

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING PHASE

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE STEELPOORT INTEGRATION PROJECT

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES/CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS RAISED BY

INTERESTED AND/OR AFFECTED PARTIES

MAY 2007 – SEPTEMBER 2007

Stakeholders who contributed issues range across all sectors of society. A full record of every issue raised is available from the public participation office. Many stakeholders raised the same issue. This list of issues does not focus solely on the specific transmission power line route corridor or substation site. Instead, it lists all issues raised by I&APs within the study area with regards to the proposed project.

The issues have been arranged into groups of similar issues. The name, affiliation and date of the commentator are also indicated. Where indicated, the affiliation of the person who raised the comment is indicated as it was at the time the comment was raised. The issues raised by technical specialists and the project proponents are not included in the list below. Comments made during the Focus Group Meetings are however, included, as well as comments received in Afrikaans and Pedi languages (these are translated into English for report purposes). Comments received at the Key Stakeholder Workshop, Public Meeting and any other Focus Group Meetings will be included in the final scoping report.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS ISSUES TRAIL:

- DM:** District Municipality
ESR: Environmental Scoping Report
KSW: Key Stakeholder Workshop
PM: Public Meeting
FGM: Focus Group Meeting
GTLM: Greater Tubatse Local Municipality
LM: Local Municipality
PSS: Pumped Storage Scheme

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
1. General Environmental Comments/Issues		
Main interest regarding this proposed project is the general health hazards in terms of contaminated water, and where and how will this water be released or dealt with.	Clr SP Mokoena, Head: Community Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality Registration & Comment Form: 27/06/2007	It is envisaged that there will be no contaminated water related to the proposed Steelpoort Substation, but this concern will be forwarded to the environmental specialist to assess during the environmental impact phase, should contaminated water be identified as an environmental impact.
The project team was informed that the rehabilitation potential in the area is low and that the flora in the study area has a higher importance rate than that of fynbos in the Cape Province. He indicated that the area falls within the Sekhukhune Centre of Plant Endemism.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Comment noted.
Will any mitigation measures be put into place to protect the aloes in the area especially during construction of the power lines? These plants are sensitive and should be replanted elsewhere as far as possible.	Mr Pikke Lubbe, Environmental Specialist, Samancor Tubatse Mine PM: 18/08/2007	This issue will be addressed through the ecological specialist study in the EIA phase. Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental
Will Eskom apply for any water licences as a result of the proposed project?	Mr George van der Merwe, Samancor KSW: 16/08/2007	Water licences/permits for this proposed project would not be required as there will be no structures in any of the river beds or within any floodlines. This is a technical consideration and is due to the fact that the construction of power line towers within floodlines poses an unacceptable risk to the operation of the power line. Ms Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental
Who will determine the applicable flood line?		The applicable flood line will be determined between Eskom and DWAF. A large amount of information would be available from DWAF regarding the Steelpoort River as a result of the extensive studies which they had recently completed for the De Hoop Dam. Ms Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental
2. Heritage Issues		
Heritage sites and other places used for cultural rituals will be identified after choosing the preferred corridor.	Bahlakwana Ba Malekane Traditional Authority FGM: 29/06/2007	The offer to help is appreciated; the technical specialists will be advised to consult the traditional council for support if necessary especially during the walkthrough stage. Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch
	Phathane Tribal Authority	

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
How would the heritage sites have an impact on the Western alignment, as the De Hoop Dam and the R555 is being proposed to be constructed on the Western side?	FGM: 11/07/2007 Mr J Language, Property Owner FGM: 02/07/2007	The heritage specialist, Dr J van Schalkwyk, would be responsible for the heritage studies. Once the information becomes available, which may be during the impact phase, it will be forwarded to Mr J Language. Ms N Baker, MasterQ Research
There are a number of heritage sites located along the proposed western alternative. A large heritage site is located in the vicinity of the R555 where this realigned road rejoins the existing R555 downstream of the De Hoop Dam. It was noted that it may be difficult for Eskom to obtain a permit from SAHRA to impact on this site, as the site is considered significant from a heritage perspective. Therefore the transmission line may need to be realigned to avoid this site.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	The project team is aware of the heritage issues as Dr Johnny van Schalkwyk, the specialist involved in the heritage studies for the De Hoop Dam, is the heritage specialist on the EIA project team. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental
The project team was informed that the site where Lydenburg Clay masks was identified, could receive national status.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Comment noted
3. Tourism Issues		
There are no plans currently to construct any tourist chalets within the conservation area, and that planned activities involved only walking trails and research facilities. He added, however, that this conservation area was the start of a broader conservation initiative within the Steelport valley. He added that there has already been buy-in from the mines in the area to this broader conservation initiative in order to off-set the impacts which have occurred as a result of their activities.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Comment noted.
Eskom was requested to note that there is a cemetery below the dam wall.	Council: Batlokwa Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007	Comment noted. This will be verified through the EIA process.
4. Social and Socio-Economic Issues		
How many people will be employed during construction and during the operational phase of this proposed project?	Mr Michael Mashigo, Manager: Strategic Planning Department: Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	A response to this question is not available at this stage. Once the information becomes available, which may be during the impact phase, it will be forwarded to Mr Mashigo. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
How will the community(ties) benefit from this project?	Mr Chwamotse Molopo, EXCO Member: Finance, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	A reply cannot be provided at this stage. Once the social impact assessment commences, then a response will be forwarded reflecting the direct and/or indirect job opportunities and other benefits related to this proposed project. Ms N Byker, MasterQ Research
Will the proposed Steelport Integration project address the massive growth of the Tubatse Municipality?	Clr SP Mokoena, Head: Community Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality Handwritten note received after FGM: 27/06/2007	The purpose of the proposed Steelport Integration project is to link the power generated by the proposed Steelport Pump Storage Scheme (SPSS) (EIA being undertaken by Bohlweki Environmental – tel. 011 798 6001) into Eskom's transmission network. The transferring of electricity from the proposed Steelport Substation to Eskom's existing Merensky Substation (Steelport) will strengthen the electricity supply in the Steelport.
What is the position from Eskom regarding those who build under the power lines?	Clr SP Mokoena, Head: Community Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality Handwritten note received after FGM: 27/06/2007	Should there be no alternative for Eskom to deviate the proposed transmission power line to avoid a house or structure, Eskom will discuss the relocation of that household. Encroachment of informal settlements onto Eskom's servitude is a concern for Eskom.
How will compensation be carried out, especially if people are to be relocated?	Bahlakwana Ba Malekane Traditional Authority FGM: 29/06/2007	Relocation is undertaken in consultation with the traditional council and usually people are compensated to build houses of good quality. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
It was suggested that a working initiative between the DWAF and Eskom as DWAF will be constructing houses in Roossenekal for their construction team. It was suggested that Eskom investigate the option of purchasing these houses from the DWAF for Eskom's permanent staff members who will be working at the PSS and substations. The services that will be laid out to these houses will remain, and part of the negotiations can include the provision of water by DWAF at a lower unit rate.	Mr Jaap Kroon, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Suggestion acknowledged and the attendees were informed that the suggestion will be forwarded for discussion within Eskom. Ms J Mashiteng, Eskom

