following should be noted: The risk associated with EMFs (electric and magnetic fields) is considered to be low (by international studies), especially where animals have free range. Therefore, as a precautionary measure, Eskom requires that all dwellings for people and animal housing (and feedlots) should not be placed in the servitude of the power line. Either the power line must be moved, or the housing must be moved		



Issue / Concern	Remark	General Response
Compensation , Land issues, and Location.	Compensation & property value reduction The location of the substation is an issue 1. for the farming community (threat to productivity of farms) and 2. for the developer (geotechnical and drainage)	Independent valuers are used to determine the price that must be paid to the landowner for the servitude.  The agricultural studies were conducted to help the study team to understand the extent to which the substation will reduce the volumes of food production in the area. Geotechnical studies were done to help to choose the site that will be technically suitable.
<p>The issue above was addressed by Mr. Makweya the negotiator from Eskom who thoroughly explained the process of compensation. He indicated that negotiations for servitude takes place outside the EIA process and that Eskom negotiates with directly affected landowners on an individual basis.</p> <p>Studies for soil potential and agricultural potential were undertaken and it revealed that site alternative F (Modderfontein) is the preferred alternative from agricultural perspective. The next best site alternative, from an agricultural perspective would be alternative A (Eleazer) as it contains larger areas of low potential soils compared to Alternatives B, C and D.</p> <p>Three different meetings were held to try and identify a substation site that will be acceptable to most stakeholders in the area. Since both Modderfontein and Eleazer belong to the Barolong CPA, they gave an indication that though they are not happy with the idea of putting the substation in one of their properties, when considering that the project is of national interest, they are willing to offer Site A (Eleazer) as an option.</p>		
Technical	Underground cabling	Putting power lines underground has high financial costs and environmental effects are higher, therefore undergrounding is not considered economically feasible in South Africa (See Annexure 13 on Volume 1 – Main Report).
<p>Undergrounding will not be considered for Epsilon Project because of cost associated with undergrounding of high voltage power lines. It also means land on which these cables are buried cannot be utilised.</p>		

**V. Preference for corridor and substation site**

Stakeholders' comments on the preferred substation site and corridor are summarized in the table below:

<b>Substation Site</b>	<p><b>Landowners:</b> Landowners would prefer to see the substation being located in the area that will not pose a threat to food security. They are of the opinion that the substation should rather be on the land that is not used for crop cultivation such as that which is owned either by the army, the Highveld park and/or the Barolong CPA. If no substation site is found outside Modderfontein and Eleazer, the Barolong CPA will sacrifice Eleazer.</p> <p>In trying to accommodate the request and recommendations from the potentially directly</p>
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	<p>affected landowners the study team and the developer investigated a total of eight substation sites (three south of N12 and five north of N12) and eight routes alternatives for the turn-ins powerlines. This resulted in a lengthy study process which is now over four years.</p>
	<p><b>Developer (Eskom):</b> Alternative sites south of N12 are not preferred because of proximity to a mega slimes dam and mine dumps that result in dust that could potentially negatively affect the operation of the proposed substation. Other substation sites north of N12 were rejected because of geotechnical and drainage reasons. The preferred sites (A and F) are accepted because they are situated in areas with more suitable (stable) soil and terrain.</p>
<p><b>Corridor</b></p>	<p><b>Landowners:</b> There is no clear preference to the location of turn-ins by landowners. Any line constructed in the area should preferably be along the boundaries. Eskom is requested to avoid putting power lines through the cultivated land</p>
	<p><b>Developer (Eskom):</b> Eskom will prefer a route that that will have the least bends Local landowners' requests to make minor deviations to avoid certain infrastructures like buildings, dams, irrigation systems etc. can be negotiated with individual landowners during servitude acquisition stage and when specialists conduct walk downs on the proposed route.</p>

## VI. VI Timeframes

The timeframes for consultation were affected by the stop-start process that resulted from factors outside the consultation process and mainly from technical investigations for a suitable substation site. Geotechnical and soil potential studies resulted in the consultation process being delayed that had a negative influence on the spirit and enthusiasm for participation by stakeholders.

During the extended study for the substation site, one-on-one consultation with potentially directly affected landowners and at the meeting of 26 November 2009 most landowners tended to say site A and B are more acceptable. It was also mentioned that the owner of site B is receptive to substation site on his property.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Margen Industrial Services (Margen) is the appointed independent consultant for the impact assessment studies for the proposed construction of Epsilon Main Transmission Substation and associated Transmission power line turn-ins and is responsible for the Public Participation Process (PPP). Margen enlisted the services of Fourth Element Consulting Pty Ltd (Fourth Element) for Project Management and specialist environmental assessments. The project is proposed in the area between Potchefstroom, Stilfontein and Viljoenskroon which lies in both North West Province and Free State Province. Stakeholders in the receiving environment are mainly commercial farmers, mines, Community Property Association (CPA) members and government bodies. DEA (formerly DEAT) is the lead authority and has allocated Ref No 12/12/20/887 to the project.

Public participation for this project was initiated in January 2007, by announcing the project to the public through advertisements in the local and national newspapers, placing notices in the study area and posting information documents to identified stakeholders. The objectives of the PPP during the scoping phase of the project was to give stakeholders, specialists and the developer (Eskom Transmission) the opportunity to share information about the project and to identify the potential impacts (positive and negative) the project might have on the receiving environment. Stakeholders in the study area were afforded the opportunity to raise issues and comments on the project at public meetings and focus group meetings.

