

It is important to note that the issues listed below have been obtained from the environmental authorisation process for the proposed Gamma Sub-station as well as the environmental authorisation process for the proposed Gamma-Grassridge 765 kV Transmission Lines, where I&APs in the vicinity of the proposed Gamma Sub-station have raised issues associated with both the proposed transmission lines and the proposed new sub-station position.

NAME & ORGANISATION	COMMENT	RESPONSE
Mr Izak van Heerden Skietkuil Farm	The economic viability of the farms next to the Gamma Sub-station needs to be investigated. This includes the compensation value paid by Eskom which does not take into consideration the impact on property values, financial loss, etc.	Eskom acquires land at market values. If compensation is payable due to damage, this is negotiated between the affected landowner and Eskom.
Mr Malcolm Frederick Western Cape Dept of Environmental Affairs, Development and Planning	The impact of the Gamma Sub-station on the biological diversity of the area should be investigated.	In order to address these concerns, a faunal, an avi-faunal assessment, a vegetation assessment and a wetlands assessment were undertaken. The findings of the various specialist studies are reported in Chapter 7 of the EIR and the significance of impacts is considered in Section 8. The significance of the potential impacts on flora, avi-fauna and fauna are considered low, for both construction and operation phases, provided the recommended mitigation measures are adhered to.
Landowner	The impact of HIV/Aids in the area during construction.	In order to address this concern, a social/socio-economic assessment was undertaken. The risk of the spread of HIV/AIDS is considered in Section 8.2.4 of the EIR. With mitigation measures, this impact is considered to be of medium significance.

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Landowner	The South African National Roads Agency is planning to upgrade the National Route N1, the cumulative impact from the construction of both the sub-station and N1 should be considered.	In the event of the upgrade of the National Route N1, potential synergies exist for impacts associated with road construction and those associated with the construction of the proposed sub-station. This will require liaison and joint management between Eskom and the South African National Roads Agency, and their appointed contractors. This issue is considered in Chapter 8.6 of the EIR.
Landowner	Requested that landowners be informed of progress regarding the Gamma Sub-station relocation. Landowners would not like to find out about the outcome of the project when the contractor is putting pegs in preparation for construction.	Communication with landowners has continued for the duration of the EIA, and all landowners are being informed of the outcome of the EIA (via this EIR) and will be notified of the Record of Decision. This comment is considered in Sections 6.1 and 6.2.2 of the EIR where it states that the ROD on the proposed development will be conveyed to members of the public via advertisements and personalized letters. All I&APs will receive a letter at the end of the EIA notifying them of the ROD and explaining the appeal procedure.
Mr Jan Claassen Mordant & Gabriels Baken Farms	The construction of a sub-station will affect the management of the neighbouring farms.	This aspect was considered in the social/socio- impact assessment. Most direct impacts will be felt by the landowners on whose properties the proposed sub-station will be constructed. However, other landowners may potentially be affected during construction and operation. This can be managed by adherence to the specifications in the EMP (Chapter 9).

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Mr Danie Hugo Burgersfontein	Enquired about the effects of electro-magnetic fields.	Potential impacts were addressed in an EMF study, which was commissioned separately by Eskom. The issue is considered in Section 8.3.1 of the EIR and, essentially there is no conclusive evidence either way of the potential negative effects or not of EMFs. Nevertheless, as a precautionary measure, Eskom does not allow people to live under the power lines or within close proximity to sub-stations.

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<p>Mrs Anel van Heerden Skietkuil</p>	<p>How many people are going to work at the sub-station during the construction and operation phase?</p> <p>Concerned about security of surrounding landowners with construction workers in the area.</p>	<p>Approximately 400 people are required (at different stages) for the construction of a sub-station (not more than 80 people at any one time). Only two people are required for the operation of the sub-station (and will not be permanently based at the sub-station).</p> <p>The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) is always on site and is responsible for the management of construction activities. All landowners will have access to the ECO. The duties of the ECO include liaison between the landowners, the contractor and Eskom. The ECO is also required to keep a complaints register. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be compiled for the construction and maintenance phases. This EMP is given to the contractor as part of his/her contract documents and is legally binding on the activities of the contractor. The EMP specifies the requirements of landowners and the contractor must comply with these specifications. If the contractor does not adhere to these specifications, the landowner has a right to report the contractor to the ECO. Non-compliance can result in financial penalties for the contractor. Lastly, Eskom is audited on its construction activities. Eskom is ISO 14000 certified, therefore, if their contractors are not complying, Eskom is penalised. This issue was addressed by a social/socio-economic impact assessment and is considered in Section 7.8 of the EIR. The various potential social impacts, including potential impacts on safety, are considered to be of low to medium significance, provided mitigation measures are implemented, as reported in Sections 8.2.4 and 8.5 of the EIR.</p>