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
How is the community going to be compensated for allowing Eskom to register servitude against their farms? If there is any money to be paid, it must be paid into the community trust.	Phathane Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007	For servitude compensation: Payment is based on the size (hectars) of the servitude. Market related value as determined by an independent valuer is paid. A once off payment is paid to the registered owner of the farm. Eskom does not pay monthly or annual royalties. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Will the community receive payment if the transmission power line goes through their community?	Mr Eric Morota, Dithamaga Trust FGM: 02/07/2007	Eskom tries an avoid putting a transmission power line through communities. From a social point of view, which is part of the environmental studies being undertaken, it is not advisable to build a transmission power line through communities. However, should it not be possible to avoid a community or a house/dwelling, Eskom will appoint a negotiator and he/she will have one-on-one discussions with the affected landowner or community to discuss compensation (payment) for the servitude. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
Will the community be compensated (receive payment) if their vegetable gardens needs to be moved / removed for the transmission power line?		Should their vegetable gardens be affected by the transmission power line, then Eskom will come and discuss the matter with them, as a community, or the person whose vegetable garden is affected, personally. Eskom will appoint a negotiator and he/she will have one-on-one discussions with the affected landowner to discuss compensation (payment). Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
The council is not opposed to development but is asking for clarification on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation for servitude • Compensation for relocation • The use of local labour during construction phase. 	Mr Kgosana Rantho, Bahlakwana ba Rantho Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007	The process of servitude negotiation and compensation for servitude and relocation was explained. An independent valuer is used to determine the amount to be paid. In case of relocation, the affected families are compensated to build quality housing. Job opportunities will be available but very limited because construction companies use equipment that requires experience and training. Employment will not be made directly by Eskom but by an appointed construction contractor. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Tshehla Trust understands that the road is going to be fenced. Eskom is requested to consider the fencing of the road when planning the route. If both the road and the power line servitude are fenced, this	Tshehla Trust FGM: 11 /07/2007	The comment is noted. Eskom servitude is not going to be fenced and there is a prescribed minimum distance required between the road and power line servitude but by an appointed construction contractor.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
will greatly reduce the grazing space, especially where the two infrastructures get close to the mountain.		Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Though the council is not opposed to development but the local people will see construction work going on in their neighbourhood and would like to benefit if there are job opportunities. Eskom is requested to come and give presentation to the community. The traditional leadership will help set up a public meeting in the village.	Kgosi Phasha, Roka Phasha Phokwane Tribal Authority FGM: 12/07/2007	Job opportunities will be available but very limited because construction companies use equipment that requires experience and training. Employment will not be made directly by Eskom. The timeframes for construction were discussed using the BID as a guide. The process followed in servitude negotiation, relocation of affected families, the involvement of ECO and the establishment of construction camps was discussed and explained. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Information was requested regarding the job opportunities to be generated by the project.	Ba Bina Noko ba Mampuru Tribal Authority FGM: 12/7/2007	Job opportunities will be available but very limited because construction companies use equipment that requires experience and training. Employment will not be made directly by Eskom but by an appointed construction contractor. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Information regarding the negotiation process for servitude and relocation compensation was requested.		The process followed in servitude negotiation, relocation of affected families, the involvement of ECO and the establishment of construction camps was discussed and explained. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Will these new lines that are going to be constructed in the Rossenekal-Steelport area (Turn-ins; Steelport-Merensky and Duvha-Leseding) strengthen the electricity supply in the local area?	Tshehla Matome PM: 18/08/2007	The new transmission power lines will indirectly benefit the area as they will supply power to the Merensky Substation from which most distribution lines for the area are connected. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
What will happen if the transmission line goes through important sites such land that is used for subsistence farming and cultural activities?	Mr Magolego PM: 18/08/2007	A corridor of approximately 500 m to 1 km for the power line is considered within the EIA process. Within this corridor, towers can be shifted slightly in order to avoid sensitive sites such as graves. The location of any heritage or cultural sites, as well as any other sensitive sites will be determined during the EIA Phase, negotiation phase or “walk through” phase. Mrs Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
5. EIA Process Comments/Issues		
It was suggested that a similar alignment to the transmission line alignment be considered for the proposed water pipeline required to link the De Hoop Dam and the PSS, such that the impacts on land in the area are minimised. It was enquired whether it was possible to construct the pipeline within the power line servitude.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	It would be possible to construct the water pipeline within the power line servitude. Ms Joyce Mashiteng, Eskom
How far in the scoping phase is the proposed Steelpoort Integration project?	Ms Sanet van Jaarsveld, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	The project is approaching the end of the scoping phase. The desk-top reports are being compiled and it is envisaged that the draft ESR will be out for public review towards the end of July 2007. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental
DWAF will first have to evaluate the pros and cons of (a) including the EIA for the proposed water pipeline with the EIA for the proposed Steelpoort Integration project, or (b) DWAF to appoint their own EIA consultants for the water pipeline project. It was agreed that a meeting be scheduled between DWAF and Eskom in order for the possibility of constructing the water pipeline within the transmission line servitude to be discussed and an in-principle agreement to be reached.		Comment noted. It was indicated that Eskom would liaise with DWAF regarding arranging the required meeting. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
6. Safety & Security		
What is the safety risk of the power line that might snap and fall to the ground? Does the area around get induced with electricity?	Roka Phasha Phokwane Tribal Authority: 12/07/2007	There is a low probability that a power line can snap as these are inspected and maintained continuously. Should a conductor snap and touch wet ground, then electricity will be conducted.
It is expected that different specialists conducting studies in the area will report to the office of tribal authority before driving around the area. There are no grave sites that are expected to be found along the existing line. To avoid problems construction camp sites must be planned in consultation with the tribal authority	Roka Phasha Phokwane Tribal Authority: 12/07/2007	Comments noted. The specialists working in the technical team will be made aware about the importance of reporting their presence in the area at the tribal authority offices.
Is it dangerous for the power line to be constructed through a settlement?	Ba Bina Noko ba Mampuru Tribal Authority FGM: 12/07/2007	If possible Eskom tries to avoid building through a village, township or town. No building structures are allowed within transmission power lines servitudes. The servitude for a 400 kV line is 55m.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
7. Route Alignments & Proposed Alternatives		
What is the purpose of having two proposed route alignments?	Mr Michael Mashigo, Manager: Strategic Planning Department, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	Any EIA being undertaken needs to include at least two feasible alternatives when submitting an EIA application. In general, during the environmental scoping phase, a preferred (or two preferred) alternatives are identified from an environmental point of view and that is technically feasible. The preferred alternative/s will be considered in detail in the EIA phase in order to determine environmental feasibility. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
The western alternative is Samancor's preferred alternative as it will not sterilise Samancor's mineral rights as would be the situation on the eastern alternative.	Mr Johan Fernhout, Chief Surveyor: Samancor – Eastern Chrome Mines One-on-one discussion: 02/07/2007	Comment noted.
There is a chrome / platinum mine (Dwarsrivier Mine) that might be affected by the eastern alignment alternative. Access to Dwarsrivier Mine is from the road to the Tweefontein Mine.		Comment noted. The public participation team will identify and consult the mining house.
Will the proposed power line and the proposed DWAF water pipe line run together in a single corridor?	Mr M Botha, Property Owner FGM: 02/07/2007	Eskom intends to have a meeting to explain the different proposed projects in the area. That would include the De Hoop Dam, water pipeline, transmission lines, distribution and the proposed Pump Storage Scheme. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
<p>It was stated that the landowners would be prepared to give one servitude for the proposed power lines and the pipe line, they would not consider giving two servitudes on one farm. He stated that the Western alignment would not be opposed by the land owners, if the power lines and the pipeline would be in one corridor.</p> <p>It was stated that a corridor would be preferred with the proposed pipeline and power line together and if possible the consultants must investigate the option of the route to follow the new R555.</p> <p>If the farm of Dr Enslin was bought by Eskom a route on the land owned by Eskom would minimise the impact on the private landowners. The Landowners indicated that some of them owned more that one farm in the area and that they would be affected along the proposed route.</p>	Mr J Language, Property Owner Mr L Swart, Property Owner FGM: 02/07/2007	Comments noted