In December 2007, after approval of the Scoping Report by DEA, air quality studies indicated that pollution from the mine tailings dams around the Stilfontein area could negatively impact on the functioning of the proposed Epsilon substation. Hence, five additional sites were identified north of the original sites for environmental investigation in order to determine if that area was better suited for the location of the proposed substation. These sites are on farms Eleazer 377 IP, Modderfontein 383 IP, Rietkuil 378 IP, Rooipoort 354 IP and Syferfontein 376 IP. The study team subjected these sites to a similar scoping exercise as was undertaken on the three original sites. It is also important to emphasize to stakeholders that at the time of investigating these five sites, the original three sites south of N12 (farms Byl 421IP, Wildebeestpan 442IP/3 and Kareerand 444IP/0) still remained options for the proposed substation site.

An application was submitted to DEA on 20 June 2008 to increase the study area to incorporate the new sites (See Annexure 11); the application was acknowledged and granted on 09 September 2008. The Scoping Report was then duly retracted and an amended Draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Plan of Study (PoS) for EIA were submitted, which incorporated all eight sites. During Scoping Phase, a total of eight sites were identified. Five of these sites were dropped at the end of Scoping, and three (A, C, and D) were carried over into the environmental assessment phase. These sites are located on farms Eleazer 384 IP, Rietkuil 378 IP and Rooipoort 354 IP respectively. An additional site, Site F, on Farm Modderfontein 383 IP was included early in the EIA phase near the original Site E. A detailed account of all sites investigated is given in **Volume I – Main Report**. This report provides a detailed account of the PPP conducted and will outline the way forward for the EIA Phase.

## **2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Approach**

This section explains the PPP conducted in the Environmental Scoping and EIA phase for the proposed Epsilon Substation and Turn-in power lines project. The aim of this PPP report is to:

- Provide a description of the public participation process conducted ,
- Provide a list of comments and issues raised ,
- Give feedback to I&APs on process findings and recommendations, and
- Outline the way forward,

### **2.2 Methodology**

The approach towards PPP for this project was adapted to suit the situation in that during the whole consultation process information provided always referred to other Medupi-Mmamabula Integration projects and outlined how each project fitted in the whole integration scheme. Where possible and within the required statutory frameworks, it was also desirable to structure the consultation process to enable and empower the I&APs to participate in the consultation process meaningfully.

Documentation sent out to I&APs, which included Background Information Document (BID), advertisements, letters sent with the BID, Executive Summaries of reports, , were translated from English to Afrikaans and in some cases to SeTswana. I&APs had the choice of indicating which language they want to receive information. For the different meetings held, stakeholders were encouraged to speak in the language of their choice and ask for translation where necessary. It should be noted however that documents attached in the Appendices are only in English.

The following methods were used during the Scoping Phase of the EIA process:

#### Reconnaissance Site Visits

Once the application forms were submitted to the authority to apply for authorisation to conduct the environmental impact assessment, the PPP team undertook a reconnaissance site visit to the study area to gather information that could be used in all the Medupi PS and Mmamabula PS Integration projects. The objectives of the site visit were:

- To develop the preliminary understanding of the social context (representative structures; language; communication media, etc.);
- To identify points where information could be made accessible to the local communities (venues for meetings and public places where information documents could be placed); and
- To identify those parties or structures that may be interested in and/or affected by the proposed developments (farming communities; municipalities and tribal lands)

#### Pre-Application Meeting

The Project Team (the proponent, Eskom and the consultant team) had a pre-application meeting with government officials from DEAT and NW DACE in Pretoria, at the onset of the projects. Several changes were made to the scope of the initial project, which resulted in the Project Team notifying the government officials and changing applications as was necessary in terms of legislation.

The scope of the project and the consultation process to be followed was discussed. It was agreed that national and local newspapers will be used to advertise the project and the language of the local communities were identified as being SeTswana, English and Afrikaans.

#### Stakeholder Identification

I&APs were identified through networking and advertising, and these I&APs are currently registered on the database. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner tried to ensure that individuals and organisations from a 'vertical' (institutional) as well as a 'horizontal' (geographical) point of view were identified.

Geographically, for the Epsilon Substation and Associated Turn-ins project the EAP focused on nearby, adjacent and directly affected landowners and Community Property Associations. A 'vertical' approach was used to identify those institutions or individuals that might be affected by, or could make a contribution to the project, but who are not necessarily in its direct sphere of impact.

The database submitted (See Annexure 3) with this report includes stakeholders from:

- Government (National, Provincial and Local Government);
- Agriculture (Landowners);
- Environment/Conservation
- Non-Governmental Organisations;
- Business, Industry & Tourism

#### Creating awareness

Various communication media were employed, including newspaper advertisements, street lamp posters, flyers, a briefing document and personal invitations to pre-identified I&APs to create awareness of the project and to invite the public to the introductory public open days and public meetings in the various areas.

#### Exploratory survey.

An exploratory survey was undertaken by the PPP team through a site visit on 30 June 2008 to identify landowners in the study area covering the new alternative proposed sites and to ensure that all potentially affected landowners in this project were given an equal opportunity to comment and raise issues of concern.

#### Stakeholder Identification: (During the extended scoping phase)

Information gathered during the site visit by the PPP team was used to update the existing I&AP database for this Project. Key stakeholders and landowners were identified by driving through the study area and randomly stopping and introducing the project to landowners. An additional site visit was undertaken on 29 of August 2008 by Mr. Gé Stander of the PPP team to continually identify potential I&APs.

### **3. PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **3.1 Announcement of the Project: During the Initial Scoping Phase**

##### Faxed, emailed and posted letters

Personalised letters were forwarded to all stakeholders on the database informing them about the project and inviting them to planned public meetings and public open days that were held in

February 2007. A Background Information Document (BID) was also included in this package. (See Annexure 6)

#### Media Advertisement

Advertisements were placed in national and local newspapers inviting I&APs to register to receive information on the project and inviting I&APs to attend public meetings and open days to be held in the study area. (See Annexure 4 for copies of the advertisements). The following newspapers were used:

**Table 1:** Print Media used for Advertisements

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Language</b>
Citizen	26/01/07	National	National	English
Beeld	26/01/07	National	National	Afrikaans
Sowetan	26/01/07	National	National	English
Potchefstroom Herald	26/01/07	Local	Potchefstroom and Khuma	English; Afrikaans; SeTswana;

#### Street Lamp Posters

The English, Afrikaans and SeTswana advertisement was enlarged into an A1 size poster that was placed at strategic points on the streets (taxi ranks; shopping centres and public pay points like post offices and municipal offices) where public meetings and public open days were held. These posters are considered to have served the purpose of the on-site notice since this is, to a large extent, a linear project.

