

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

FOR THE PROPOSED

ESKOM GLOCKNER / KOOKFONTEIN TRANSMISSION LINE

INVITATION TO COMMENT

January 2009

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is to provide:

- an overview of the proposed electricity transmission infrastructure that Eskom Holdings Limited propose to construct;
- an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIA); and
- details on how you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), can become involved in the EIA process and raise issues, concerns and / or suggestions as regards this proposed project.

Your comment is important and will ensure that all relevant issues are evaluated in the EIA process.

Please complete the registration document in order to participate in this EIA process and return it to Baagi Environmental Consultancy on or before **27 February 2009**.

Baagi Environmental Consultancy

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SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

Eskom Holdings Ltd is responsible for the provision of reliable and affordable power to consumers in South Africa. In order for Eskom to honour its mandate and commitment to meet the increasing needs of end-users, it has to establish and expand its infrastructure of transmission power lines and substations on a continual basis.

As part of its assessment of supply requirements, Eskom has determined that additional transmission capacity will be required within the Rothdene, Meyerton area, Midvaal Local Municipality, Gauteng (please refer to figure 1) and has proposed the construction of the following electricity transmission infrastructure:

- An additional 275kV transmission line, approximately 2km long from the Glockner to the Kookfontein Main Transmission Substations;
- The upgrade of the Kookfontein substation with the addition of a 3rd 315MVA 275/88kV transformer; and
- Associated work to integrate the proposed transmission line into the associated substations.

Through the EIA process, preferred alternative transmission power line alignments will be considered. Should the project be authorized by the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), Eskom will, should it be necessary to do so, then enter into a servitude negotiation process with each affected landowner. The process of negotiating a servitude is independent of the EIA process, and will be undertaken directly by Eskom.