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
The general consensus regarding the route alignment was that it would be considered to follow the R 555.		
What is the width of the servitude, and how close the proposed transmission power line will be to the R555?	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	A 400 kV transmission power line requires a 55m servitude and it is currently being proposed to place the transmission power line approximately 100m away from the road fence. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental
Concern was expressed regarding the fact that there needs to be such a wide clearance from the R555 and suggested that all services in the area to be constructed as close as possible to one another to minimise any possible negative impact. Further information regarding the rationale for this clearance between the power line and the road was requested.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Concern noted. Information will be sourced regarding the technical motivation for this clearance requirement and provided within the EIA phase of the project. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
DWAF would not support the proposed eastern alternative as this alignment passes through the Conservation Forest area. A proposed eastern deviation was not preferred as this alignment could still impact negatively on the Conservation Forest Area (in terms of visual impacts). A preference was therefore expressed for the western alternative.	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Comment noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The following constraints on Eastern Platinum’s property located on the proposed western route alignment alternative were indicated: » the area earmarked for underground mining activities; » the area earmarked for the tailing dam; » the area proposed for the portals; and » the site identified for the contractor’s camp and hostel 	Mr D Morrison & Ms M Kilbourn Louw, Eastern Platinum FGM: 09/07/2007	Constrains noted and will be taken into consideration. Ms J Thomas, Savannah
<p>Three proposed route alternatives were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » an alignment which joins the eastern and western alternatives in the north of the study area; » an alignment which passes to the west of the Steelport River in the north of the study area (following a gravel road and existing power line); and \ » an alignment which follows the R555 alignment 		Note was taken that the alignment along the R555 would have a number of challenges due to the presence of several other servitudes (pipelines and power lines) in this vicinity. This alignment may also still impact on Eastern Plats’ planned tailings dam system, depending on the available space. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental
Eastern Plats planned plant layout is fixed, and this information will be available for the project team toward the end of next week, Friday 20 th July 2007.		Comment noted. Information requested from Eastern Platinum for inclusion on study area map.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>At this stage, the eastern proposed route alignment alternative is preferred as it will not have such a direct impact on Eastern Plats planned mining activities. However, the proposed eastern alternative will impact portion 9 of the farm Spitskop, a portion of which is owned by Eastern Plats. This property is divided into numerous portions. It appears that approximately 9 of these portions may be affected by the proposed eastern alternative.</p>	<p>Mr D Morrison & Ms M Kilbourn Louw, Eastern Platinum FGM: 09/07/2007</p>	<p>Comment noted</p>
<p>How far is the power line servitude from the road servitude where the two appears to be parallel and close to each other?</p>	<p>Phathane Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007</p>	<p>The western alignment is close to the road but there is prescribed specifications for the separation distance between the two servitudes. The alignment of the servitude for the proposed power line will have to meet the requirements. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom</p>
<p>The route that is parallel to the road, i.e. the western alignment is preferred.</p>	<p>Council: Batlokwa Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
	<p>Tshehla Trust FGM: 11/7/2007</p>	
<p>How wide is the power line servitude?</p>	<p>Tshehla Trust FGM: 11/7/2007</p>	<p>The 400kV Transmission power line requires 55m wide servitude.</p>
<p>Samancor's property is invariably affected by the proposed project, especially in the vicinity of Spitskop and surrounding areas where new mines are planned. Samancor will be affected by the project at Kennedy. A route alignment close to the existing transmission power line would be a preferred option although their property (Spitskop portions 12 and 13) will still be affected. The proposed western route alternative would affect Eastern Plats significantly as there is a new mine planned in the area west of Xtrata. It is suggested that a route alternative along the R533 to Lydenburg (i.e. the southern sub-alternative) be considered to minimise any impact on this planned mining operation. Samancor is not against the proposed project but that technical details need to be discussed and addressed with Eskom.</p>	<p>Mr Gert van der Merwe, Samancor KSW: 16/08/2007</p>	<p>Inputs acknowledged and comments were noted. A commitment was made to arrange a meeting with Samancor and the Eskom technical team during the EIA phase of the project.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
There are currently seven power lines through my property. If another line through this property is to be constructed, this would make it impossible to continue with agricultural activities. Could this proposed line not be placed on the plateau where it will not interfere with anyone? It must be noted that there are also development activities planned around the Steelport town such as housing development and mining. These would need to be taken into consideration when making final recommendations regarding the routing of the proposed Steelport-Merensky line.	Mr T du Plessis, Property Owner PM: 18/08/2007	Due to the topographical constraints of the area it would not be possible to construct the proposed line on the plateau. In some areas there would be serious constraints for the line, it is also stated that when a line is being constructed the shortest and most economical viable route for Eskom must be considered. The longer the power line route, the more power is lost, making the line less efficient in terms of electricity transmission. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
The proposed southern alternatives near Steelport cross over Samancor Mine's properties, which are considered to be sensitive. A request was made for a focus group meeting with the mine Houses and Technical department of Eskom, to discuss the route through the area.	Mr Pikke Lubbe, Environmental Specialist, Samancor Tubatse Mine PM: 18/08/2007	Comment noted.
8. Construction		
When will construction start?	Mr Hlamaleni Mohlaba, Acting Director: Technical Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	It is envisaged that the EIA process will be completed by mid 2008. A 10 – 12 month negotiation period is allocated for the negotiators to secure the required servitudes. Should DEAT issue a positive Environmental Authorisation, then it is envisaged that construction will commence in the second half of 2009. This project must be in operation by 2014. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
	Mr M Botha, Property Owner FGM: 02/07/2007	It is envisaged that the EIA process will be completed by mid 2008. Ten to twelve month negotiation is allocated for negotiators to obtain the required servitudes. Should DEAT issue a positive Environmental Authorisation, then it is envisaged that construction will commence in the second half of 2009. This project must be in operation by 2014. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
	Tshehla Trust FGM: 11 /07/2007	The construction timeframes for the construction of PSS, power lines and substation as outlined in the BID were explained. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	Ba Bina Noko ba Mampuru Tribal Authority FGM: 12/07/2007	
When will construction commence? Will construction start at Merensky and move down to the proposed Steelpoort Substation or construction will start at both ends?	Mr Johan Fernhout, Chief Surveyor: Samancor – Eastern Chrome Mines One-on-one discussion: 02/07/2007	It is envisaged that construction will commence in the 2 nd half of 2009. Information regarding the construction methodology is not yet available and a response regarding where construction will start cannot be responded to at this time. This information will, however, be forwarded as soon as it is available. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Would it be possible for Eskom to consider a double circuit line in the area near the dam because there is limited space? The dam, road and two servitudes for Eskom lines will affect their land use on the farm.	Mr Matome Tshehla PM: 18/08/2007	Only one 400 kV transmission line is planned between the Steelpoort Substation and the Merensky Substation. Two parallel lines are proposed for the loop in and out between the Duvha-Leseding line and the Steelpoort Substation. A double circuit line will be considered for this line where there are space constraints, and has been recommended as the preferred option for the length of the route. Mrs Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>What components are going to be required to build this powerline? We are one of Eskom's electrical hardware components suppliers and manufacture various other products.</p> <p>Enquiry was also made regarding Eskom's tender process and issued date of tenders. Information was requested for the tender document.</p>	<p>Lucky Zuma, Sales Manager: Geo Stott & Co(Pty)Ltd E-mail: 04/09/2007</p>	<p>Savannah Environmental has been appointed by Eskom to undertake the environmental impact assessment for the proposed Steelpoort Integration project. Afrosearch is responsible for the public participation process (the project's BID was attached to the response e-mail for further information regarding the proposed project).</p> <p>The enquiry regarding supplying products (electrical hardware components etc) to Eskom for the proposed transmission power line between Merensky and the newly proposed Steelpoort substations, as well as the tender process, has been forwarded to Eskom for their information and response.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the enquiry is a bit early as the project first needs to be approved by the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) before any construction can kick off. The documents attached to the e-mail indicated that the EIA process is currently in the scoping phase and once DEAT accept the scoping and approved that the impact phase can commence, Eskom might start their tender process - but this information can only be provided by Eskom.</p> <p>E-mail was acknowledged and requests to be captured in the Comment and Response Report that forms part of the final Environmental Scoping Report that will be submitted to DEAT after the commenting period that ends on Monday 10 September 2007.</p>
<p>What is the envisaged construction period for the proposed transmission power lines?</p>	<p>Mr George van der Merwe, Samancor KSW: 16/08/2007</p>	<p>The construction period is expected to be between 12 and 18 months. Mr Sebenzile Vilakazi, Eskom</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
How will the power lines be constructed?	Mr George van der Merwe, Samancor KSW: 16/08/2007	Eskom make use of skilled contractors to undertake the construction. Eskom (through Trans Africa Projects - TAP) will be responsible for the detailed design of the power lines and will source a competent construction company through an appropriate tendering process. It is envisaged that there will not be more than 30 to 40 construction workers on site at any time, and that 20 to 60 construction workers will be on site for the substation in the vicinity of the pumped storage scheme. Mr Sebenzile Vilakazi, Eskom
9. Servitude - comments/concerns		
How wide will the servitude be?	Mr Eric Morota, Dithamaga Trust FGM: 02/07/2007	By using the width of the hall as an example, it was replied that the servitude will be double the width of the hall (i.e. 55m). Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
Will farmers still be able to proceed with their farming activities within Eskom's servitude.	Mr Jaap Kroon, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Farming activities can proceed as normal, with restrictions that no fixed structures to be constructed under the power line. Centre pivot irrigation will, however, not be possible within the power line servitude. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental
10. Existing Infrastructure - comments/concerns (within study area)		
There is an existing water pipeline on Eastern Plats property, west of the R555 and is known as the <i>Lepalale Water Pipeline</i> . It is laid within a 10m servitude.	Mr D Morrison & Ms M Kilbourn Louw, Eastern Platinum FGM: 09/07/2007	Information acknowledged.
11. Communication Issues		
The information regarding this proposed project as well as any future communication (e.g. notification of public meeting), should not be done only through community radio stations but also through regional radio stations.	Mr Chwamotse Molopo, EXCO Member: Finance, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	The suggestion is acknowledged. There be a cost implication, the utilisation of community and regional radio stations will be forwarded to the project team for decision making. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
The concern was raised that the A5 flyers that were distributed were mainly in English and that the community members might not understand the messages contained in the flyer.	Mr Chwamotse Molopo, EXCO Member: Finance, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	The concern was acknowledged and attendees were informed that an executive summary of the project's Background Information Document (BID) is translated into Northern Sotho and is available on request. The attendees were also informed that Mr Moses Mahlangu from Afrosearch will consult the various community leaders and Tribal Authorities within the study area. The executive summary will be distributed during this consultation process. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
Will other municipal authorities also be consulted?	Mr Wessel van Tonder, Manager: Corporate Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	Other municipal authorities identified for this proposed project are the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality and the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality, and that will be consulted. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
It was requested that all Ward Councillors or all Greater Tubatse Councillors be part of the participation process to ensure that they are fully informed regarding this proposed project to enable them to disseminate the information to their constituencies (including Makgoshi).	Clr SP Mokoena, Head: Community Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality Registration &	Information will be requested from the Greater Tubatse Municipality for the contact details of all the Councillors and the project's background information document will be forwarded to them Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
It is requested that the public participation team register Ms Esther Mashishi on the project database.	Comment Form: 27/06/2007	Request acknowledged. Ms Mashishi has been registered on the project database. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
The proposed project will be explained to the Traditional Authority and it was agreed that it was important that the Traditional Authority be addressed on the project. Eskom to be represented at the meeting	Mr P T Mahlangu, Chairperson, Ndebele Traditional Authority FGM: 27/06/2007	It was requested that a formal request for a meeting to present the proposed project was submitted to the Tribal Authority on behalf of Afrosearch. Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch
The following stakeholders were identified as the potentially affected parties as they owned farms in the study area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kgosi Magolego – Batlokwa Ba Magolego TA (0767903123) • Kgosi Masha – Phatane TA (0826403920 or 0724691179) • Kgosi Rantho – Bahlakwana Ba Rantho TA (0722870209) • Kgosi Mampuru – Mampuru TA (0796742982 or 0763866050) • Kgosi Phasha – Roka Phasha Phokwane TA (0727815536) • Tshehla Trust – The Secretary Mr. S Mmusi (079 785 7787) • Regional Land Claim Commissioners – Limpopo and Mpumalanga 	Bahlakwana Ba Malekane Traditional Authority FGM: 29/06/2007	After the meeting with Kgosi Malekane and his council, using the leads given for the neighbouring potentially affected stakeholders the following visits were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kgosi Magolego was visited and found to have attended other meeting in Skurnot Kgosigadi Magolego advised that formal meeting be arranged where the council will be addressed. • Kgosi Masha was met with a few members of his council. They indicated that they are not opposed to the project but recommended that the consultant come with Eskom representative