#### Information Points

Information points like libraries and municipal offices were identified and information was placed at these information points. The information points had BIDs, maps and copies of the Scoping Report. Environmental Impact Assessment Reports will also be placed at the information points.

### ***3.2 Announcement of the Project: During the Extended Scoping Phase***

#### Distribution of letters

Letters announcing the new alternative proposed sites (north of N12) were distributed during the site visits. Similar letters announcing the new alternative proposed sites and a project map were distributed during August 2008 and September 2008 through the post, by fax and by e-mails (See Annexure 6). The purpose of these letters was to provide the newly identified I&APs with information on the EIA Process, the PPP, and the need for the proposed substation and power lines and to invite landowners and potential I&APs to focus group meetings.

Additional letters, informing landowners about specialist studies to be conducted and an updated map of the new alternative proposed sites were distributed during November 2008.

#### Newsletter

In order to be transparent and continuously engage with I&APs, the EAP decided to introduce a newsletter, giving I&APs up to date information about the project as well as other related projects. The first edition of this newsletter was released and distributed in August 2008, with the second edition in October 2008. The second newsletter which was accompanied by a questionnaire, were also aimed to encourage landowners to raise issues of concern and to introduce more I&APs to the project, these were sent out to all registered I&APs. It has always

been the intention of the EAP to distribute this newsletter on a regular basis for the duration of the project (See Annexure 14).

#### 4. LETTERS OF CONSENT

##### Signed during the initial Scoping Phase (South of N12)

Landowners of the farms on which the three alternative substation sites were investigated south of N12 signed letters of consent giving permission to the study team to conduct investigations on their properties. The table below contain information relating to the signing of the consent letter to conduct-studies on their farms/properties.

**Table 2:** The following Landowners Signed letters of Consent 2006 (See Annexure21)

Farm Name	Registered Owner	Landowner	Date signed
Byl 421IP	Motswenyane Family Trust	Molifi Motswenyane	15-11-2006
Kareerand 441IP	Nonogang Agri Trust	Susan Mokone	15-11-2006
Wilbebespan 441IP	Motswenyane Family Trust	Izaak Motswenyane	07-12-2006

##### Signed during the Extended Scoping Phase (North of N12)

In order to conduct specialist studies on a farm, a landowner has to sign a letter of consent. Two additional site visits were undertaken where landowners were approached to participate in the EIA process and to sign letters of consent so that the different specialists can conduct studies on their properties.

**Table 3:** The following Landowners Signed letters of Consent 2008 (See Annexure 21)

Farm Name	Registered Owner	Landowner	Date signed
Eleazar 377IP	Barolong Ba Modiboa (CPA)	Mr. J Lerefolo	30-09-2008
Eleazar 377IP	Barolong Ba Modiboa (CPA)	Mr. E Styger	29-09-2008
Eleazar 377IP	Mr. JD Cronjé	Mr. JD Cronjé	08-10-2008
Eleazar 377IP	Orion Properties 90 Pty.	Mr. D Webster	29-09-2008
Rietkuil 378IP	Mr. IM van Rooyen	Mr. IM van Rooyen	Not Signed
Rooipoort 354IP	Mr. B Keet	Mr. B Keet	04-11-2008
Syferfontein 376IP	Mr. JD Cronjé	Mr. JD Cronjé	08-10-2008
Syferfontein 376IP	Mr. HJ Cronjé	Mr. HJ Cronjé	30-09-2008
Syferfontein 376IP	Ms. EJ Schoeman	Ms. EJ Schoeman	22-10-2008
Tertia 384IP	Neels du Toit Familie Trust	Mr. N du Toit	29-09-2008

#### 5. MEETINGS AND PUBLIC OPEN DAY SESSIONS

##### 5.1. Public Open Days (POD)

The main objective of an Open Day is to give the public the opportunity to become involved in the project and to provide their inputs. PODs are an important platform for information assimilation during the consultation process. New issues are recorded and debated. Detailed presentations in the form of displays (maps, diagrams, aerial photographs and overhead presentations) were used to communicate all aspects of the project (technological alternatives), the EIA process and the PPP, to the attendees of the open day. Members of the project team and the applicant were present to answer questions and to note issues and concerns.

During the Scoping Phase two PODs were held in February 2007, one in Khuma on 22 February 2007 and one in Potchefstroom on 23 February 2007. The POD was combined with a Public Meeting later in the day. The POD started at 11:00 and continued until 15:00. The Open Day at Khuma was well attended (57 I&APs) and various impromptu meetings were held during the course of the day if there were enough people present. Most of the issues received revolved around Eskom Distribution issues and not the Transmission Projects that were presented. Eskom representatives who attended the Open Day committed to notifying the Eskom Distribution Representative to help solve these issues.

Various people, including councillors who attended the Open Day indicated that the notification period for the Open Day and Public Meeting were too short and also insufficient. They indicated for future meetings that an advertisement must be placed in the Lentswe Newspaper and that a town-crier or loud-hailer is also used to notify about the meeting. This approach will be used for future meetings in Khuma.

The Open Day at Potchefstroom was attended by various councillors and representatives from government departments, such as the Department of Land Affairs, as well as by landowners who might be affected by the Epsilon substation and the associated turn-ins. The government officials are involved in land claims and land redistribution projects and will therefore be helping to advise the community trusts to negotiate for the servitude compensation.

