

APPENDIX P:
EIA NEWSLETTER

BOHLWEKI ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD

Waterfall Close (South Block)
Waterfall Park, Bekker Road, MIDRAND
Telephone +27 (11) 805-0250
Fax +27 (11) 805-0226
E-mail: bohlweki@pixie.co.za
Web Site: www.bohlweki.co.za



Engineering for the Environment

PO Box 11784
VORNA VALLEY
Midrand
1686
Gauteng
SOUTH AFRICA

21 April 2002

Dear I&AP

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MATIMBA – WITKOP No 2 400 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the proposed Matimba-Witkop No 2 400 kV Transmission line project in the Northern Province, this newsletter aims to further facilitate your understanding of the proposed project and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process being followed. The first phase of the EIA process (i.e. the Environmental Scoping Study) has been completed, and detailed studies are currently being undertaken within Phase 2 of the process (i.e. the EIA). The public participation process has been on-going throughout this process and will continue until the final EIA Report is submitted to the environmental authorities for decision-making.

1. REFRESHER: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

As indicated in previous information documents, Bohlweki Environmental has been appointed by Eskom Transmission to conduct an EIA for the proposed new 400 kV Transmission line between the Matimba Substation (near Ellisras) and the Witkop Substation (near Pietersburg). An additional 400 kV Transmission line is required due to the fact that the peak electricity load required in the greater Pietersburg area is expected to increase significantly, and the existing electricity supply to the area will not be sufficient to supply the required load. In addition, a temporary loss of power transmission due to line failure, or the existing Matimba-Witkop 400 kV Transmission line being temporarily taken out of service for maintenance, will currently result in power-outages for the greater Pietersburg area.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

The EIA process currently being undertaken for the proposed project consists of two phases, namely the Environmental Scoping Phase and the Environmental Impact Assessment Phase. The Environmental Scoping Study, which commenced in November 2001, provided I&APs with the opportunity to participate in the process and raise issues of concern. This consultative process included four widely advertised public meetings held during February 2002 in Ellisras, Marken, Pietersburg and the Bakenberg Tribal Authority area. During this period a draft Environmental Scoping Report was compiled and made available at public places for I&AP review and comment. All the comments, concerns and suggestions received during the Scoping Phase and the draft report review period were included in the final Scoping Report, which was submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) on 25 March 2002.

The Scoping Report made the following key recommendations:

- Potentially significant issues identified require further investigation within an EIA.
- The significance of these issues should be assessed by the specialist studies and recommendations must be made to address these (see 3 below).
- The placement of a new Transmission line along Corridor 2 (to the north of the existing 400 kV line) is favoured for the western section of the route up to the eastern side of Masebe Nature Reserve, at the Mogalakwena River. This corridor is considered to have a reduced impact on the biophysical and aesthetic environment, primarily as it eliminates the need to traverse the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve area through the narrow mountainous neck south of Masebe Nature Reserve. Corridor 2 does, however, exhibit impacts on the social environment, which are required to be investigated in further detail in the EIA

A summary of the Environmental Scoping Report, as well as a map showing the study area and the proposed corridors are available on the project website: www.eskom.co.za/witkop.htm.