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
Provinces		<p>for a presentation. The traditional council usually meets on Wednesday and will appreciate if the meeting is arranged for a Wednesday date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kgosi Rantho indicated that his area need development and therefore will not object to the project. His council will convene for a presentation at the time that will be convenient to the study team. • An employee found at Tshehla Trust premises gave the consultants the contact details of the secretary and advised that he be contacted to arrange for a meeting. <p>Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch</p>
The public participation consultants were advised to consult the land claim commissioners in Limpopo and Mpumalanga to confirm the progress made in processing the claims. In some instances two different stakeholders lay claim to the same farm.		<p>Comment is noted and effort will be made to inform the land claim commissioners about the projects and elicit their comments.</p> <p>Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch</p>
The traditional council will only be able to convene a community (mass) meeting to present the project after a preferred corridor is selected. The study team is encouraged to come up with a preferred corridor that can be discussed at the community meeting.	<p>Bahlakwana Ba Malekane Traditional Authority FGM: 29/06/2007</p>	<p>A preferred corridor will be in the Scoping Report and this can then be discussed during the review/comment period.</p> <p>Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch</p>
It was proposed that the issue of relocation and compensation for servitude be considered after a preferred corridor has been identified.	<p>Mr Kgosi Malekane, Bahlakwana Ba Malekane Traditional Authority FGM: 29/06/2007</p>	<p>Comment noted and accepted. Eskom negotiator will handle this part.</p> <p>Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch</p>
Electronic copies of the proposed route alignment alternatives were requested. This information will be plotted on the mine's GIS maps to ascertain the possible impact on their existing and future mining activities.	<p>Mr George van der Merwe, Environmental Specialist, Samancor FGM: 02/07/2007</p>	<p>Request acknowledged and will be submitted formally to Eskom.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: The information was forwarded to Samancor (Mr Van der Merwe and Mr Lubbe on Tuesday, 3 July 2007).</p> <p>Ms N Venter, Afrosearch</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>A technical strategic meeting was requested between technical representatives from Samancor and Xtrata and Eskom to discuss the proposed route alignment alternatives in detail. It was also indicated, in principle, that there is no object to the proposed transmission power line.</p>	<p>Mr Pikke Lubbe, Environmental Specialist, Samancor Tubatse Mine FGM: 02/07/2007; Mr George van der Merwe, Environmental Specialist, Samancor FGM: 02/07/2007</p> <p>Mr John Mashaba, Communication Officer, Xtrata Mine FGM: 02/07/2007</p> <p>Mr George van der Merwe, Environmental Specialist, Samancor FGM: 02/07/2007</p>	<p>The request will be considered as it is in both party's interest to ensure that a technically feasible and environmentally acceptable route is defined. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom</p>
<p>Contact details of Mr Walter Murray, Samancor's land claims negotiator, was provided to the project team and it was requested that Mr Murray be informed regarding this proposed project.</p>	<p>Mr Johan Fernhout, Chief Surveyor: Samancor – Eastern Chrome Mines</p>	<p>The project's Background Information Document was e-mailed to Mr Murray on Tuesday, 3 July 2007 and his full contact details requested for registration purposes. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch</p>
<p>It was agreed that Afrosearch will request the study area map in a mutually acceptable format for Samancor to plot their expansion plans thereon and once completed, Samancor will forward copies to Afrosearch.</p>	<p>One-on-one discussion: 02/07/2007</p>	<p>Information in .dxf format has been supplied to Mr Johan Fernhout of Samancor on 5 July 2007. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>It was suggested to the project team that Eskom and DWAF may need to work in close relationship to ensure that their various services are contained in as confined a servitude as possible to minimise any possible impact on landowners.</p>	<p>Mr Jaap Kroon, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007</p> <p>Mr Ockie van den Berg, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007</p>	<p>Eskom is in the process of arranging an open day with landowners of the farm Luiperdshoek and surroundings where Eskom's current two EIAs are being undertaken. It is proposed that representatives from Eskom Generation, Eskom Transmission and Eskom Distribution attend the open day. It will be advisable if DWAF representatives are also in attendance at this open day in order to address any issues associated with the water pipeline. The purpose will be for the landowners to interact with Eskom & DWAF regarding the proposed developments in the area. The environmental consultants may attend the open day. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom</p>
<p>A technical meeting was requested between Eastern Plats and technical representatives from Eskom to discuss a more defined route alternative through or around Eastern Plats' property to avoid or minimise any possible impact on Eastern Plats planned infrastructure.</p>	<p>Mr D Morrison & Ms M Kilbourn Louw, Eastern Platinum FGM: 09/07/2007</p>	<p>Request noted. Arrangements will be made by the public participation consultants to facilitate such a meeting.</p>
<p>The Phathane Tribal Authority is not opposed to the transmission power lines being constructed through their land. Eskom is requested to maintain fair and transparent consultation throughout up until compensation for servitude and relocation are concluded. The safety requirements relating to the coexistence of the line and the community is understood by the council and will assist in relocating people if necessary. Relocation of families might be necessary at the neighboring village called "Maseven". This village is under Kgosi Magolego. The PIP Team is encouraged to consult the neighbouring Traditional Authorities.</p>	<p>Phathane Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007</p>	<p>Mr. Vilakazi explained the process that will be followed to negotiate and compensate for servitude and the families that will be relocated if there is a need. Eskom always conducts its activities in a fair and transparent manner where this project is no exception. Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch</p>
<p>The Phathane TA proposes the formation of a committee that will include the different categories of the community; especially women and youth. The committee will liaise with the Environmental Control Officer during construction phase.</p>		<p>The comment is noted. The proponent is encouraged to consider the proposal and give feedback to the Phathane TA during negotiation. Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch</p>
<p>The Phathane Tribal Authority would like to see the establishment of a committee that will include representatives from all traditional authorities in the study area. This committee will look after all issues and activities that relate to the proposed project and give feedback on the reports that will be released at different stages of the project. The committee can always meet at a neutral venue.</p>		<p>Comment noted. The idea was tested with other Traditional Authorities in the area and the responses were mixed in that other TA thought it was a good idea and others expressed dislike of participating in such a committee. Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>Development is welcomed in the area. The approach adopted by Eskom of consulting during the planning stage is welcomed.</p> <p>The PIP Team and Eskom are advised to consult the neighbouring traditional authorities.</p>	<p>Council: Batlokwa Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Will the Bahlakwana ba Rantho TA participate in a committee of Tribal Authorities in the study?</p>	<p>Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch Bahlakwana ba Rantho Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007</p> <p>Batlokwa Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007</p>	<p>It was indicated that they will prefer to consult and handle issues that affect their farms separate from other Tribal Authorities. The Bahlakwana ba Rantho Tribal Authority will not participate in the envisaged committee.</p> <p>Kgosana Rantho</p>
<p>An explanation was requested in terms of the boundaries of the Tribal Authority's farms near the river and the R555 road.</p>	<p>Council, Roka Phasha Phokwane Tribal Authority FGM: 12/7/2007</p>	<p>The river is the boundary. Farms on the other side of the river belong to the mines.</p>
<p>The project is welcomed. Eskom is encouraged to maintain consultation with the traditional leadership at all times up until construction is completed. If requested, the council will allocate a proper site for a construction camp and is willing to help if there are problems between the community and the construction workers.</p>	<p>Council, Ba Bina Noko ba Mampuru Tribal Authority FGM: 12/07/2007</p>	<p>Comment noted with appreciation. Eskom will appoint an ECO to liaise with the local leadership on issues relating to the project.</p>
<p>It was indicated that an open cast mine is planned on the farm Spitskop. Consultation with the mining houses in the area is again requested.</p>	<p>Mr Johan Fernhout, Chief Surveyor: Samancor – Eastern Chrome Mines One-on-one discussion: 02/07/2007</p>	<p>This issue had already been raised at the key stakeholder workshop held for the project on 16 August 2007. A meeting would be held with the relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that this planned development is considered in the final recommendations for the project.</p> <p>Ms Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental</p>
<p>There is a need for the EIA team to meet with Samancor as they have just completed an EIA and may have information readily available that can be used by the EIA team for the proposed Steelpoort Integration Project.</p> <p>It must be noted that Xtrata are undertaking the 'Lion Project' in the vicinity of the southern sub-alternative. It is suggested that the project</p>	<p>Mr George van der Merwe, Samancor KSW: 16/08/2007</p>	<p>The comment was noted and it was indicated that a meeting would be arranged to discuss what information would be available to the project team from Samancor.</p> <p>Comment noted regarding the 'Lion Project'. This information will be sourced during consultation with Xtrata in the EIA phase of the project and will inform the final recommendations of the process.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
team obtain information from Xtrata regarding this project in order to determine how this project may be impacted on the proposed power line alignments.		Ms Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental
12. General Comments & Issues Raised: Pumped Storage Scheme		
What prompted the PSS project?	Mr Chwamotse Molopo, EXCO Member: Finance, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	Eskom is looking at alternative methods of generating electricity so as not to rely only on coal fired power stations. One such alternative is using hydro energy. The proposed PSS will be in close proximity to the De Hoop Dam and will use hydro energy to generate electricity. The PSS's water supply will be obtained from the De Hoop Dam. The proposed PSS project is in the final approval stage of the EIA and that the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report has already been submitted to DEAT for authorisation. The EIA project documents can be viewed from the Eskom website: www.eskom.co.za/live/content.php?Category_ID=77 Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
What processes are in place to deal with possible contaminated water?	Mr Michael Mashigo, Manager: Strategic Planning Department: Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	Two dams, a lower and upper, will be constructed for the PSS project. Water will be pumped from the lower dam to the upper dam. The water will then be released from the upper dam. The force of the water flowing to the lower dam will turn the turbines to generate power. Mr Simon Mkhathshwa, Eskom Question will be forwarded to Bohlweki Environmental,
There are various platinum rights registered in the area. Details regarding these platinum rights were not available.	Mr Johan Fernhout, Chief Surveyor: Samancor – Eastern Chrome Mines One-on-one discussion: 02/07/2007	Comment was noted. The public participation consultants will attempt to source the information.
There is confusion regarding the proposed PSS, the De Hoop Dam and the proposed power lines. There seem to be no communication between the different people regarding the different projects in the area. A dam, a pumped storage scheme & power lines are being built, but there is no pipeline to link the PSS and dam projects.	Mr N Gouws, Property Owner FGM: 02/07/2007	Mr S Vilakazi informed the attendees that Eskom is looking at alternative methods of generating electricity so as not to rely only on coal fired power stations. One such alternative is using hydro energy. The proposed PSS will be in close proximity to the De Hoop Dam and will use hydro energy to generate electricity. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
Has the PSS project received Environmental Authorisation?	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	The final EIR has been submitted to DEAT and it is anticipated that DEAT will issue their Environmental Authorisation by September 2007. Mr S Vilakazi
When will the projects be constructed and what job opportunities will be generated?	Phathane Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007	The expected timeframes were outlined for the construction of the PSS, the transmission lines and the substation. The construction of the PSS will start before the other two because the EIA study is completed, currently waiting for the ROD. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Will there be job opportunities for the local communities at the PSS?		The PSS project belongs to Eskom Generation, Mr. Vilakazi represent Eskom Transmission. Employment strategy to be followed by Eskom Generation will be forwarded. Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch
13. Department of Water Affairs and Forestry: Proposed Water Pipeline Project		
A map was made available that was obtained with the proposed pipeline mapped on. A copy was provided to Eskom.	Mr L Swart, Property Owner FGM: 02/07/2007	
The proposed water pipeline was mentioned to the affected landowners in the area, but no official EIA process has yet been initiated. DEAT was approached for an <i>extension</i> of the EIA undertaken for the De Hoop Dam to include this pipeline, but this request was declined.	Mr Ockie van den Berg, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Comment noted.
It was suggested that Savannah Environmental include the water pipeline issue in their reports.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Suggestion noted