## **5.2. Public Meetings (PM)**

PMs are an important platform for information assimilation during the consultation process. New issues are recorded and debated. Thus the purpose of the introductory public meetings was to:

- Provide information on the EIA;
- Identify issues and concerns;
- Identify and register I&APs;
- Provide information on the technological alternatives;
- Provide information on the specialists studies that are and will be undertaken;
- Provide information on the PPP;
- Outline the way forward in terms of the process.

Three PMs were held – two in Khuma (on 22 February 2007 and 13 March 2007) and one in Potchefstroom on 23 February 2007. The PM was combined with the POD and started at 16:00 in the afternoon. The reason for starting at this time was to accommodate any working I&APs and also to accommodate any I&APs who do not want to travel at night. (See Annexure 7)

Two additional PMs were held on 11 June 2009 at Potchefstroom at 10:00 and at Klerksdorp at 16:00 after the new alternative sites for the proposed substation were identified.

The following was done to invite I&APs to the PM and POD for the initial sites and the new alternative sites:

- For the first three PMs, letters were posted to 306 registered I&AP's, including municipality officials, ward councillors, school principals, various government department officials, chairmen of farmers associations, various individual landowners.
- Emails were sent to 67 registered I&AP's – this was sent a week before the public meetings and open days as reminder to people of the meetings.



- For the two PMs on 11 June 2009, 121 e-mails were sent and 443 letters were posted to I&APs, inviting them to the PMs as well as including an Executive Summary of the project. Included are municipality officials, ward councillors, various government department officials, Transnet, chairmen of farmers associations and various individual landowners. Also included were the Department of Land Affairs, Potchefstroom City Council, Potchefstroom Tourism, Centre for Environmental Management, Klerksdorp Tourism and Invest North-West.
- Telephone calls were also made to various registered I&AP's – these I&APs were phoned several days before the meetings and sms's were sent to other I&APs, reminding them to attend the PMs and to invite neighbouring landowners. Included is: Potchefstroom Tourism, Bult Sakeforum, Potchefstroom Business Association, Birdlife Potchefstroom, Mag Safari's, chairmen of farmers associations, Department of Land Affairs, Transnet, various landowners, including landowners on whose properties Epsilon substation can be, all from Khuma and surrounding areas.

The PM at Khuma was cancelled at 12:00 in the afternoon. The reason for the cancellation was that the hall was needed for a memorial service that would be attended by the community. It was arranged that another meeting would be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 at Khuma. This meeting was announced through a loud hailer using one of the local voluntary community worker and the local municipality facilities (transport and a loud hailer). This meeting was very well attended by residents of Khuma. (More than 200 people attended this meeting). Again, the majority of issues related to Eskom Distribution Issues and not the Eskom Transmission projects discussed. Eskom Distribution representatives attended the meeting and addressed the issues that related to their division.

The first PM at Potchefstroom was not held due to insufficient attendance by members of the public. The reason for this could have been because the meeting was arranged for a Friday afternoon and also that a number of people had attended the Open Day. The consultants arranged another public meeting in Potchefstroom, not combined with an Open Day and not on a Friday after the Scoping Report was made available for public review. Four people attended the public meeting and through general consensus no formal meeting was held, but a presentation and informal discussion was held. No minutes were taken for this meeting.

During the extended Scoping Phase the attendance of the PM at Potchefstroom 11 June 2009 was considerably better attended and consisted of mainly landowners of the new alternative sites for the proposed Epsilon substation. Three landowners attended the PM at Klerksdorp on 11 June 2009 and it was agreed upon that no PowerPoint presentation was necessary and all discussions took place around maps, laid out on tables. The poor attendance at these meetings demonstrates the lack of interest by the public, unless they are directly affected.

## **6. OVERVIEW OF MEETINGS AND PUBLIC OPEN DAY SESSIONS**

Different groups of stakeholders were identified and registered as key stakeholders. The database (register of I&APs) has been continuously updated with information that is gathered during the Scoping Phase (initial and extended) and during the EIA Phase (before the comment period). These stakeholders may be directly affected by the proposed project and needed to be consulted with in focus group meetings (FGM), one-on-one meetings or in general public meetings (PM) or public open day (POD) sessions. These groups include: Farmers Associations (FAs) and District Farmers Unions (DFUs), Local Governments (Municipalities), community trusts, mines and various other groups, as identified throughout the process. Stakeholders that are interested in the project also need to be consulted.

### Farmers Associations and Landowners

The two main Farmer Union groups were contacted for a list of the different Farmers Associations (FAs) and District Farmers Unions (DFUs) affiliated to them. They are AgriSA and Transvaal Landbou Unie van Suid Afrika (TLUSA). Not many of the FA's are active in this region. Various efforts have been made to contact the FA's still in existence and to arrange meetings with them but none have been held as at the end of Scoping Phase. Most farms in the area are under land claim and this is one reason that leads to limited agricultural activity in the area. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land Affairs are facilitating the process of land redistribution and officials from these departments are registered in the database.

A number of farms in the area have new owners, due to settled land claims. Some of these new landowners have been consulted with and attended either the Open Day in Khuma or Potchefstroom. These new emerging black farmers also have project managers from the Department of Land Affairs and these project managers who also attended the Open Days to assist these emerging black farmers with any related issues.

One of the landowners (Mr Sampie Styger) who attended the Open Day is the chairman of a FA and he has committed to giving the information to his members. Mr Barrie Langerak, chairman of Potchefstroom District Farmers Union also attended DFU meeting on 01 March 2007 at Koster. Representatives from all the FA's that are still active in this area have attended meetings between Eskom, the consultants and the Farmers Associations and District Farmers Unions. Information was handed to them to distribute to their members. After submitting and the approval of the FSR for the extended Scoping Phase consultation mainly occurred with landowners north of N12 in search of a suitable site for the substation. This is the only consultation which took place in the EIA Phase before the review period.

