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Engineering for the Environment

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17 December, 2003

Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
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PRETORIA
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Attention: Ms Elizabeth Ramatsetse

Dear Ms Ramatsetse

**PROPOSED MATIMBA-WITKOP NO 2 400 kV TRANSMISSION LINE,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE: APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM
UNDERTAKING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PHASE OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The meeting of 4 December 2003 between yourselves and representatives of Eskom regarding the proposed Matimba-Witkop No 2 400 kV Transmission line, Limpopo Province has reference. We confirm that you have agreed to consider a modified process for the conducting of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this project.

Eskom Transmission seek to construct the new Transmission line between Matimba Substation (near Lephalale) and Witkop Substation (near Polokwane) within a negotiated servitude, which lies parallel to the existing Matimba-Witkop No 1 400 kV Transmission line for the majority of the route. An EIA for the construction of a new Transmission line parallel to the existing Matimba-Witkop No 1 400 kV Transmission line was undertaken in 2002. This process included the undertaking of detailed specialist studies. The information contained within, and the findings of these studies are still relevant to a project of this nature within the study area. Therefore, the issues associated with this proposed activity are known and have been defined.

Therefore, Eskom Transmission Group hereby applies for an exemption from the provisions of regulations 5 and 6 of Regulation 1183 under the Act in terms of Section 28A of the Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989) and request an exemption from undertaking the Scoping Phase of the EIA process.

Please advise at your earliest convenience of National DEAT's decision in this regard.

Yours faithfully

Karen Kück