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Mr Danie Hugo Burgersfontein	How are farmers going to know that their stock is safe? All farmers are aware that stock theft is a problem and would like to know what measures will be put in place to prevent theft. The impact of construction camps in the area regarding stock theft needs to be examined. Farmers would like to see the practicality of the solutions to problems identified.	This issue was addressed in a social and socio-economic impact assessment and is considered in Section 7.8 of the EIR. The various potential social impacts, including potential impacts on safety, are considered to be of low to medium significance, provided mitigation measures are implemented, as reported in Sections 8.2.4 and 8.5 of the EIR.
Mrs Anel van Heerden Skietkuil Farm	There is no existing infrastructure around the Gamma Sub-station sites (Kleinfontein or Uitvlugfontein) compared to other areas where sub-stations and transmission power lines have been built. The lack of infrastructure can easily lead to serious problems being experienced by landowners around the Gamma Sub-station.	This issue was addressed in a social and socio-economic impact assessment and is considered in Section 7.8 of the EIR. The various potential social impacts, including potential impacts on existing infrastructure, land-use, farm operations, safety and security, and the like, are considered to be of low to medium significance, provided mitigation measures are implemented (Section 8.5 of the EIR).
Landowners around the Gamma Sub-station Site	Landowners are concerned about the management of the work force during the construction phase and more so after working hours.	Conditions are set in Chapter 9, particularly Section 9.6 of the EIR (the draft EMP), to ensure that measures are implemented to mitigate potential social impacts. The various potential social impacts were considered to be of low to medium significance in the findings by the specialist study, provided mitigation measures are implemented (Section 8.2.4 of the EIR).
Mr Johan Claasen Gabrielsbaken and Mordant	When will the sub-station be built?	The construction of the Gamma Sub-station will commence only once a positive Record of Decision has been issued by DEAT. Communication with landowners will continue and all landowners will be informed of the outcome of the project, including notification of the Record of Decision. However, it is important to note that Eskom would like to commence construction in the second half of 2007 (Section 4.8 of the EIR).

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Mr Johan Claasen Gabrielsbaken & Mordant Farms	He would like to provide the project team with physical input in the planning of the route to Gamma Sub-station.	Noted with thanks. The project team would welcome the opportunity for inputs regarding the alignment of the transmission lines/an indication of the alignment with which landowners are comfortable. It is important to note that Eskom is targeting both Gamma Sub-station sites. Should the Kleinfontein site not be used, Eskom will go back to the original Gamma site at Uitvlugfontein.
Ms Colene Runkel South African National Roads Agency Limited	<p>The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) has the following comments with regard to the proposed Gamma Substation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SANRAL has a statutory building line of 60 m measured from the road reserve fence, adjacent to a national road and as well as a 500 m radius building restriction measured from the centre point of an intersection on a national road. SANRAL will not allow any servitudes inside the building restriction. Application needs to be submitted to SANRAL for a wayleave in terms of Act 7 of 1998 for the construction of the substation if it is to be situated within the 500 m radius building restriction or if a road crossing is anticipated. ▪ SANRAL will impose conditions in terms of Act 7 of 1998 upon approval of a wayleave. 	The new location for the proposed Gamma Sub-station does not impinge on SANRAL's statutory building line or its building restriction. Therefore, these comments are noted but are not applicable to this proposed development.