### Representatives of different Government Departments

Various government departments were included in the database from the beginning and have received all relevant correspondence relating to the project including the BID, letter and invitation to the public meetings and open days. For a full list of the government departments please refer to the database. Some departments did send representatives to the public meetings. Separate meetings will not be held with these departments, unless the Departments request this.

Information has been requested from the Department of Land Affairs with regards to properties that have land claims registered against them. From information received from landowners, a number of properties in the Khuma and Potchefstroom area have land claims on them, with some of these land claims finalised and properties handed over to the new owners and some land claims still outstanding. The consultants need to gain an understanding on these land claims and with whom to consult.

Mr Segano, from Land Affairs in Klerksdorp, attended the meeting held in Potchefstroom and promised his and his department's assistance in contacting emerging black farmers, as well as information with regards to land claims in this area.

### Local Governments (Municipalities)

Three municipalities are affected by this project Tlokwe Municipality and Matlosana Municipality. The town of Khuma, which is close to the potential location of Epsilon substation

falls under the Matlosana Local Municipality. A meeting was held with the Matlosana Local Municipality on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2007. This meeting was attended by various ward councillors.

A meeting was then arranged with the Mayoral Committee of the Matlosana Municipality on 21 May 2007, but due to short notice and previous commitments of the consultants, this meeting could not be attended. This meeting was postponed to 17 July 2007. A meeting was also held with the Tlokwe Municipality on 31 May 2007. The consultants attended this meeting and gave a presentation on the proposed Epsilon substation project. The municipality requested a follow-up meeting with the consultants and Eskom once the Scoping Report was made available for public review.

An electronic copy of the report was sent to all the municipalities. It has since been decided to meet with the municipal officials during the review period of the DEIAR. This will enable the PPP team to explain the project to the new Members of the Mayoral Committees (MMC).

#### Traditional Authorities

The study area for Epsilon substation and turn-ins is not under the control of traditional authority and there is no Traditional Council identified for consultation in this area.

#### Community Trust

Members of the community trust (Nanogang Agri Trust) were consulted on the day of the signing of Letter of Consent on 15 November 2006 and during the specialists site visit on 22 February 2007.

#### Barolong Community Property Association

The Barolong Community Property Association owns several farms in the area north of N12 and some of their farms are affected by the substation site and/or powerline routes. The association has been consulted and they participated in focus group meetings and have signed letters of consent for studies to be conducted on their farms.

#### Meetings with Specialists

Meetings were held in the Delta-Epsilon study area to afford the landowners and the technical specialists an opportunity of sharing information on the approach and for investigation and issues to consider on the ground.

Though the meeting held on Hessie farm (situated in this project's study area) was for Delta-Epsilon project landowners mainly focused on the potential impact of the proposed Epsilon substation on the area.

## **7. SUMMARY OF PPP ACTIVITIES**

**Table 4: Scoping Phase PPP Activities**

<b>DURING THE INTRODUCTORY PHASE – BEFORE THE RELEASE OF DSR FOR REVIEW</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
January 2007	Notice of intent (Application form)	Consultant, DEA and NWDACE	Application Form (Annexure 1)
January 2007	Acknowledgement of Application form by DEA	DEA Official and Consultant	Acknowledgement Letter (Annexure 2)
Ongoing	Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) database	Consultant (PPP) and the	I&APs Database (Annexure 3)

		public	
26 January 2007	Officially announced the project through newspaper	Project Proponent, Consultants and General Public	Newspaper Advertisement The Citizen Rustenburg Herald Sowetan (Annexure 4)
February 2007	Placed posters in the study area	PPP Consultant	Street lamp posters (Annexure 5)
08 January 2007	Posting of BID, Map & Reply Sheet for the public	PPP Consultant	BID, Letter & Reply Sheet (Annexure 6)
22 February 2007 & 13 March 2007	Public Open Day: Khuma Community	Project Proponent, Consultants & key stakeholders	Minutes of meeting (Annexure 7)
23 February 2007	Public Open Day and Public Meeting: Potchefstroom Community	Project Proponent, Consultants & key stakeholders	Minutes of meeting
Ongoing	Comments and Response Report (CRR)	Project Proponent, consultants & key stakeholders	CRR (Annexure 8)
DRAFT SCOPING REPORT PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD ACTIVITIES			
DATE	ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	APPENDICES
13 June 2007	Announcing the availability of Draft Scoping Report	Project Proponent, Consultants and General public	Newspaper Advertisement (Annexure 9)
21 June 2007	Posting of Executive Summary of the Draft Scoping Report	Consultants and General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter accompanying Executive Summary</li> <li>• A reply sheet</li> </ul>
28 June 2007	Presentation for meeting	Consultants and General public	Presentation for meeting during comment period
02 February 2008	Initial scoping report approved	Consultants and Authority	Letter of Approval from DEA (Annexure 10)
June 2008	Letter to the Authorities, notifying them of alternative proposed sites for the substation	Authority and Consultants	Letter addressed to DEA (Annexure 11)
28	Acknowledgement	Authority and	Acknowledgement letter

