

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

**FOR THE PROPOSED ESKOM 400/132KV
HOUHOEK TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION
INCLUDING THE BACCHUS-PALMIET
LOOP-IN AND LOOP-OUT POWER LINES,
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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ABBREVIATIONS

BID	Background Information Document
CLN	Customer Load Network
CMA	Catchment Management Agency
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
FGM	Focus Group Meeting
I&AP	Interested and Affected Parties
IRR	Issues and Response Register
kV	kilovolt
LILO	Loop-in and Loop-out
MTS	Main Transmission Substation
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998, as amended
POD	Public Open Day
PP	Public Participation
SOC	State Owned Company
SR	Scoping Report
WC	Western Cape

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited has applied for environmental authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for the proposed development, herein referred to as the Houhoek Transmission Substation project. The proposed project entails the construction of the 400/132kV Houhoek Eskom Main Transmission Substation (MTS), linking to the existing 132kV Houhoek Eskom Distribution Substation, and, the loop-in and loop-out (LILO) connecting power lines from the MTS into the existing Bacchus-Palmiet 400kV Transmission power line and back to the MTS.

The proposed new Houhoek MTS would relieve the pressure on the existing Bacchus MTS. In addition, the new Houhoek MTS will be able to supply the long-term future load growth anticipated in the Southern Cape CLN. The anticipated growth can also be attributed to Wind Energy Facilities that are currently being explored by Independent Power Producers in this region.

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited Transmission Division: Land and Rights appointed BKS (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed project.

The EIA will be conducted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA), and the EIA Regulations 543, 544, 545 and 546 that were promulgated on 18 June 2010 (as amended). In terms of these regulations, a Scoping and EIA process is required for the triggered NEMA activities. The application form was submitted to and accepted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the relevant competent authority.

The chief objectives of a Public Participation (PP) Process, which forms a critical part of the EIA process, are to:

- Inform interested and affected parties (I&APs) and provide background and technical information about the proposed development and the environmental assessment process.
- Create networks and feedback mechanisms whereby I&APs can participate and raise their viewpoints (issues, comments and concerns) with regards to the proposed development and associated activities.
- Ensure that the views of the I&APs are reflected and considered by the Applicant (i.e. Eskom SOC) and the regulating authority (i.e. DEA in this case).

1.2 AIM OF THE REPORT

The aim of this report is to:

- Describe the PP process conducted thus far;
- Present the register of registered I&APs;
- Provide a list of issues raised to date; and
- Outline the way ahead.

2 THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation provides I&APs with the opportunity to participate on an informed basis, and to ensure that their needs and requirements are considered. In so doing, ownership of the project is vested in both the project proponent and the community.

A PP process should achieve the following:

- Provide a "vehicle" for public input and the facilitation of negotiated outcomes;
- Create trust and partnerships;
- Minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts; and
- Provide an up-front indication of issues that may have an impact on the EIA process.

2.1 APPROACH

The PP process is an integral part of the environmental assessment process. In this regard Section 23(2) (d) of the NEMA states the requirement to "*ensure adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment.*"

The approach towards any PP process is dependent on the specific nature and scope of the project. Each project has a particular geographic, technical and socio-economic nature and context, and hence the PP process should be structured accordingly. Where possible, and within the required statutory frameworks, it is also desirable to structure such a process to address the process needs of I&APs.

2.1.1 IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF I&APs

Through networking and advertising, 445 I&APs are currently registered on the I&AP register for the proposed project.

BKS made an effort to ensure that individuals and/or organisations were identified from an institutional and geographical point of view.

Geographically, BKS involved nearby communities, and the structures that represent them. Institutionally, organisations or individuals that may influence policies and decisions or make a contribution to the project were involved. Not all of these organisations are necessarily in the project's direct sphere of impact.

Refer to Appendix 1 for the I&AP Register.

2.1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Various mechanisms were used to create awareness of the proposed project among the people that may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project.

a) Media

Newspaper advertisements notifying the public about the environmental application for the proposed project were placed in the following newspapers on **29 February 2012**:

- Cape Times ; 25 September 2012; and
- Theewaterskloof Gazette; 25 September 2012.

Refer to Appendix 2 for copies of the newspaper advertisements.

b) Notification Letter

A notification letter was sent to identified and registered I&APs via e-mail to notify them of the proposed project on **25 September 2012**. 103 e-mails were sent to notify I&APs of the project.

Refer to Appendix 3 for copy of the notification letter.

c) On-site Notices

A total of 12 (twelve) A2-sized site notices were erected in the project area on **25 September 2012**. Site notices were in Afrikaans and English.

