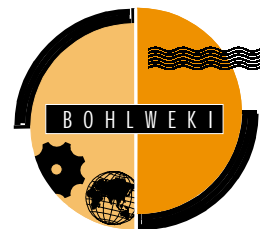


**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED NEW IKAROS SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED
400 kV TRANSMISSION LINE, NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

**PROCEEDINGS OF A
PUBLIC MEETING**

**HELD ON
THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2002
AT 19:00
AT
SUNDOWN LODGE HOTEL
BOSCHHOEK**



ENQUIRIES

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YOUR COMMENTS

Your comments on this document would be greatly appreciated. In particular, we request you to verify that your comments during the meeting have been minuted correctly. Please address your comments to Nicolene Venter at the address given above by not later than **Monday, 25 March 2002** on the attached form.

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1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mr Joggie van Staden: Bohlweki Environmental

Mr van Staden welcomed all delegates present and thanked them for their attendance and apologised for the delay in starting the meeting. Permission was requested of the delegates to record the meeting proceedings electronically so as to ensure that comments or issues that are raised at the meeting, are accurately reflected in the record of the proceeding. No objection was made.

The following members of the project team, and their responsibilities, were introduced:

- Mr Joggie van Staden, Bohlweki Environmental: Flora and Fauna Specialist;
- Ms Jo-Anne Thomas, Bohlweki Environmental: Environmental Specialist;
- Ms Nicolene Venter, Bohlweki Environmental: Public Participation Consultant;
- Ms Carol Streaton, Eskom - Transmission Environmental Affairs: To monitor the activities of the appointed independent consultants, and to also ensure that the processes followed by the consultants are up to Eskom's standard and that the public participation process runs smoothly;
- Mr John Geeringh, Eskom Transmission - Senior Environmental Advisor: Responsible for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, manage the EIA process and to ensure that Eskom obtain a corridor within which a power line route can be identified; and
- Mr Bobby Richardson, Eskom - Land and Rights Negotiator: Responsible for negotiations and obtaining servitude rights on behalf of Eskom.

The delegates approved the preliminary programme and the purpose of the meeting was presented as follows:

- To provide a brief overview of the EIA process followed for the project;
- Present the findings of the Draft Scoping Report;
- Receive feedback on the Draft Scoping Report and any further comments, concerns or issues; and
- Provide details regarding the way forward.

The presentation material is attached as Appendices (*see Table of Contents*)

2. DISCUSSION SESSION

2.1. Corridor Issues

Clr Moses Phakwe, Bojanala Platinum District Municipality commented that he noted that the proposed new Ikaros substation is located next to Kanana. He would like to enquire in which direction, in terms of the corridors, the power will be distributed.

Mr Joggie van Staden replied that the project is currently in its scoping phase whereby the two corridors, as identified by Eskom, are being assessed by means of a desktop study. Once the scoping phase is completed, assessments of the two corridors will be done. He mentioned that a route alignment within the corridors has not yet been decided and would only be done once the environmental assessment phase is completed. The route alignment can change according to the information received during the assessment phase. An additional corridor which has been identified by I&APs which will also be assessed.

Mr Bobby Richardson gave a brief description regarding the reason for two corridors as is reflected in the Briefing Paper and as discussed in the Draft Scoping Report.

Clr Moses Phakwe, Bojanala Platinum District Municipality would like to forward the point made by Ms Streaton during her presentation, that Eskom sometimes need to traverse through bushes, plantations, mountains etc. He enquired whether information regarding

terrain as was mentioned, would be present within the proposed corridors, and if so, is that information available.

Mr Joggie van Staden replied that the Draft Scoping Report reflects the main findings of the various specialist information obtained during the scoping phase as well as issues, concerns and comments raised to date. He informed the delegates that the Report is currently available for public review at the various libraries and venues until 4 March 2002, as pointed out during the public participation process presentation. He requested the delegates to inform Bohlweki Environmental regarding any issues that have not been raised during the scoping phase.

