



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED JUPITER B AND SEBENZA SUBSTATIONS AND 132kV AND 400kV TRANSMISSION LINES IN THE GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES

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WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), with background information regarding the proposed construction of Jupiter B Substation and Sebenza Substation and 400kV and 132kV Transmission lines in Gauteng AND Mpumalanga Provinces. The document also provides information regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be undertaken. Furthermore, the document advises how you can become involved in the project, receive information and raise issues, which may concern or be of interest to you. The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Public participation plays an important role in the undertaking of an EIA as input from I&APs ensures that all potential issues are considered within the study.

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

- Construction of the proposed Jupiter B Substation (Rosherville, Johannesburg)
- Construction of the proposed Sebenza Substation (Sebenza, Johannesburg)
- 150km of 400kV transmission line from Matla Power Station, Mpumalanga Province, to the proposed Jupiter B Substation via Nevis Substation (Springs)
- 15km of 132kV transmission line between the proposed Jupiter B and Sebenza Substations
- Mention other projects and add reference numbers as well Construction of Jupiter B Substation
- Construction of Sebenza Substations
- 150km of 400kV transmission line
- 15km of 132kV transmission line

WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

Due to the need and high demand of power supply in Gauteng Province Eskom Holdings is currently proposing the construction of Jupiter_B and Sebenza substations and the associated 132kV and 400kV transmission lines in order to meet this demand.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified. As part of the EIA, these potential impacts will be assessed through the following specialist studies:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	GCS Pty Ltd
Avifauna	Endangered Wildlife Trust
Tourism	Master Q Research
GIS and Visual	MetroGIS
Ecology (Fauna and Flora)	Bathusi Environmental
Soils	Agricultural Research Council
Heritage Impact Assessment	Jonny van Schalkwyk
Social Impact Assessment	Master Q Research

In the Environmental Scoping Study, desk-top specialist studies combined with a site visit will identify potential issues which require further investigation within the EIA phase. Input from the public through the public participation process provides valuable input in the identification of issues requiring investigation within this EIA process. The Environmental Scoping Study will highlight areas that should be avoided in order to minimise potential impacts, and evaluate the alternative sites recommended for the proposed development.

The Environmental Impact Assessment phase will aim to achieve the following:

- to provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environments of the affected area by the proposed construction of JupiterB and Sebenza Substations and the 132kV and 400kV transmission lines,
- to undertake a detailed assessment of the preferred site/s in terms of environmental criteria including the rating of significant impacts;
- to identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant environmental impacts; and
- to undertake a fully inclusive public participation process to ensure that I&AP issues and concerns are recorded and commented on.

WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED?

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Government Notice. R. 385 to No. R. 387 of 2006 published in terms of Section 24(5) read with Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998), Eskom Holdings Limited requires authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) for the undertaking of the proposed project as it includes activities listed under Regulation 386 and 387 of the NEMA EIA regulations. Activities under these listings may have a detrimental effect on the environment, hence a full EIA process, as prescribed in Regulations 27 to 36 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Regulation 385), will have to be undertaken.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

Eskom Holdings Limited has appointed Bohlweki-SSI Environmental, as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake environmental studies to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. As part of these environmental studies, all I&APs will be actively involved through a public participation process. The environmental studies will follow a two-phased approach:

- Phase 1: Environmental Scoping Study (ESS)
- Phase 2: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps:

- STEP 1: Advertise the EIA Process (local, and national press)
- STEP 2: Register I&APs and key stakeholders on the database (on-going)
- STEP 3: Consultation with, and transfer of information to, I&APs through consultation, public meetings, focus group meetings and key stakeholder workshops during the Scoping and EIA phases
- STEP 4: Invite I&AP comment and input on the draft Scoping and EIA reports (30-day comment period)
- STEP 5: Record all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs within an issues trail, which will form an integral part of EIA Reports

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
2. By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to Bohlweki-SSI Environmental;
3. By attending the meetings to be held during the course of the project. Should you register as an I&AP you will be invited to attend these meetings. The meeting dates will also be advertised in local newspapers and registered I&APs will be notified by mail as well;
4. By telephonically contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
5. By reviewing and commenting on the draft Scoping and EIA Reports within the allowed 30-day review periods.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become involved in the process and provide comment, or raise those issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key part of the environmental studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying response form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and ensure that your comments, concerns or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.


Comments and Queries


Direct all comments, queries or responses to:

Bohlweki SSI Environmental

 PO Box 867 Gallo Manor 2052

Sibongile Hlomuka or Shiba Rankapole

 Phone: (011) 798 6001

 Fax: (011) 798 6010

 E-mail: jsebenza@bohlweki-ssi.co.za