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
14. General Comments & Issues Raised		
Where is the public participation office located?	Mr Michael Mashigo, Manager: Strategic	The public participation office is based in Pretoria. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
What is the total amount budgeted for by Eskom is for this proposed project.	Planning Department: Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	The information is currently not available to the project team and that once the information becomes available, it will be forwarded to Mr Mashigo. An overall budget of R150 billion is allocated to strengthen the electricity network in South Africa, and that this project is one of a number of the projects that must share these funds. The attendees were informed that the cost of constructing a transmission power line is approximately R1 million per kilometre. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Potentially affected farms along the proposed alternative corridors were discussed and identified on the map as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kgosi Malekane: Tigershoek 140JS; Steelport Park 366KT; De Hoop (Claimed); Uitvlig; Steelpoortdrift (Ptn) • Kgosi Masha: Aapjesboom (Ptn); Belvedere (Claim) • Kgosi Rantho: Kenedy Vale; Steelport Park (Ptn) • Kgosi Magolego: Steelport Park (Ptn); Aapjesboom (Ptn) • Kgosi Mampuru: Boschkloof (Stretches to the road) • Kgosi Phasha: De Goedverwacht (not sure about the border) • Tshehla Trust: Steelport Parl (Ptn) 	Bahlakwana Ba Malekane Traditional Authority FGM: 29/06/2007	Noted.
Due to the proposed new mining activities in the area, additional power supply would be required by the mines.	Mr Pikke Lubbe, Environmental Specialist, Samancor Tubatse Mine FGM: 02/07/2007	Comment noted.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
Will the transmission power line provide electricity to the community?	Mr Frank Musiha Maboele, Dithamaga Trust FGM: 02/07/2007	The community will not benefit directly from the transmission power line, e.g. electricity will not be supplied directly to the community from this proposed transmission power line. The power generated by the PSS will be distributed by this proposed transmission power line to Eskom's Merensky Transmission Substation situated in Steelpoort. When the line is constructed, additional power in Steelpoort will be available to the GTLM to consider electricity supply to the community. Eskom Transmission does not supply electricity directly to communities, but only from one substation to another. It was suggested that the Committee submit a formal request to the GTLM for electricity supply to their community Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
	Mr Eric Morota, Dithamaga Trust FGM: 02/07/2007	
Samancor is planning opencast mining in the area of the proposed eastern alignment. Such mining has an operational lifespan of 4 – 5 years.	Mr Johan Fernhout, Chief Surveyor: Samancor – Eastern Chrome Mines One-on-one discussion: 02/07/2007	Comment noted.
There are mainly opencast mining activities on the eastern alternative and mainly underground mining activities on the western alternative.		The public participation team will source the relevant landowner(s).
Some of the land on the western alignment alternative has been allocated to a community through the Government's agricultural development initiative.		Eskom is not aware of such a transaction. Comment noted. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
There is an indication that Eskom intend to buy the farm of Dr. W Enslin.	Mr J Language, Property Owner FGM: 02/07/2007	Comment noted
The landowners do not oppose the proposed power lines, but Eskom should make sure that planning is conducted in a responsible way and the landowner's farms must be taken into account.	Property Owners FGM: 02/07/2007	Eskom is planning to have the construction of the transmission power lines and new substation completed by 2014. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
What is Eskom's programme in terms of having the electricity in Eskom's transmission network?	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Comment acknowledged.
It is suggested that Savannah Environmental take note of the proposed township development in the vicinity of the De Hoop Dam for inclusion in their EIA application.		