Ms Lillian Sefike, College of Education, (Tlhabane) commented that in principle she is not against development taking place. She informed the project team that the proposed northern corridor might affect local communities in such a way that they might need to be relocated. She enquired how relocation issues would be addressed.

Mr Joggie van Staden replied that during the scoping phase of an EIA, issues are raised by I&APs and are assessed during the impact assessment phase. Communication will take place with the various communities identified within the proposed corridors. Only once a route alignment has been identified, and it has been identified that a community would be directly affected in such a way making relocation a requirement, then Eskom would start negotiations with community leaders regarding the various options available for relocation or compensation.

Mr Bobby Richardson informed the delegates that the mining houses had already raised their concerns regarding the northern corridor, and they indicated that they would prefer the southern corridor. During discussions that had taken place with the Royal Bafokeng Administration and various landowners on the southern corridor, it was indicated that they would prefer the northern corridor. He said that all issues and concerns raised would be taken into consideration before Eskom would decide on a preferred corridor.

2.2. Biophysical Issues

Ms Lillian Sefike, College of Education, (Tlhabane) enquired whether it would be possible that areas which are highly invaded by alien species be identified to be used for the developments such as this project whereby the proposed substation could be constructed instead of on pristine land.

Mr Bobby Richardson replied that during discussions with the Royal Bafokeng Administration, it was also pointed out to the project team that the area identified for the proposed substation has potentially high agricultural value. He said that the proposed substation would be constructed between all the mining activities already taking place in the area. He mentioned that from his point of view, it seems that the Bafokeng Tribe is already purchasing ground around the Bafokeng kingdom for future agricultural use by the tribe.

2.3. EIA Process

Mr Raymond van der Merwe, Landowner, Zephanjeskraal enquired whether the specialist studies are completed.

Mr Joggie van Staden replied that only the desktop studies are completed and issues identified to date are reflected in the Draft Scoping Report, which, as previously mentioned, is currently available for public review. Detailed specialist studies would commence during the assessment phase.

2.4. Land use

Ms Lillian Sefike, College of Education, (Tlhabane) expressed her concern regarding the loss of potential high agricultural land due to the 36 ha needed for the proposed new Ikaros

substation. She mentioned that agricultural land in the area is already limited. Ms Sefike also mentioned that she had already forwarded her comments on the Draft Scoping Report to Bohlweki Environmental.

Ms Carol Streaton informed the delegates that 500ha had been identified for the proposed new Ikaros substation but that only 36ha would be required.

Mr Joggie van Staden informed the delegates that the portion of land identified for the proposed new Ikaros substation would traverse through turf soil, which has good agricultural potential. He said that wherever the substation would be constructed, the possibility is that it would be mainly on turf soil.

Mr Raymond van der Merwe, Landowner, Zephanjeskraal informed the project team that some of the landowners on the southern corridor had taken the decision not to hunt any animals on their property, and to create a friendly environment for game. He requested that when the specialist start their assessment studies in that area, they consult on a one on one basis with the landowners so that the landowners can share their knowledge of their property with the specialist.

Mr Joggie van Staden noted the request.

2.5. Health

Mr Daniël Sefike, Anglo Platinum: Rustenburg Section enquired whether the community that would be located in close proximity of the proposed new Ikaros substation, would need to undergo regular medical examinations for possible radiation infection.

Ms Carol Streaton informed the delegates that the community would not be closely located to the proposed new substation's equipment. She said that the reason why a 400 kV Transmission line has a servitude of 55m, and the height of the power lines (from ground level) is to ensure that there is a safe distance between the electrical field and the ground. It is safe for any person or animal to walk through below a power line, but due to inconclusive studies, Eskom does not allow people to live below a power line or buildings to be erected under powerlines

Mr Bobby Richardson mentioned that the reason why Eskom's substation has a servitude of 500m from built-up areas, is to ensure that there is no danger to communities in the immediate area.