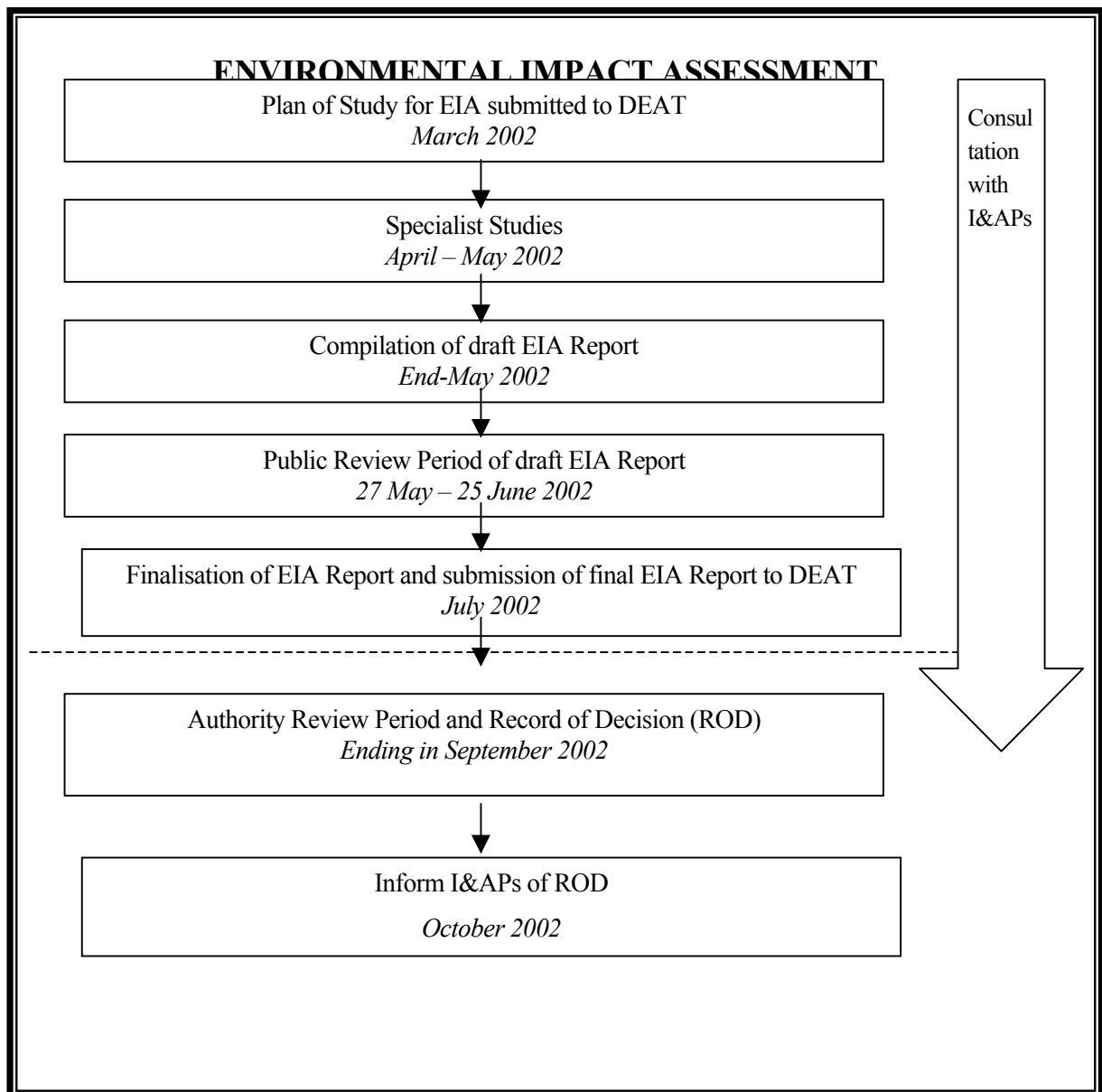
3. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN

A Plan of Study for the EIA (indicating which specialist studies must be undertaken) was submitted to, and accepted by DEAT. The EIA Phase is now underway with detailed studies being undertaken in April and May 2002, whereafter a draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is to be compiled. This draft report will be made available at public places for public review and comment for a 30-day period. The availability of this report will be advertised in the Mogol Pos, the Northern Review and the Citizen and registered I&APs will be informed by letter. On completion of the review period, I&AP comments will be integrated into the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and submitted to DEAT for their review and decision-making. Following the review period (and amendment of the reports as per public input), DEAT will take an official decision regarding the proposed project which is referred to as a Record of Decision (ROD). As part of the public consultation process, you will also be informed of the ROD.