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
The Conservation Forest as approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, for the Steelpoort area will be Gazetted toward the end of the week (6 July 2007).	Mr Ockie van den Berg, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Information acknowledged.
Eastern Plats do not have any objection to the proposed power line, but it is important that the impacts on planned infrastructure are minimised as far as possible.	Mr D Morrison & Ms M Kilbourn Louw, Eastern Platinum FGM: 09/07/2007	Comment noted
Information regarding Eastern Plats <i>surface structures</i> will be available towards the end of July 2007 when their mining application is planned to be submitted.		Information requested from Eastern Platinum for consideration during route alternative selection process.
The farm Steelpoort Drift is claimed by Kgosi Malekane but it actually belongs to Kgosi Masha.	Kgosi Masha, Phathane Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007	Comment is noted and Eskom will be sensitised to take this into account during negotiation phase. Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch
I own property on the farm Steelpoortpark and was consulted by Eskom regarding the construction of a line through my property (the line from Hlogotlou). The construction of the line is now going ahead but I have not been consulted in this regard.	Mr Mafuko Masha PM: 18/08/2007	It was established that the construction being referred to is most likely for a distribution line. The issue cannot be addressed at this meeting. Mr. Moses Khoza (Eskom Distribution representative at the meeting) requested to discuss Mr. Masha's problem outside the meeting.
What does 'Nakangwedi' represents on the study area map?	Phathane Tribal Authority FGM: 11/07/2007	This is an existing substation that mainly supplies electricity to mines and the smelter in the surrounding area. Mr M Mahlangu, Afrosearch
The project team was informed that the proposed project does not have a direct impact on their activities.	Mr Jan Nel, Samancor KSW: 16/08/2007	Comment noted.
Mpumalanga Parks Board requested Samancor to submit a biodiversity survey which considered three seasons as part of their EIA process. Savannah Environmental must take note of this requirement in order to minimise any delays in the EIA process for the Steelpoort Integration Project.	Mr George van der Merwe, Samancor KSW: 16/08/2007	The biodiversity specialist study is being undertaken in accordance with the guidelines prepared for the Mpumalanga Province. However, it was noted that, as a result of changes in the provincial boundaries, the project now falls completely within the Limpopo Province. The National and Limpopo Province environmental authorities will be consulted regarding any specific requirements in this regard. Ms Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental
Are there are any river crossings?		There are a number of river crossings (such as the Steelpoort River), particularly to the south of the study area. Ms Jo-Anne Thomas, Savannah Environmental