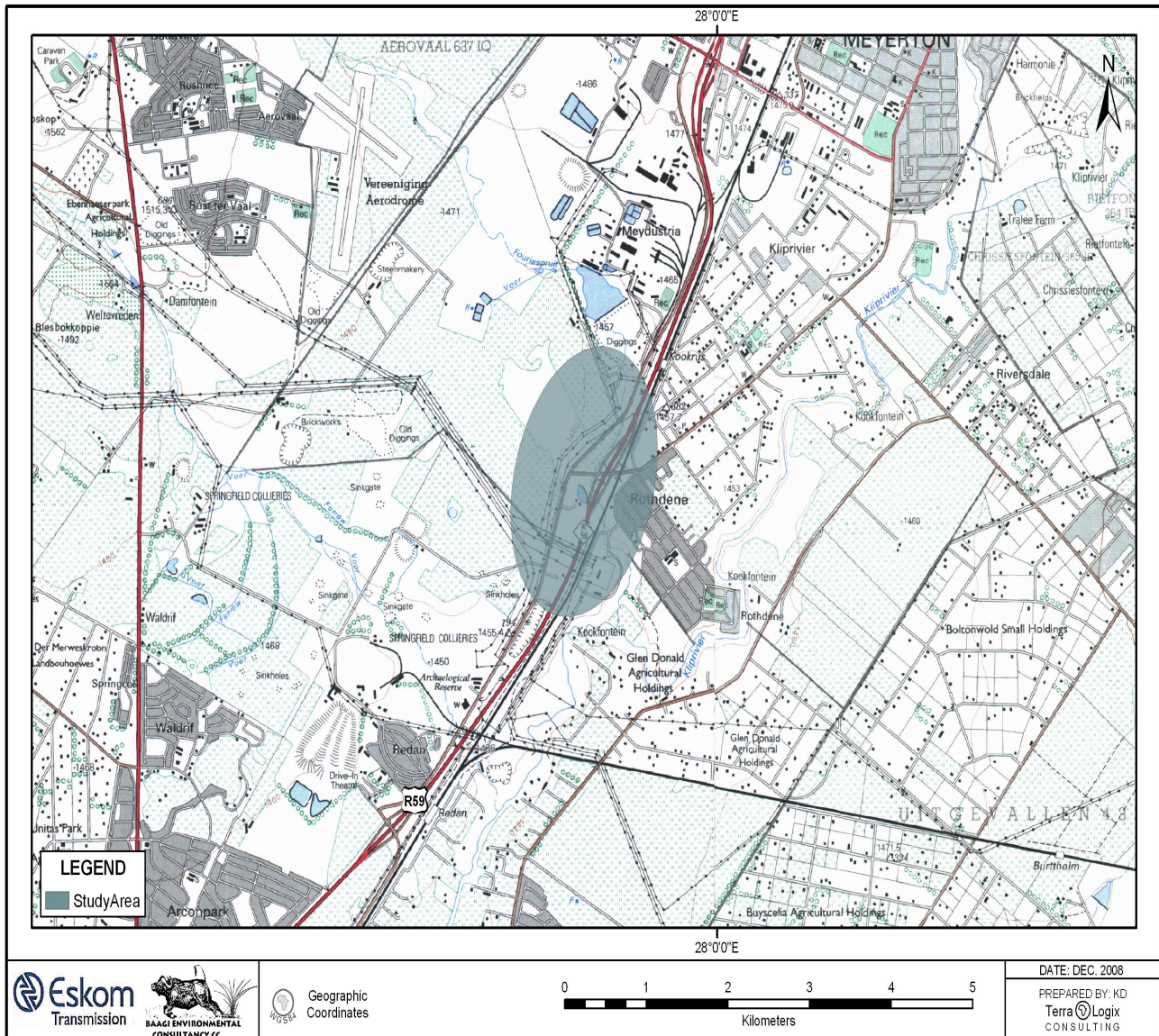


Figure1: Map indicating area of the proposed Eskom project

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, No 107 of 1998), Eskom requires authorization from DEAT (in consultation with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE)) for the undertaking of this proposed project.

In order to obtain authorization for this project, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations. This proposed project has been registered with DEAT, reference **12/12/20/1401**.

An EIA is an effective planning and decision making tool. It allows for the identification of possible environmental impacts arising from the proposed project and aims to ensure that the project will be environmentally acceptable and integrated into the surrounding environment in a sustainable manner.

Eskom has appointed **Baagi Environmental Consultancy**, as independent consultants, to undertake the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project for the area as identified, and propose appropriate mitigation measures in an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

As part of these environmental studies, I&APs will be actively involved through the public participation process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The public participation process offers interested and affected parties the opportunity to become actively involved in the EIA process by assisting stakeholders to identify issues of concern and possible suggestions for this project.

The public participation process involves the following:

1. Notification of proposed project and opportunity to comment

During January 2009, stakeholders will be informed about the EIA and the proposed project by means of letters, newspaper advertisements, on-site notices and a public participation meeting.

The public participation meeting will be held:

- **Date:** Wednesday evening, 11 February 2009
- **Time:** 18h30
- **Venue:** Laerskool Republiek, situated between Rose and Von Willig Lane in Rothdene, Meyerton

During January and February 2009, stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment and raise potential issues of concern. The issues raised will be captured in an Issues and Response Report.

2. Draft Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The Draft Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Report, together with the Issues and Response Report will be made available for comment to I&APs once completed. This report will contain a preliminary description of the proposed project, its potential impacts and a record of all of the issues raised by I&APs.

I&APs will have three weeks in which to comment on this report. The report will also be submitted to the relevant authorities. After the comment period, a Final Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be prepared, incorporating any inputs received during the comment period.

3. Final Notification

Once the authorities have issued the Environmental Authorization, all registered and interested and affected parties will be notified of the authorities' decision and of the procedure to follow should they wish to appeal the Environmental Authorization.

POTENTIAL ISSUES FOR INVESTIGATION

The public participation process affords interested and affected parties with an opportunity to raise possible environmental, economic and social concerns in relation to the proposed project. Environmental Impact Assessment specialists will investigate potential impacts associated with these concerns and suggest the relevant mitigation measures that need to be put in place.

Herewith a list of possible concerns that may help to highlight other potential issues:

- Construction related impacts for the proposed electricity transmission infrastructure
- Ecological impacts
- Visual impacts
- Impact on customer service

Your comment is important

Your comments on the proposed project and the potential issues that may need to be investigated will assist in determining the scope of the environmental studies required and assist the authorities in their decision-making.

This EIA is being conducted by Baagi Environmental Consultancy cc on behalf of Eskom.