The specialist studies, which are to be undertaken as part of the EIA, are:

- Climate and atmospheric conditions: Peter Illgner of Rhodes University;
- Soils and agricultural potential: Garry Paterson of the Agricultural Research Council;
- Fauna and flora: Joggie van Staden of Bohlweki Environmental;
- Avifauna: Chris van Rooyen of the Endangered Wildlife Trust;
- Land-use: Plan Practice;
- Visual and aesthetics: Henry Holland;
- Archaeology: Stephen Gaigher of Archaeo-Info Northern Province;
- Social Impact Assessment: Bohlweki Environmental; and
- Tourism: Grahame Thomson of Seaton Thomson and Associates;

An outline of the EIA process to be followed is provided overleaf:



The proposed project has resulted in a number of issues being raised during the Scoping Phase, and inputs have been received regarding the corridor alignment. These comments have been taken into account and the specialist studies are, therefore, being undertaken in the study area consisting of the following two main corridors:

- Corridor 1 consists of a study area along the existing 400 kV Transmission line which includes privately-owned cattle and game farms in the Elliras, Marken and Pietersburg area, the Waterberg Biosphere and the Bakenberg Tribal Authority area.
- Corridor 2 provides an alternative route for approximately 100 km of the line length. This proposed corridor coincides with corridor 1 (for approximately 30 km) from the Matimba Substation to the point where the existing Matimba-Witkop No 1 400 kV Transmission line crosses over the R518 (i.e. the Marken road). At this juncture, this proposed corridor follows the R518 approximately in a north-easterly direction to Marken, and then follows a gravel road, passing north of the Masebe Nature Reserve. This corridor skirts the boundary of this Nature Reserve, turning south to join up with corridor 1 just south of Diretsaneng. Thereafter, the proposed corridor 1 would be followed for approximately 120 km to the Witkop Substation.

Bohlweki Environmental are responsible for the management of the specialist studies, the public participation process, and the compilation of the EIA Report. The public participation process will continue throughout the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Phase. The consultants will, therefore, contact I&APs during this period to obtain their detailed comments. If you have not been personally contacted and require a meeting, please liaise with Ms. Ingrid Snyman as soon as possible to determine a suitable date and time before 14 May 2002.

4. MORE INFORMATION

Should you, during this phase, require any additional information or wish to submit comments on the specialist studies or the proposed project, you are welcome to forward your inputs to the following consultants at Bohlweki Environmental:

Ingrid Snyman or Gift Magangane
Bohlweki Environmental
PO Box 11784, Vorna Valley
Midrand, 1686
Phone: (011) 805 0250
Fax: (011) 805 0226
E-mail: bohlweki@pixie.co.za
www.eskom.co.za/witkop.htm



21 April 2002

Geagte Geïnteresseerde en Belanghebbende Party

**OMGEWINGSINVLOEDSTUDIE PROSES VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE MATIMBA-
WITKOP No. 2 400 kV TRANSMISSIELYN PROJEEK:
OPENBARE DEELNAME PROSES**

Die nuusbrieff het ten doel om aan die geregistreerde Geïnteresseerde en Belanghebbende Partye (G&BP) meer inligting rakende die voorgestelde Matimba-Witkop No. 2 400 kV Transmissie lyn projek en die Omgewingsinvloedstudie (OIS) wat onderneem word te verskaf. Die eerste fase van die OIS proses, naamlik die Omgewingsbestekopname is voltooi en in-diepte studies word nou ten tyde van fase 2 (die detail OIS) van die proses onderneem. Die openbare deelname proses wat tydens die eerste fase onderneem is, sal tydens die tweede fase voortduur totdat die finale OIS Verslag aan die owerhede oorhandig word vir hul besluitneming.