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
Samancor will provide the project team their mining plan and information regarding their surface water. Does Eskom have permission from DME for sterilising a potential mineral resource?	Mr George van der Merwe, Samancor KSW: 16/08/2007	Meetings with DME and Eskom are an ongoing-process as Eskom has several coal mines. Consultation with DME for power lines is undertaken by both Eskom and EIA consultants during the planning phase of projects. Mr Sebenzile Vilakazi, Eskom
15. Authority Comments		
<i>Department of Water Affairs and Forestry</i>		
The rehabilitation potential in the area is low. The flora in the study area has a higher importance rate than that of fynbos in the Cape Province. The area falls within the Sekhukhune Centre of Plant Endemism.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Comment noted.
There are a number of heritage sites located along the proposed eastern alternative. A large heritage site is located in the vicinity of the R555 where this realigned road rejoins the existing R555 downstream of the De Hoop Dam. It may be difficult for Eskom to obtain a permit from SAHRA to impact on this site as the site is considered significant from a heritage perspective.		The project team is aware of the heritage issues as Dr Johnny van Schalkwyk, the specialist involved in the heritage studies for the De Hoop Dam, is the heritage specialist on the EIA project team. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental
The site where Lydenburg Clay masks was identified, could receive national status.		Comment noted
There are no plans currently to construct any tourist chalets within the conservation area, and that planned activities involved only walking trails and research facilities. However, that the DWAF conservation area is the start of a broader conservation initiative within the Steelport valley. There has already been buy-in from the mines in the area to this broader conservation initiative in order to off-set the impacts which have occurred as a result of their activities.		Comment noted.
It is suggested that a similar alignment to the transmission line alignment be considered for the proposed water pipeline required to link the De Hoop Dam and the PSS, such that the impacts on land in the area are minimised. It was enquired whether it was possible to construct the pipeline within the power line servitude.		It would be possible to construct the water pipeline within the power line servitude. The possibility of constructing the pipeline and the proposed transmission line on a similar alignment will be investigated by Eskom and DWAF. Ms Joyce Mashiteng, Eskom

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
What is the width of the servitude, and how close will the proposed transmission power line be to the R555?	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	A 400 kV transmission power line requires a 55m servitude and it is currently being proposed to place the transmission power line approximately 100m away from the road fence. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental
Concern was expressed regarding the fact that there needs to be such a wide clearance from the R555 and suggested that all services in the area to be constructed as close as possible to one another to minimise any possible negative impact. He requested further information regarding the rationale for this clearance between the power line and the road.	Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Concern noted. Information will be sourced regarding the technical motivation for this clearance requirement. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Has the PSS project received Environmental Authorisation?		The final EIR has been submitted to DEAT and it is anticipated that DEAT will issue their Environmental Authorisation by September 2007. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
What is Eskom's programme in terms of having the electricity in Eskom's transmission network?		Eskom is planning to have the construction of the transmission power lines and new substation completed by 2014. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
It is suggested that Savannah Environmental needs to take note of the proposed township development in the vicinity of the De Hoop Dam for inclusion in their EIA application.		Comment acknowledged.
How far in the scoping phase is the proposed Steelpoort Integration project?	Ms Sanet van Jaarsveld, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	The project is approaching the end of the scoping phase. The desk-top reports are being compiled and it is envisaged that the draft ESR will be out for public review towards the end of July 2007. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental
DWAF will first have to evaluate the pros and cons of (a) including the EIA for the proposed water pipeline with the EIA for the proposed Steelpoort Integration project, or (b) DWAF to appoint their own EIA consultants for the water pipeline project. It was agreed that a meeting be scheduled between DWAF and Eskom in order for the possibility of constructing the water pipeline within the transmission line servitude to be discussed and an in-principle agreement to be reached.		Comment noted. It was indicated that Eskom would liaise with DWAF regarding arranging the required meeting. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
It was noted that DWAF would not support the proposed eastern alternative as this alignment passes through the Conservation Forest area. It was also noted that the proposed eastern deviation was not	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007	Comment noted.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
<p>preferred as this alignment could still impact negatively on the Conservation Forest Area (in terms of visual impacts). A preference was therefore expressed for the western alternative.</p>		
<p>Will farmers still be able to proceed with their farming activities within Eskom's servitude?</p>	<p>Mr Jaap Kroon, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007</p>	<p>Farming activities can proceed as normal, with restrictions that no fixed structures to be constructed under the power line. Centre pivot irrigation will, however, not be possible within the power line servitude. Ms J Thomas, Savannah Environmental</p>
<p>It was suggested to the project team that Eskom and DWAF may need to work in close relationship to ensure that that their various services are contained in as confined a servitude as possible to minimise any possible impact on landowners.</p> <p>It was indicated, in principle that DWAF might be represented at the proposed open day by himself and Ms Van Jaarsveld (De Hoop Dam project), Mr Legge and Mr Kroon (De Hoop Dam conservation).</p>	<p>Mr Jaap Kroon, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007</p> <p>Mr Ockie van den Berg, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007</p>	<p>Eskom is in the process of arranging an open day with landowners of the farm Luipershoek and surroundings where Eskom's current two EIAs are being undertaken. From Eskom's side it is being proposed that representatives from Eskom Generation, Eskom Transmission and Eskom Distribution attend the open day. It was mentioned that it will be advisable if DWAF representatives are also in attendance at this open day in order to address any issues associated with the water pipeline. The purpose will be for the landowners to interact with Eskom and DWAF regarding the proposed developments in the area. It is also envisaged that the various environmental consultants may attend the open day. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom</p>
<p>The proposed water pipeline was mentioned to the affected landowners in the area, but no official EIA process has yet been initiated. DEAT was approached for an <i>extension</i> of the EIA undertaken for the De Hoop Dam to include this pipeline, but this request was declined.</p>	<p>Mr Ockie van den Berg, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>It is suggested that Savannah Environmental include the water pipeline issue in their reports.</p>	<p>Mr Kelvin Legge, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007</p>	<p>Suggestion noted. This issue will be recorded within the Comments and Response Report.</p>
<p>The project team was informed that the Conservation Forest as approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, for the Steelport area will be Gazetted toward the end of the week (6 July 2007).</p>	<p>Mr Ockie van den Berg, Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry FGM: 04/07/2007</p>	<p>Information acknowledged.</p>