The site notices were placed at the **locations** around the affected area **as listed in Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1: Site Notice Locations

Site Notice No.	Coordinates	Location
1	34°14'17.00"S, 19°11'12.33"E	On Houhoek Substation
2	34°13'21.94"S, 19°11'17.32"E	Dirt road entrance to Botrivier
3	34°14'02.77"S, 19°11'25.40"E	On gate of Dassiefontein farm
4	34°13'47.23"S, 19°11'13.91"E	On gate of precast walls at factory
5	34°13'44.59"S, 19°11'47.03"E	On library fence
6	34°13'46.33"S, 19°11'47.09"E	On fence of Pentecostal Church
7	34°13'51.60"S, 19°11'53.40"E	On Post Office gate
8	34°13'50.87"S, 19°11'52.20"E	On Council Office fence
9	34°13'55.06"S, 19°11'48.71"E	On fence at Primary School
10	34°13'36.14"S, 19°12'24.46"E	On sign in parking outside hotel
11	34°14'59.63"S, 19°11'17.38"E	Stop sign at corner of Hoof and R43
12	34°12'24.59"S, 19°08'57.14"E	Houhoek Farm stall adjacent to the N2

Refer to Appendix 4 for a copy of a site notice, photographs of the site notices and a map of the location of the site notices.

d) Flyers

The purpose of the flyers was to notify the public of the proposed Houhoek Transmission Substation project and inform the communities about particular events. Additionally, the flyers were used to inform as wide a population as possible as not all I&APs read newspapers and/or are aware of the site notices displayed. Flyers written in English and Afrikaans were distributed to the following on 03 October 2012 to inform the recipients of about the proposed project and the PP process to be followed:

- Botrivier Post Office to distribute to approximately 700 people that the post office serves.
- Botrivier Primary School to distribute via the children that attend this school to approximately 640 parents .

On 22 November 2012 additional flyers were distributed via the same methods mentioned above in order to announce the availability of the SR and invite the community to the public open day (Chapter 2.1.4).

Please refer to Appendix 5 for an example of the distributed flyers.

2.1.3 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

Information was disseminated to registered I&APs primarily by means of a Background Information Document (BID), a Notification letter and the flyers.

Issues raised and comments received from I&APs (including the review period) were integrated into the Final Scoping Report.

a) Background Information Document

A BID provides background information on the proposed project, the processes to be followed and the appropriate contact details of the PP Consultant were included in the BID to ensure on-going interaction with I&APs.

The BID and a copy of the notification letter was distributed to the registered I&APs on 25 September 2012. I&APs added to the database from this date have received a copy of the BID, for their information.

Refer to Appendix 6 for a copy of the BID.

b) On-going Communication

BKS's contact details were provided on all written communication to ensure that I&APs can interact with BKS through a range of contact mechanisms.

2.1.4 CONSULTATIONS

a) Public Open Day

The main objective of an open day is to give the public an opportunity to get involved in the project and to provide their inputs regarding the proposed project. Moreover, such events are an important platform for information assimilated during the consultation process to be verified by the project team and new issues recorded and debated.

Detailed presentations in the form of display posters **were** used to communicate all aspects of the project (the PP process, EIA process) to the attendees of the open day. Members of the project team **were** present to answer questions and to note issues and concerns.

The purposes of the introductory public open day **were** to:

- Provide information on the EIA **process**.
- Identify issues and concerns.
- Identify and register I&APs.
- Provide information on the alternatives considered.
- Provide information on the detailed specialist studies to be undertaken.
- Provide information on the PP process.
- Outline the way forward in terms of the **EIA** process.

Advertisements were placed **in** the Cape Times and Theewaterskloof Gazette on **Thursday, 22 November 2012** to invite the public to the public open day. Communication in the form of e-mails and faxes were **sent on 25 September 2012** to registered I&APs to invite them to the public open day. **Refer to Appendix 2 for copies of the newspaper adverts.**

The public open day **was** held on **6 December 2012** **at the Botrivier Advice and Development Centre, at 17:00.**

Please refer to Appendix 7 for the attendance register of the POD.

b) Focus Group Meetings

A range of Focus Group Meetings (FGM) was held with the relevant stakeholders from **04 December** to **06 December 2012**, during the public review period for the Draft Scoping Report. The project team communicated details of the FMG with the relevant stakeholders. Refer to Table 2-2 for details of the FMG.

Table 2-2: Details of the FMG

Organisation	Venue	Date and Time	Attendees
Western Cape: Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	DEADP Office, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town	05 December 2012, 09:00	8
Theewaterskloof Local Municipality	Theewaterskloof Local Municipality office, Caledon	06 December 2012, 09:00	6
Wildeckrans Wine Estate	Wildeckrans Wine Estate Premises, R43, Botrivier	06 December 2012, 13:00	8

Please refer to Appendix 7 for notes and attendance register of the FMG.

2.2 ISSUES RAISED

All issues and concerns indicated by the I&APs **were** noted and collated into the Issues and Response Register (IRR), **which forms** part of the Final Scoping Report. The noting of issues and concerns from I&APs will be continued during the EIA phase of the project. The IRR provides a list of issues raised with regards to the process and proposed project as well as a response from the project team.

Refer to Appendix C of the Final Scoping Report for a copy of the IRR and Appendix 9 of the PP Report for copies of correspondence received from the I&APs.