1. OPDATERING: KORT OORSIG OOR DIE VOORGESTELDE PROJEEK

Soos in vorige dokumentasie aangedui, is Bohlweki Environmental deur Eskom aangestel om die OIS vir die voorgestelde nuwe 400 kV Transmissie lyn tussen die Matimba substasie (naby Ellisras) en die Witkop substasie (naby Pietersburg) te onderneem. 'n Addisionele 400 kV Transmissie lyn word benodig as gevolg van die feit dat daar verwag word dat die elektrisiteitslading wat in die groter Pietersburg area benodig word aansienlik gaan vermeerder, en die bestaande elektrisiteitsvoorsiening na die area sal dus nie aan hierdie behoeftes kan voldoen nie. Daarbenewens sal daar heelwat kragonderbrekings in die groter Pietersburg area veroorsaak word as daar 'n tydelike verlies aan krag is as gevolg van defekte op die lyn, of wanneer die bestaande Matimba-Witkop 400 kV Transmissie lyn gediens word en die krag dus afgeskakel word.

2. OMGEWINGSSTUDIES WAT TOT OP HEDE ONDERNEEM IS

Die OIS wat onderneem word bestaan uit twee fases, naamlik die Omgewingsbestekopname fase en die detail Omgewingsinvloedstudieproses. Die Omgewingsbestekopname, wat in November 2001 begin het, het aan G&BP die geleentheid gebied om aan die proses deel te neem en om aspekte van belang en kommer te opper. Die openbare deelname proses het vier wyd geadverteerde openbare vergaderings wat in Februarie 2002 in Ellisras, Marken, Pietersburg en die Bakenberg area gehou is, ingesluit. Tydens die periode is 'n voorlopige Omgewingsbestekopname Verslag saamgestel en by openbare plekke beskikbaar gestel vir openbare evaluering en kommentaar. Al die kommentaar en voorstelle wat tydens die Omgewingsbestekopname fase en die verslagevalueringfase ontvang is, is by die finale verslag wat by die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerimse ingehandig is, ingesluit.

Die Omgewingsbestekopname fase het die volgende voorstelle bevat:

- Moontlike gewigtige aspekte sal tydens die OIS verder in-diepte ondersoek word.
- Die betekenis van die aspekte sal deur die spesialisstudies evalueer word en voorstelle sal gemaak word oor hoe hierdie aspekte hanteer kan word (sien punt 3 hierna).
- Die oprigting van 'n nuwe Transmissielyn langs Korridor 2 (noord van die bestaande 400 kV lyn) lyk na die mees geskikste opsie vir die westelike deel van die roete tot en met 'n punt by die Mogalakwena Rivier aan die oostekant van die Masebe Natuureservaat. Daar word verwag dat die korridor 'n lae impak op die bio-fisiese en estetiese omgewing sal hê, hoofsaaklik omdat die die nou bergklowe in die Waterberg Biosfeer Reservaat area suid van die Masebe Natuureservaat nie oorkruis word nie. Korridor 2 kan moontlike impakte op die sosiale omgewing hê, wat tydens die detail OIS verder ondersoek moet word.

'n Opsomming van die Omgewingsbestekopname Verslag, sowel as 'n kaart wat die studie area en die voorgestelde korridors aandui is op die projek se webtuiste nl.: www.eskom.co.za/witkop.htm beskikbaar.