September 2008		Consultants	
22 July 2008	Notification of alternative proposed sites for the substation	Newly identified landowners	Notice of alternative sites (Annexure 12)
31 July 2008	Focus Group meeting: Landowners at Farm Hessie and Kromdraai	Project Proponent, Consultants and Community involved	Minutes of meeting (Annexure 13)
11 August 2008	Distribution of Newsletter (Edition 1)	I&APs	Newsletter (Annexure 14)
26 August 2008	Focus Group Meeting: Barolong CPA	Project Proponent, Consultants and CPA members	Minutes of meeting (Annexure 16)
12 November 2008	Distribution of Newsletter (Edition 2)	I&APs and Consultants	Newsletter (Annexure 14)
17 November 2008	Letter informing landowners about specialist studies	I&APs and Consultants	Letter
22 May 2009	Announcing the availability of Draft Scoping Report	Project Proponent, Consultants and General public	Newspaper Advertisement (Annexure 9)
21 June 2009	Posting of Executive Summary of the Draft Scoping Report	Consultants and General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter accompanying Executive Summary</li> <li>• A reply sheet (Annexure 15)</li> </ul>
28 June 2009	Presentation	Consultants and General public	Minutes
27 August 2009	Public Meeting in Potchefstroom	Study team and seven landowners	Minutes
08 October 2009	Extended study Scoping Report approved	Authority and the consultant	Letter of Approval from DEA (Annexure 10)
<b>PPP ACTIVITIES RELATING TO EIA PHASE</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
26 November 2009	Focus Group Meeting in Clementia Wedding Club	Study team and ten landowners	Minutes
26 November 2009	Focus Group Meeting in Potchefstroom	Study team and five landowners	Minutes
10 December	Meeting with Mr. Piet Theron of Department of Agric Forestry &	Study team and Mr. Theron	Minutes (Annexure 18)

2009	Fishery (LUSM)		
29 January 2010	Barolong CPA and Highveld Park Conservation representative	Study team, J Lerefolo and representative of Highveld Park	Minutes
27 May 2010	Meeting with Mr. Tom van Rooyen on the farm Rietkuil 378 IP	Mr. Van Rooyen and study team	Minutes
14 September 2011	Meeting with Highveld Park and North West Parks Board	Consultants, Proponent and Stakeholders	Minutes (Annexure 19)
28 September 2011	Meeting with Landowners and Barolong	Consultants, Proponent and Landowners	Minutes (Annexure 20)
2006 and 2008	Consent letter	Landowners and consultants	Consent letter (Annexure 21)
2009	Motivation for Site F (Modderfontein)	Landowners and Consultants	Report (Annexure 22)

## 8. FOCUSED CONSULTATION DURING THE EIA PHASE (EIA STARTED 08 OCTOBER 2009)

The scoping report was approved on 08 October 2009. The study team then decided to remove the substation sites south of the N12 from the project. The EIA Phase mainly focused on finding a suitable substation site north of N12. Several meetings were held with potentially affected landowners as follows:

### Public Meeting of 27 August 2009

Meeting was held for Delta-Epsilon Project to discuss the findings of DEIR. The meeting was held at Potchefstroom country club and 7 people attended. Landowners who attended this meeting started talking about Epsilon Substation and wanting clarity on the status of the project. Minutes were forwarded to the attendees on the 06 October 2009.

### Focus Group Meeting of 26 November 2009

Meeting was held at Clementia Wedding Chappel south of the Vaal River at 10:00 am. Only 10 stakeholders attended the meeting. Most of the landowners wanted to find out about the route for the power lines going to the Epsilon substation. The issue of the power lines crossing Mega Tailings dam was brought forth and they have requested a map that is indicating only the area near the Vaal River. The map and minutes were forwarded on 01 February 2010 to stakeholders.

### Focus Group Meeting of 26 November 2009

Meeting took place at 14:00 at Potchefstroom country club. Five stakeholders attended the meeting and some stakeholders were not happy with the outcome of the geotechnical studies on the substation site A and B. They wanted proper studies to be conducted on the substation site F. They were not happy with the fact that the FSR mentioned that there were no agricultural activities taking place on their farm.

### Focus Group Meeting of 10 December 2009

The study team forwarded the FSR to Mr. Theron (Assistant Director: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery). Mr. Theron was concerned about the impact of the project

on the food security in the area. He supported a call by landowners that an economic study (soil potential) of the area must be conducted.

#### Focus Group Meeting of 29 January 2010

Meeting was between Barolong Communal Property Association, Highveld Park and Tsepo. Members of the Barolong CPA and Highveld Park were concerned that the study team was investigating the possibility of putting the substation in Modderfontein. It was mentioned that the Barolong CPA are considering using Modderfontein as a conservation area that will promote eco-tourism business.

#### Focus Group Meeting of 27 May 2010

Meeting took place on the farm Rietkuil 378 IP with Mr. Tom van Rooyen. He mentioned that the substation sites are located on the food production lands. He indicated that the impact of Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) will increase the probability of sterility in animals. Mr. Van Rooyen indicated that he informed the department of Agriculture about the impact of the substation.

#### Focus Group Meeting of 14 September 2011

Meeting was held with stakeholders involved in the Modderfontein 383IP Nature Conservation Project. Since the farm was considered potentially suitable for substation site (**site F**), the study team deemed it appropriate and proper to consult all stakeholders involved with the ecotourism project that is envisaged on this farm. The stakeholders involved are Barolong Community Property Association (the registered owner), Highveld National Park, North West Parks and Tourism Board and Tlokwe Local Municipality.

Members attending the meeting indicated that the farm was given to Barolong CPA with the intention of developing it into a tourist attraction and create jobs for the beneficiaries. If electricity infrastructure like a substation and powerlines carrying pylons were to be allowed onto this property then the project of developing the farm into a nature conservation area would fail because powerlines and substation are associated with significant visual impact. Hence a strong appeal was made to the study team to note that putting a substation on Modderfontein would derail the plans of Barolong CPA.

After the meeting representatives of Barolong CPA indicated that they are prepared to talk to the whole CPA committee and later the community about the possibility of sacrificing Eleazer farm instead of Modderfontein. This was prompted by the idea that the Barolong owns both Eleazer (**site A**) and Modderfontein (**site F**) and the study team conducted investigation on both farms.