2.3 DRAFT SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft Scoping Report was made available for a 40 calendar days review period to registered I&APs, as well as the public from 29 November 2012 to 25 January 2013. Please refer to Table 2-3 for the venues for availability of the Draft Scoping Report.

Table 2-3: Venues for Availability of Draft Scoping Report

Venue	Address	Telephone
Botrivier Public Library	Hibiscus Street, Botrivier	076 688 5878
Botrivier Advice and Development Centre	12 Fontein Street, Botrivier	028 2849 749

Copies of the Draft Scoping Report were submitted to the following government departments that are registered on the I&AP database:

- National Department of Environmental Affairs.
- Western Cape: Department of Environmental Affairs, Development and Planning.
- Theewaterskloof Local Municipality.
- Heritage Western Cape.
- Breede Overberg Catchment Management Agency (CMA: Acting on behalf of the Western Cape: Department of Water Affairs)
- Western Cape: Department of Human Settlement.
- Western Cape: Department of Economic Development and Tourism.
- Western Cape: Department of Transport and Public Works.
- Western Cape: SANRAL

2.4 FINAL SCOPING REPORT REVIEW PERIOD

The Final Scoping Report will be available for a 21 calendar days review period to registered I&APs, as well as the public from 13 March 2013 to 15 April 2013. Please refer to Table 2-4 for the venues for availability of the Final Scoping Report.

Table 2-4: Venues for Availability of Final Scoping Report

Venue	Address	Telephone
Botrivier Public Library	Hibiscus Street, Botrivier	076 688 5878
Botrivier Advice and Development Centre	12 Fontein Street, Botrivier	028 2849 749

2.5 APPROACH PROPOSED FOR THE EIA PHASE

The objective of the PPP in the EIA phase of the project is to present the findings of the investigations to the stakeholders and to give them an opportunity to comment on these.

To achieve this, the following consultation process will be undertaken, similar to the Scoping Phase:

- The draft EIA Report will be available for review by registered I&APs for a period of 40 days (determined under the guidance of the DEA).

- Public meetings will be held at various locations in the study area to present the findings of the EIA Report to I&APs during the draft EIA Report review period.
- Adverts and flyers will be translated into Xhosa and a Xhosa translator will be used for public meetings to be held during the EIA phase of the Houhoek Transmission Substation project.

All of the registered I&APs on the I&AP database will be notified in writing (via e-mail/post/fax) of the abovementioned consultation process.

Comments and issues raised will be noted in an updated version of the IRR (Appendix C of the Final EIA Report). These comments will be considered and incorporated into the Final EIA Report for submission to the DEA.

All registered I&APs (including the Applicant) will be informed by e-mail, facsimile or post of the outcome of the DEA's decision. In addition, the registered I&APs will be informed of the procedure to lodge a further appeal, if they still wish to do so.

3 CONCLUSION

Based on the inputs received during the PP process conducted so far, the following conclusions may be drawn:

- The PP process complies with the regulatory requirements.
- Issues and concerns were identified in order to feed into the EIA process.
- Communication with the I&APs, especially the communities surrounding the site, should continue. This is to ensure informed decision-making and a clear process throughout.

4 APPENDICES

4.1 APPENDIX 1: I&APs REGISTER

4.2 APPENDIX 2: COPIES OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

4.2.1 CAPE TIMES, 25 SEPTEMBER 2012 (PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT)

4.2.2 THEWATERSKLOOF GAZETTE, 25 SEPTEMBER 2012 (PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT)

4.2.3 THE CAPE TIMES, 26 NOVEMBER 2012 (AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SR AND INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC OPEN DAY)

4.2.4 THE THEEWATERSKLOOF GAZETTE, 27 NOVEMBER 2012 (AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SR AND INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC OPEN DAY)

4.3 APPENDIX 3: EXAMPLE OF NOTIFICATION LETTERS

4.3.1 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROJECT

4.3.2 AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AND INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC OPEN DAY

4.3.3 AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT

4.4 APPENDIX 4: SITE NOTICES

4.4.1 EXAMPLE OF A SITE NOTICE

4.4.2 PHOTOGRAPHS OF SITE NOTICES

4.4.3 LOCALITY MAP FOR SITE NOTICES

4.5 APPENDIX 5: EXAMPLES OF FLYERS

4.6 APPENDIX 6: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

4.7 APPENDIX 7: NOTES AND ATTENDANCE REGISTERS FOR CONSULTATIONS

4.7.1 FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

This section contains the notes taken for the FGMs, as described in Table 2-2 in this PP Report. Minutes (i.e. verbatim comments from I&APs) were not taken for the focus group meetings. But, detailed notes were taken of the meetings. The notes reflected the issues raised by I&APs and the responses provided by the EAP.

a) Western Cape: Department of Environmental Affairs and Development and Planning

b) Theewaterskloof Local Municipality

c) Wildekrans Wine Estate

4.7.2 PUBLIC OPEN DAY ATTENDANCE REGISTER

4.8 APPENDIX 8: I&AP CORRESPONDENCE