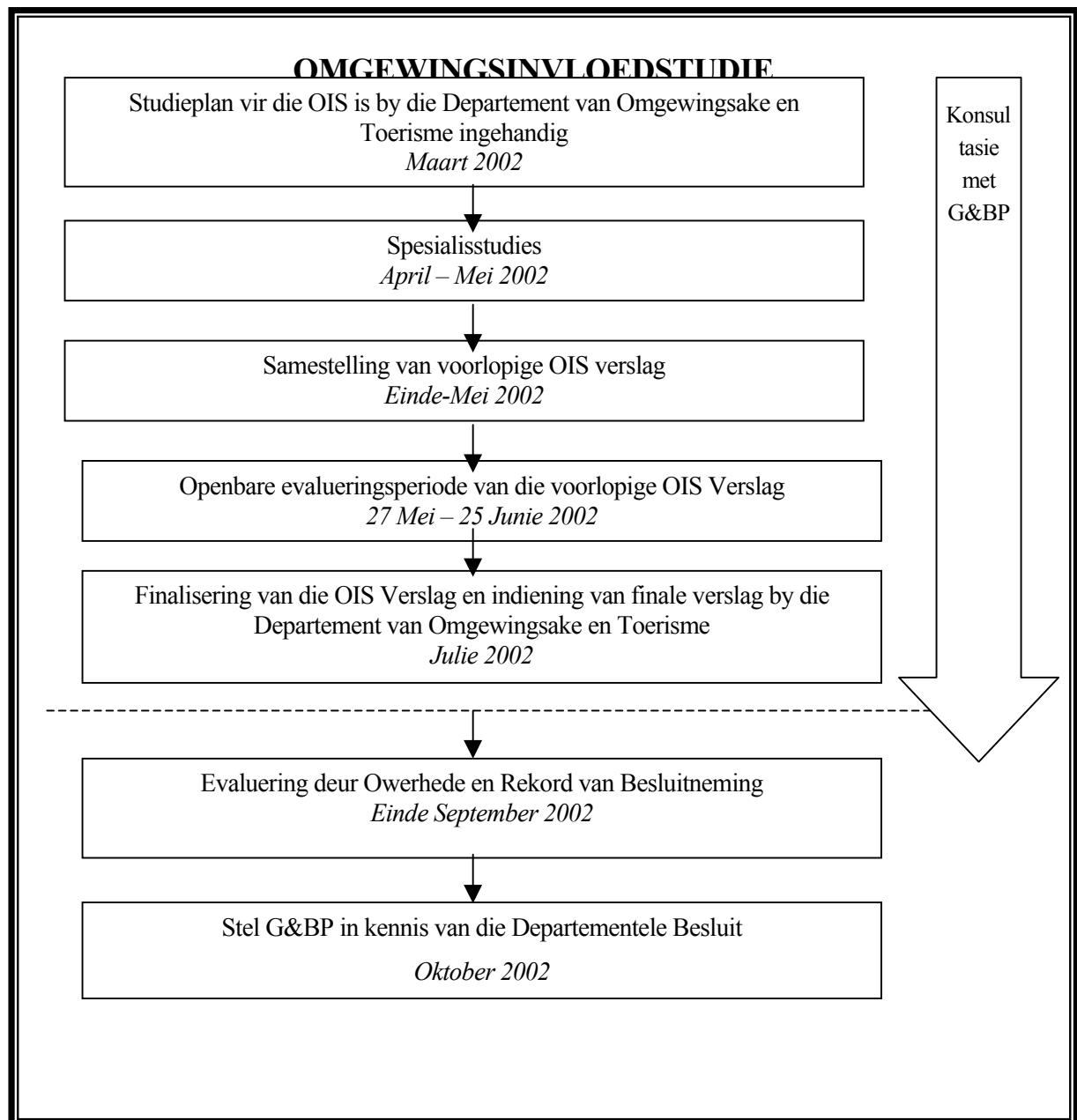
5. OMGEWINGSSTUDIES WAT ONDERNEEM GAAN WORD

'n Studieplan vir die OIS (wat die spesialisstudies wat onderneem gaan word) aangedui het is by die Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerisme ingehandig en deur hulle aanvaar. Die in-diepte OIS word dus nou onderneem deur die gedetailleerde spesialisstudies wat in April en Mei 2002 onderneem word. Sodra die studies voltooi is, sal 'n Omgewingsinvloedstudie Verslag saamgestel word. Die voorlopige verslag sal weer eens vir openbare evaluering aan die publiek vir 'n periode van 30 dae beskikbaar gestel word. Die beskikbaarheid van die verslag sal in die Mogol Pos, die Northern Review en die Citizen geadverteer word en geregistreerde G&BP sal per brief in kennis gestel word. Nadat die evalueringstermyn verby is, sal al die kommentaar van G&BP in die finale Omgewingsimpakstudie Verslag geïnkorporeer word en aan die Departement van Omgewingsake en Toerisme oorhandig word vir hul evaluering en besluitneming. Die Departement sal dan 'n amptelike besluit neem aangaande die voorgestelde projek en daar word daarna verwys as die Rekord van Besluitneming. Die openbare deelname proses sal in parallel met die spesialisstudies geskied en u sal in kennis gestel word van die besluit van die Departement.