#### Focus Group Meeting of 28 September 2011

Since the Barolong CPA indicated a willingness to make Eleazer (**site A**) available for consideration for possible substation site, a meeting was convened for 28 September 2011 to consult with the Barolong, the lessee to this farm and the neighbours. The lessee to the farm expressed unhappiness about the Barolong allowing the substation to come to Eleazer but it was explained that more impact will be felt by Barolong if the substation was to be constructed on the farm Modderfontein. Representatives of Barolong CPA indicated that though the committee agree to the substation being constructed on Eleazer but this matter must first receive the approval of the whole community. It was mentioned that a community meeting will be held on 30 October 2011. (**See Annexure 20 for the minutes**)

## 9. ADDITIONAL PPP ACTIVITIES IN THE EIA PHASE

The process to be followed in the EIA Phase was outlined in the FSR and PoS which were approved in 08 October 2009. In addition to the activities outlined in the plan of study for EIA, the following will apply:

- The availability of the Draft EIR will be advertised in local newspapers.
- PM and FGM will be held in the study area.
- Continued consultation with registered and newly identified stakeholders.
- All registered I&APs will be notified of the dates and venue where to review the DEIAR
- Electronic copies of the Draft EIR shall be available on CD, on request as well as published on the ESKOM website ([www.eskom.co.za/eia](http://www.eskom.co.za/eia)).
- Hard copies of the Draft EIR will be placed at information points which will also be advertised
- DEIR will be updated with comments before submitting to authorities
- Copies of DEIR will be made available to provincial authorities
- FEIR will be made available and stakeholders will be advised to comment to DEA Stakeholders will be notified about the Authority's decision
- There will be a 30-day appeal period and stakeholders will be notified about the appeal process

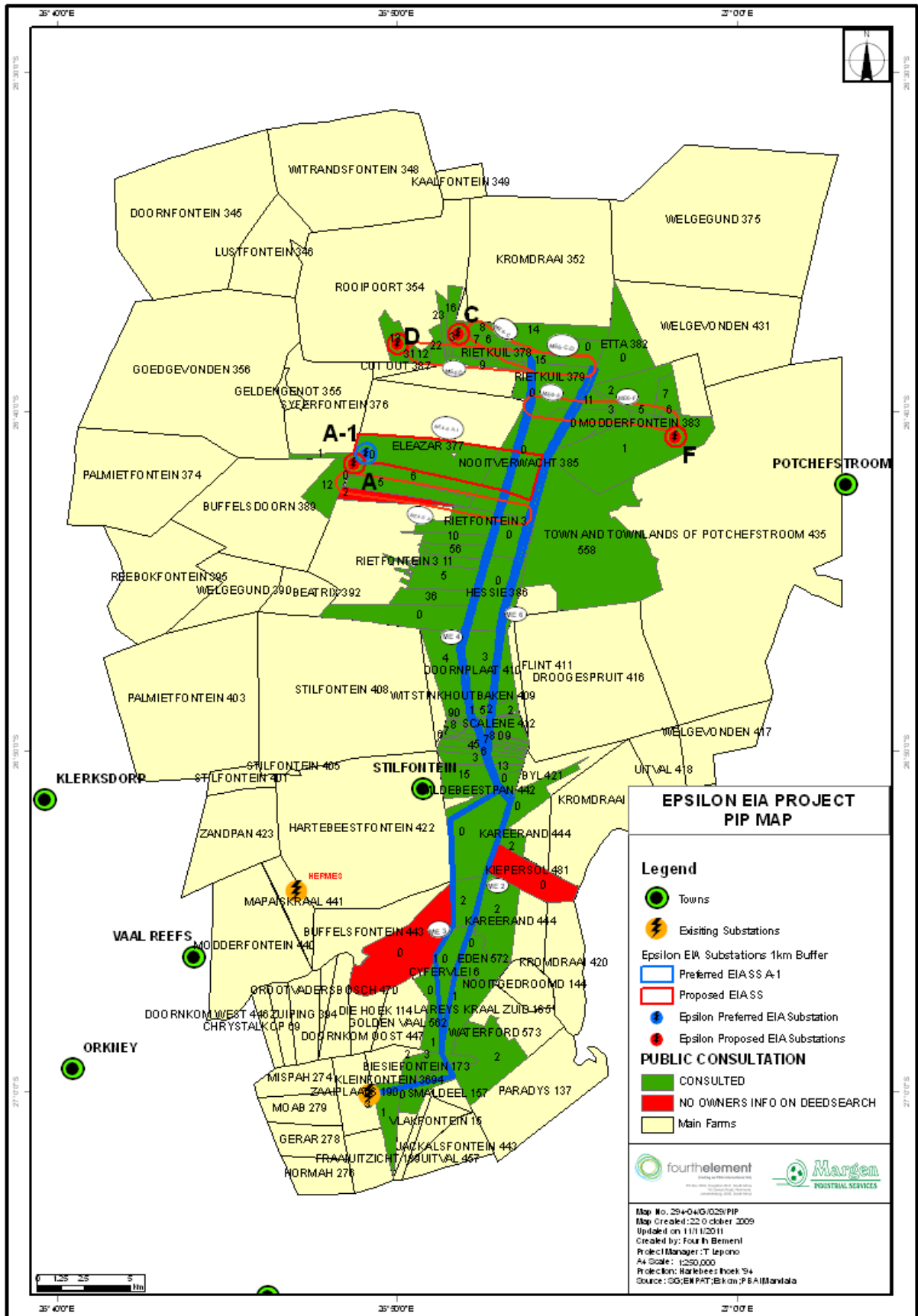
## 10. STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

According to NEMA Section 56 all landowners within the linear route, substation and within 100m from the route must be consulted. The PPP Team used deed search to get the details of landowners along the alternative routes and on the alternative substation sites. In some case landowners' details were received at meetings with landowners or during field visit or through referrals. All identified landowners and their details are recorded in the I&AP register (**See Annexure 3**). The extent to which landowners have been identified and consulted is depicted visually by a stakeholder map.