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
Greater Tubatse Municipality		
How many people will be employed during construction and during the operational phase of this proposed project?	Mr Michael Mashigo, Manager: Strategic Planning Department: Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	A response to this question is not available at this stage. Once the information becomes available, which may be during the impact phase, it will be forwarded to Mr Mashigo. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
What is the purpose of two proposed route alignments.		Any EIA being undertaken needs to include at least two feasible alternatives when submitting an EIA application. In general, during the environmental scoping phase, a preferred (or two preferred) alternatives are identified from an environmental point of view and that is technically feasible. The preferred alternative/s will be considered in detail in the EIA phase in order to determine environmental feasibility. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
What processes are in place to deal with possible contaminated water?		Two dams, a lower and upper, will be constructed for the SPSS project and that the water will be pumped from the lower dam to the upper dam. The water will then be released from the upper dam and the force with which the water will flow to the lower dam is of such force that it will turn the turbines, which in turn will generate power. Mr Simon Mkhathswa, Eskom Question will be forwarded to Bohlweki Environmental,
Where is the public participation office located?		The public participation office is based in Pretoria. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
What is the total amount budgeted for by Eskom for this proposed project?		The information is currently not available to the project team and that once the information becomes available, it will be forwarded to Mr Mashigo. An overall budget of R150 billion is allocated to strengthen the electricity network in South Africa. This project is one of a number of the projects that must share these funds. The cost of constructing a transmission power line is approximately R1 million per kilometre. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
When will construction start?		Mr Hlamaleni Mohlaba, Acting Director: Technical Services, Greater Tubatse

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	commence in the second half of 2009. This project must be in operation by 2014. Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom
Main interest regarding this proposed project is the general health hazards in terms of contaminated water, and where and how will this water be released or dealt with.	Clr SP Mokoena, Head: Community Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality Registration & Comment Form: 27/06/2007	It is envisaged that there will be no contaminated water related to the proposed Steelpoort Substation, but this concern will be forwarded to the environmental specialist to assess during the environmental impact phase, should contaminated water be identified as an environmental impact.
It was requested that all Ward Councillors or all Greater Tubatse Councillors be part of the participation process to ensure that they are fully informed regarding this proposed project to enable them to disseminate the information to their constituencies (including Makgoshi).		Information will be requested from the Greater Tubatse Municipality for the contact details of all the Councillors and the project's background information document will be forwarded to them Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
It is requested that the public participation team register Ms Esther Mashishi on the project database.		Request acknowledged. Ms Mashihi has been registered on the project database. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
Will the proposed Steelpoort Integration project address the massive growth of the Tubatse Municipality?	Clr SP Mokoena, Head: Community Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality Handwritten note - FGM: 27/06/2007	The purpose of the propose Steelpoort Integration project is to link the power generated by the proposed Steelpoort Pump Storage Scheme (SPSS) (EIA being undertaken by Bohlweki Environmental – tel. 011 798 6001) into Eskom's transmission network. The transferring of electricity from the proposed Steelpoort Substation to Eskom's existing Merensky Substation (Steelpoort) will strengthen the electricity supply in the Steelpoort.
What is the position from Eskom regarding those who build under the power lines?		Should there be no alternative for Eskom to deviate the proposed transmission power line to avoid a house or structure, Eskom will discuss the relocation of that household. Encroachment of informal settlements onto Eskom's servitude is a concern for Eskom and currently Eskom is providing an awareness programme to inform residents of the danger of living under power lines.

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Will the proposed Steelpoort Integration project address the massive growth of the Tubatse Municipality?	Clr SP Mokoena, Head: Community Services, Greater Tubatse Municipality Handwritten note - FGM: 27/06/2007	The purpose of the propose Steelpoort Integration project is to link the power generated by the proposed Steelpoort Pump Storage Scheme (SPSS) (EIA being undertaken by Bohlweki Environmental – tel. 011 798 6001) into Eskom’s transmission network. The transferring of electricity from the proposed Steelpoort Substation to Eskom’s existing Merensky Substation (Steelpoort) will strengthen the electricity supply in the Steelpoort.
What is the position from Eskom regarding those who build under the power lines?		Should there be no alternative for Eskom to deviate the proposed transmission power line to avoid a house or structure, Eskom will discuss the relocation of that household. Encroachment of informal settlements onto Eskom’s servitude is a concern for Eskom and currently Eskom is providing an awareness programme to inform residents of the danger of living under power lines.
How will the community(ties) benefit from this project?	Mr Chwamotse Molopo, EXCO Member: Finance, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	A reply cannot be provided at this stage. Once the social impact assessment commences, then a response will be forwarded reflecting the direct and/or indirect job opportunities and other benefits related to this proposed project. Ms N Byker, MasterQ Research
It was requested that information regarding this proposed project as well as any future communication (e.g. notification of public meeting), should be communicated not only through community radio stations but also through regional radio stations.	Mr Chwamotse Molopo, EXCO Member: Finance, Greater Tubatse Municipality FGM: 27/06/2007	The suggestion was acknowledge and it was replied that should there be a cost implication, the utilisation of community and regional radio stations will be forwarded to the project team for decision making. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
The concern was raised that the A5 flyers that were distributed were mainly in English and that the community members might not understand the messages contained in the flyer.		The concern was acknowledged and attendees were informed that an executive summary of the project’s Background Information Document (BID) is translated into Northern Sotho and is available on request. The attendees were also informed that Mr Moses Mahlangu from Afrosearch will consult the various community leaders and Tribal Authorities within the study area. The executive summary will be distributed during this consultation process. Ms N Venter, Afrosearch
What prompted the PSS project?	Mr Chwamotse Molopo, EXCO Member: Finance, Greater Tubatse Municipality	Eskom is looking at alternative methods of generating electricity so as not to rely only on coal fired power stations. One such alternative is using hydro energy. The proposed SPSS will be in close proximity to the De Hoop Dam and will use hydro energy to generate electricity.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
	FGM: 27/06/2007	<p>The SPSS's water supply will be obtained from the De Hoop Dam. the proposed SPSS project is in the final approval stage of the EIA and that the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report has already been submitted to DEAT for authorisation. The EIA project documents can be viewed from the Eskom website.</p> <p>Mr S Vilakazi, Eskom</p> <p>This question will be forwarded to Bohlweki Environmental, the environmental consultants undertaking the EIA for the proposed SPSS project.</p> <p>Ms N Venter, Afrosearch</p>