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<p>Ms Suzanne Erasmus Wildlife and Environmental Society of SA – Northern Cape Region</p>	<p>Page 19, point 2.2.7.5: Solid waste disposal. Depending on the amount of solid waste that will be produced during the construction phase, why is this waste not taken to appropriate recycle plants elsewhere (major centre like Johannesburg), rather than taken to a local land fill? Large development such as this substation should set an example for recycling rather than depending on local landfills for depositing solid wastes.</p> <p>Pages 35, point 5.3.7: The construction of the substation would probably have the greatest impact on the avifauna of the area and therefore an investigation into the possible impacts <u>must</u> be conducted. Collision with power lines etc are a major cause of direct mortality for many of the larger terrestrial bird species such as the blue crane, Ludwig's bustard etc, which are already impacted by the presence of electrical infrastructures across the province. The relevant persons involved with the conservation of large terrestrial birds in the region should be consulted, e.g. Mark Anderson of the Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation, Kimberley, and Bradley Gibbons, Crane Working Group, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Middelburg.</p>	<p>Sections 4.3.6.5 and 9.6.4 consider recycling of waste. At this stage, no particular landfill site has been identified but it can be expected that the closest licensed site will be used.</p> <p>The findings of the various specialist studies are reported in Chapter 7 of the EIR and the significance of impacts is considered in Section 8. The significance of the potential impacts on avi-fauna and fauna are considered low, for both construction and operation phases, provided the recommended mitigation measures are adhered to.</p>

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<p>Ms Suzanne Erasmus Wildlife and Environmental Society of SA – Northern Cape Region</p>	<p>Page 35, point 5.3.8: As stated in the report, all effort should be made to maintain the aesthetic appeal of the landscape, as tourism will increasingly become reliant on the appeal of wilderness landscapes in the future. Similarly, a physical inspection of the site will be required to ensure that no <i>in situ</i> heritage resources are degraded/destroyed, as pointed out in the scoping report.</p> <p>Page 50, point 7.4.1: As stated in the report (details on page 54, point 8.1.1.2), a vegetation assessment will be imperative to ensure that no rare plant species occur on the proposed site for development.</p> <p>Page 50, point 7.4.2: To comment on the final statement of that section, namely 'In order to address these concerns, a faunal and avi-faunal assessment will be undertaken'; what is actually meant by this? This is addressed to a greater extent on page 53 and 54 under the heading 8.1.1.1. It will be essential that the person/company responsible for conducting the EIA consults individuals who are familiar with the region, its birds, and the conservation efforts currently undertaken in the area (e.g. Mark Anderson and Bradley Gibbons, as mentioned earlier).</p>	<p>A visual and aesthetic impact assessment was undertaken and the findings reported in Section 7.7 of the EIR. In section 8.3.2, the visual and aesthetics impacts are discussed further and mitigation measures are recommended. The visual impact of the sub-station is considered to be of low significance with mitigation measures, although highly intense within the local environment.</p> <p>A vegetation assessment has been undertaken and although there are plants of conservation concern on site, these are reasonably well represented elsewhere. Nevertheless, where possible, plants should be rescued (before construction commences) and translocated. Particular attention is drawn to the geophyte <i>Boophone disticha</i> that must be translocated from the proposed sub-station site.</p> <p>The avi-faunal study was undertaken by the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the outcomes of which are reported in Sections 7.2 and 8.4.2.</p>

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<p>Dr Doug Cole Council for GeoScience</p>	<p>With reference to my knowledge and perusal on our minerals database, there are apparently no mineral deposits, including uranium within a 10 km radius of the proposed substation site.</p>	<p>The Final Scoping Report was updated to include this information.</p>
<p>Mr Jacobus Albertus (Kotie) van den Berg Murraysburg Distriks Landbouvereniging</p>	<p>Thank you very much for the regular basis on which you keep myself and other involved parties informed. Also for the care taken with the Afrikaans used in the reports. We know that not a lot of Afrikaans is spoken in Mtunzini! There a few things which could improve the Afrikaans summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Covering letter: Murraysburg Distriks Landbourvereniging. ▪ Normally, Uit Vlugt Fontein would be written as one word (Uitvlugfontein). I assume you are using the spelling on the title deeds. ▪ Page 6, paragraph 2: toe te lig. ▪ There is excessive use of capital letter in the middle of sentences when reference is made to organisations and documents. I assume there are good reasons for this. At least it is consistent. <p>The content of the summary is very comprehensive, systematic and clear. I think it is a brilliant piece of work.</p> <p>Thank you also for all your arrangements and cooperation to date. It has been professional throughout.</p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. The EIA Team will endeavour to address the positive criticism on Afrikaans usage.</p>