Die spesialisstudies wat as deel van die OIS onderneem word is:

- Klimaat en atmosferiese toestande: Peter Illgner van Rhodes Universiteit;
- Grond en landboupotensiaal: Garry Paterson van die Landbounavorsingsraad;
- Fauna en flora: Joggie van Staden van Bohlweki Environmental;
- Voëllewe: Chris van Rooyen van die Endangered Wildlife Trust;
- Grondgebruik: Plan Practice;
- Visuele en Estetiese: Henry Holland;
- Argeologie: Stephen Gaigher van Archaeo-Info Noordelike Provinsie;
- Sosiale Impakstudie: Bohlweki Environmental; en
- Toerisme: Grahame Thomson van Seaton Thomson en Assosiate;

'n Uiteensetting van die proses wat gevolg gaan word, word op die keersy verskaf:



Die voorgestelde projek het 'n aantal aspekte van belang na vore gebring wat tydens die bestekopname fase geopper en geïdentifiseer is. Daar was ook insette in terme van die roetebelyning. Dié kommentaar sal dus tydens die spesialisstudies in ag geneem word. Die studie area waarop die spesialiste sal fokus sluit die volgende twee hoofkorridors in:

- Korridor 1 beslaan 'n area langs die bestaande 400 kV Transmissielyn wat ondermeer bees- sowel as wildspase in die Ellisras, Marken en Pietersburg area, die Waterberg Biosfeer en die Bakenberg area insluit.
- Korridor 2 is 'n alternatiewe roete vir ongeveer 100 km van die lyn se totale lengte. Die voorgestelde korridor val saam met Korridor een vir ongeveer 30 km vanaf die Matimba substasie tot waar die bestaan Matimba-Witkop No. 1 400 kV Transmissielyn die R518 (die Ellisras- Marken pad) kruis. By hierdie punt, volg die voorgestelde korridor die R518 in 'n noord-oostelike rigting tot by Marken, en van daar volg dit die grondpad wat noord van die Masebe Natuurreservaat verby beweeg. Die korridor loop langs die grens van die natuurreservaat, waarna dit in 'n suidelike rigting verder beweeg om net suid van

Diretsaneng weer by Korridor 1 aan te sluit. Dit volg dan die roete van Korridor 1 (vir ongeveer 120 km) tot by die Witkop Substasie.

Bohlweki Environmental is verantwoordelik vir die bestuur van die spesialisstudies en die samestelling van die finale OIS Verslag. Die openbare deelname proses sal tydens die OIS fase voortduur. Die konsultante sal dus kontak maak met die G&BP om hul spesifieke kommentaar te ontvang. Indien u nie persoonlik gekontak word nie, maar wel 'n vergadering verlang moet u asb. so gou as moontlik met Me. Ingrid Snyman skakel om 'n geskikte datum en tyd voor 14 Mei 2002 te bepaal.

6. VERDERE INLIGTING

Indien u, gedurende die fase, enige verdere inligting verlang of indien u spesifieke kommentaar rakende die spesialisstudies en die voorgestelde projek wil opper, is u welkom om dit na die volgende konsultante by Bohlweki Environmental te stuur:

Ingrid Snyman of Gift Magangane
Bohlweki Environmental
Posbus 11784, Vorna Valley
Midrand, 1686
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Faks: (011) 805 0226
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