The ownership of farms in the study area is in different levels viz. Individuals; trust/company; government (Department of Rural Development & Land Reform; Department of Defence; Tlokwe and Matlosana municipalities) Community Property Associations). There is a total of about 76 farm portions that are potentially affected by the proposed project. From this total as at the submission of the report for review the identification was as follows:

Total Farm Pt	Identified & consulted	No Owner on Deeds Search
76	73	3
	96%	4%





## **11. FEEDBACK TO STAKEHOLDERS ON THE FINDINGS OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The findings and recommendations contained in the main report will be presented to the public in the following method:

- Presentations will be given to the focus group meetings of landowners (commercial farmers' community trust and community property association) in the study area and those outside the study area but affected by the project.
- Due to the proximity of the 765kV line from Mercury substation and the new Epsilon substation itself, it is proposed to present the main findings of the report to the communities of Khuma.
- Executive summary of the DEIAR will be provided to registered stakeholders captured in the database.
- Full copies of the DEIAR in electronic format (CD) will be given to the different government officials with whom meetings will be held.

## **12. PPP ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE REVIEW PERIOD OF THE SCOPING REPORT**

The review period was from 17 July 2007 to 22 June 2009. During the review period of the Draft Scoping Report the stakeholders were offered opportunities to raise issues of concern and comments regarding the proposed substation and associated power lines and the potential impacts identified and raised in the Draft Scoping Report. The process that was followed for public consultation in the EIA Phase was outlined in the updated Plan of Study for EIA.

Only one written comment was received on 21 June 2009 from Mr. B Keet, who acted on behalf of all the landowners for the new proposed sites. A response was sent to landowners of the new proposed sites on 13 July 2009 and they were requested to assist in arranging a site visit to the additional sites proposed at the PM on 11 June 2009.

The following activities were undertaken during the review period:

- Issues, comments and responses gathered during the scoping phase were integrated into the DSR that was made available to the public for review (22 May 2009 to 22 June 2009).
- This lengthy timeframe was as a result of public and school holidays.
- The objective of the review was to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the findings of the study team and to verify whether their issues and comments were properly captured and considered in the study.
- A detailed record of issues and comments raised is included under the Comment and Response Report.
- The minutes of meetings held during the public review period are included under different appendices as indicated in Table 4 above.

In cases where responses were not given immediately at the meetings, these have been included in the Comment and Response Report (CRR) (**See Annexure 8**).

## **13. COMMENTS & ISSUES RAISED**

Comments and Issues raised during the Scoping Phase and during the early stage of the EIA Phase of the project were recorded and mainly covers the topics as indicated below.

Some of the key issues raised were:

- The loss of prime agricultural lands;
- The impact of the proposed substation on the Highveld National Park and associated developments in the area;
- Health impacts (EMFs) associated with electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure;
- Noise impacts;
- Influx of people and additional infrastructure associated with encroaching people;
- Size of the substation and associated turn-ins is too big (4Km<sup>2</sup>) (This size of the substation has since been changed to 1000m X 1000m)
- The lack of alternative sites for the proposed Epsilon substation.
- Planned development of a new tailings dam near some of the site alternatives.
- Preliminary site selection process.

The Comment & Response Report (**See Annexure 8**) has been populated with comments received from the public meetings, public open days, one-on-one meetings and written comments.

#### **14. CONCLUSION**

Based on the inputs received during the PPP conducted so far, the PPP team is confident that all reasonable efforts were made to inform the public in the study area about the project and about the additional alternative proposed sites for the proposed substation. The consultation process is considered to have provided the public, especially the landowners, ample opportunity to raise issues of concern, which they might have regarding the proposed substation and associated power lines.

The consultation process touched all areas that are potentially affected by the substation and turn-ins power lines as initially proposed for scoping. Different potential sites put forward by stakeholders (landowners and applicant) and studies requested by stakeholders were investigated. By considering the presentations given by the technical specialists at different focus group meetings and the response given by the study team to concerns raised by the local communities during the consultation process is considered to have been robust and transparent to empower all stakeholders to participate and give input.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The EIA process has been delayed for about four years by intensive studies in selecting a preferred substation site and associated power line infrastructure. The study process started with three sites south of N12 and later the study area was extended to investigate a total of eight sites. Three sites on farms Wildebeestpan (Site X), Byl (Site Y) and Kareerand (Site Z) south of N12 were dropped after Scoping Phase. Sites Syferfontein (Site B) and Modderfontein (Site E) were also dropped after Scoping Phase. However, landowners identified additional sites within Towns and Townlands of Potchefstroom and Modderfontein for consideration. A site visit was arranged with landowners and the two farms were assessed. Moddefontein (Site F) was included, together with Eleazer (Site A), Rietkuil (Site C) and Rooipoort (Site D). Towns and Townlands of Potchefstroom was dropped (See Annexure 22). The EIA Phase, therefore investigated four sites (A, C D and F).

Site A-1 is the proposed location of Site A that has evolved from the EIA studies. It remains on the same farm as the initial location, but has been relocated after consultation with the Barolong CPA.

The opinion of the public consultation team is that stakeholders in the receiving environment and the general public were afforded sufficient opportunity to raise issues of concern and the responses given by the EIA Team in the report adequately addresses the concerns raised as documented in the CRR

**15. WAY FORWARD**

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAR) will be issued and made available to the public for review and comment during September 2011. The availability of the DEIAR and the comment period will be advertised in the newspapers. Copies of the DEIAR will be placed at information points identified. Electronic copies of the DEIAR will also be available to I&APs, on request. The Executive Summary will be sent to all I&APs on the database. The public will have 45 days to review the DEIAR and comment. After the public review period for the DEIAR, a final environmental report will be compiled and sent to the Authorities for consideration.