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The following comments were recorded at the Gamma Substation Draft Environmental Impact Report Feedback Meeting		
Mr Izak van Heerden Farm Skietkuil Landowner	Mr van Heerden expressed uncertainty as to the route of the access road between the proposed substation and the R63.	Dr Heinsohn confirmed that the road is on Farm Uit Vlucht Fontein and that the servitude that lies on Skietkuil is for tying in the power lines to the substation and a slight encroachment of the proposed substation infrastructure.
Mr Willie Els Eskom	<p>Mr Els said that construction of a 22 kV power line, to be linked in with the proposed substation, has already started.</p> <p>Mr Els requested clarification that should the proposed Gamma Substation project be refused authorisation, then the 22 kV power line that they have already started constructing would need to be taken down.</p>	<p>Dr Heinsohn confirmed that a 22 kV power line does not require environmental authorisation. However, permission to access land is required from the landowner (even though it is within an Eskom servitude).</p> <p>As due notice is a condition of the servitude agreement between the landowner and Eskom, this condition needs to be included in the Final Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that will be compiled after a Record of Decision has been received from DEAT.</p> <p>Importantly, permission needs to be granted by the landowner before accessing private land.</p> <p>This was confirmed.</p>
Mr & Mrs van Heerden Farm Skietkuil Landowners	There have been no sightings of the riverine rabbit on Farm Skietkuil by the van Heerdens; this is thought to be due to the low quality of the vegetation on the farm, making it unsuitable for habitation by riverine rabbits.	Comment noted.

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Ms Karin Bowler Independent Facilitator	What will be the visual impact of the lighting of the proposed substation at night?	Lighting of the proposed substation at night will be minimal and restricted to lights that only come on when they are triggered, e.g. by a break in the electrical fencing.
Ms Karin Bowler Independent Facilitator	What are the potential cumulative effects of dust from the construction of the proposed substation and the upgrade of the N1?	<p>The overlap in the construction periods of these two activities is likely to be minimal. However, with mitigation, the cumulative dust impact of these activities will be of low significance.</p> <p>It is unknown where the materials for the road upgrade will be sourced, i.e. where the quarries will be located. However, Mr van Heerden said he had heard that they were considering using the same quarry as will be used for sourcing material for the proposed substation.</p>
Mr van Heerden Farm Skietkuil Landowner	Mr van Heerden confirmed that options regarding the impacts of hunting have been discussed. The two options were to either capture and relocate the white springbok from the area or, for Eskom to provide a new water supply (borehole), further from the substation, to draw the springbok away from the construction site. The latter is the more favourable option.	Conditions pertaining to the limitations on hunting activities and communication of hunting activities to the construction team need to be included in the servitude agreement.
Mr van Heerden Farm Skietkuil Landowner	Clarification on incoming and outgoing power lines for the proposed substation.	<p>Provision will be made at the substation for five incoming and five outgoing lines.</p> <p>There is a total of 400 m of servitudes for the incoming 400 kV lines (5 x 80 m each).</p> <p>In obtaining five servitudes, Eskom has made provision for future lines incoming to the substation (power lines that may be required in 10 to 20 years time).</p>

Comment received via e-mail, fax or post in response to the Gamma Substation Draft Environmental Impact Report

<p>Paulus Jacobs Assistant Director: Environmental Health Dept of Health (Northern Cape)</p>	<p>Above-mentioned project refers. From an Environmental Health point of view the following concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 When do you envisaged to develop an Environmental Management Plan for the project? 2 Potable water Is there any proof that the borehole water (on-site) to be used for human consumption is safe for that purpose? 3 Sewerage A definite time frame albeit a frequency should be stipulated clearly in the Environmental Management Plan regarding the service rendered by a supplier in so far as sewerage is concerned to prevent a health nuisance from occurring. 4 Solid Waste disposal The frequency of removal should also reflect clearly in the Environmental Management Plan. 	<p>This is contained in Chapter 9 of the EIR.</p> <p>Currently, landowners use ground water. However, Eskom will test ground water prior to use. If filtration or purification are required, this will be undertaken by Eskom.</p> <p>This is dealt with in Section 9.6.1 of the EIR. Chemical toilets will be serviced as frequently as required for the duration of the construction period.</p> <p>This is dealt with in Sections 4.3.6.5 and 9.6.4 of the EIR. Where possible, waste streams will be separated to facilitate recycling. All waste will be removed from site to licensed landfills.</p>
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