2.6. General

Clr Disele Phologane, Rustenburg Local Municipality enquired whether Eskom would involve local environmental organisations, which fall within the Bojanala Municipality for the project, or would they use external organisations.

Mr Joggie van Staden replied that Bohlweki Environmental was appointed by Eskom to conduct the environmental studies. He said that Eskom has a list of registered consultants that they approach for each project that requires environmental studies. Any organisation / association / individual can register with Eskom as a consultant if they comply with Eskom standards. Eskom also invites, through advertising, consultants and companies to join the cadre for the proposed projects. Mr Van Staden said that in the environmental process itself, Bohlweki Environmental appoints specific specialist that are knowledgeable of the area and who have worked in the area before. Bohlweki Environmental is not obliged to use local knowledge, but the criteria for appointing specialists are that they need to be registered with a recognised institution, have a track record of work done in the area, etc. He said that time constraint also play a role when specialists are approached for projects. Mr Van Staden mentioned that any interested and affected party or specialist within the area can review the Draft Scoping Report and inform Bohlweki Environmental should they know about any issue / area that has not been identified, for inclusion in the environmental assessment phase.

Should local expertise identify him / herself to Bohlweki Environmental and they have the necessary credentials, Bohlweki Environmental might approach them, should they be invited to tender for a project in the area indicated by the expert. He requested that, should The Great Bojanala Municipality be aware of any environmental specialist in their municipal boundaries, they please forward the information to Bohlweki Environmental.

Clr Disele Phologane, Rustenburg Local Municipality enquired whether the criteria, as set, by Bohlweki Environmental can be made available to The Great Bojanala Municipality to see how it can accommodate their local contractors.

Mr Joggie van Staden replied that, for environmental studies where qualified scientists with the correct expertise are used, there are national standards, which are obtainable from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Eskom make use of contractors who specialise in the construction of power lines. Mr Van Staden mentioned that should labour be needed, the contractor would make use of local residents.

Ms Carol Streaton informed the delegates that in general terms, an appointed contractor moves very quickly through an area where the power line and towers are to be constructed. Due to this reason, the contractor would not have time to train local people or part with their skills as they move along. She also mentioned that there are limited companies that are skilled and equipped to construct power lines according to Eskom's standards.

Ms Streaton said that, should a company want to do an EIA they need to register on Eskom's vendor list. To be able to register as a vendor a company / organisation would need to comply with certain criteria and would need to provide information regarding their company / organisation e.g. their financial status, the equity of company etc. She said that Eskom gives preference to companies that are black empowered whereby 51% of the company / organisation is owned and directed by black people. There are currently eight qualified companies listed on the vendor list for EIA projects. Ms Streaton informed the delegates that should they know of any organisation / company that would like to acquire Eskom's vendor forms, they contact her and she would ensure that it is forwarded to them.

Clr Disele Phologane, Rustenburg Local Municipality enquired whether the application forms for registering as a vendor with Eskom, can be forwarded to Mr Moses Phakwe, Councillor at the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality.

Ms Nicolene Venter replied that the request would be forwarded to Eskom.

Clr Moses Phakwe, Bojanala Platinum District Council enquired what is the estimate construction cost of the power line.

Ms Streaton replied that the basic costs for a power line could be between R600 000 and R1m per kilometre.

Clr Disele Phologane, Rustenburg Local Municipality enquired whether the information regarding the contractor(s) that would be involved with the construction of the power line can be made available to the Municipality to gear themselves.

Mr Bobby Richardson replied that contracting companies that are being appointed by Eskom to do power line and tower constructions, are international companies with local offices or are in partnership with local companies in South Africa. He reiterated that these companies only do specialised work like installing power lines all over the world.

Mr Joggie van Staden, Bohlweki Environmental request all delegates to forward any other issue or concern that might arise after the meeting, to Nicolene Venter at Bohlweki Environmental by no later than Thursday, 28 February 2002