



Margen

INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

**MERCURY SUBSTATION
EXPANSION AND
UPGRADE:**

**Application for Exemption
from Environmental Impact
Assessment Regulations**



DEAT ref: 12/12/20/829

December 2006

Proponent:

Eskom Holding 2002/015527//06
Transmission Division
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Johannesburg, 2000

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ZEUS SUBSTATION EXPANSION: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this section is to outline the approach and methodology adopted to notify the public about the proposed Eskom Transmission Zeus substation upgrade near Standerton in Mpumalanga Province. A full EIA process for this upgrade has been conducted together with the EIA for the proposed 765 kV Transmission Power lines between the Zeus substation and the Mercury substation. As a result an application for exemption from complying with Sections 21, 22 and 26 of the Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989), has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The Public Participation Process (PPP) for this exemption application has been limited to:

- Distributing a separate briefing document for each site setting out the environmental impacts assessed in the power line EIAs.
- Advertising the notice for the exemption application and give the public 28 days period to raise issues, comments or objections.
- Give notice to landowners surrounding the farm on which the development is to take place.
- Give notice to the local municipalities in which the farm that is to be affected by the development is situated.
- Notices placed on site

In addition to the above, input from all specialists who worked on the power line project was sought regarding the impacts of the proposed expansions and is attached.

The approach adopted was communicated to DEAT in a letter dated 30 June 2006 which was approved on 15 September 2006 (**Appendix 1**). An account of the consultation process is as follows:

2. Consultation during the EIA Process for the 765 kV Transmission Power Lines

- a. Pre-feasibility study: The **Pre-Feasibility Study Report [pages 6-9]** presented to the government explains why no alternatives were considered for substations sites.
- b. The Plan of Study for Scoping: The location of Zeus and Mercury substations are indicated in the **Plan of Study for Scoping [page 3]**.
- c. The Scoping Reports: The substation upgrade and the related schematic representation is explained [see **Scoping Report; Sections 3.1 and 3.2**]
- d. The Environmental Impact Reports [see **Executive Summary, page xii**].
- e. Presentations at different public meetings included substations upgrades. The slides taken from presentations given at different public meetings and the site notices placed at the substations during this phase are included in **Appendix 2**

3. Consultation during the Exemption Application for the substations upgrade.

- a. **Advertisements**: A notice of the application was placed in the local newspapers and the public was given 28 days to comment or object. (**Appendix 3**)

Newspaper	Date	Language	Area
Standerton Advertiser	13 October 2006	English	Standerton (Mpumalanga)
Standerton Advertiser	13 October 2006	Afrikaans	Standerton (Mpumalanga)
Die Noord Vrystaatse Gazette	13 October 2006	English	Vierfontein (Free State)
Die Noord Vrystaatse Gazette	13 October 2006	Afrikaans	Vierfontein (Free State)

- b. **Site Notice**: A2 size site notices (**Appendix 3**) of the proposed substations upgrade were placed at each substation on 16 October 2006.
- c. **Notice letters** of the exemption applications were delivered at the offices of the Lekwa Local Municipality and Moqhaka Local Municipality. These letters were accompanied by a Background Information Document and Comment/Reply Sheet (**Appendix 4**). The letters were for:
 - i. Municipal Manager
 - ii. Executive Mayor
 - iii. IDP Manager and
 - iv. Technical Service Manager

- d. **Landowners notification:** Landowners around the sites for substations were given notices of the substation upgrade. An acknowledgement of receipt of notice was signed. The surrounding farms are:
- i. **Zeus substation:** Syferfontein and Kromdraai
 - ii. **Mercury substation:** Kleinfontein, Biesiesfontein and Zaaiplaats

Register of Acknowledgement of Receipt and the Landowners Consultation Map are shown in Appendix 5

4. Meetings with Stakeholders:

No official meetings were held with landowners other than during the door to door visit to deliver the notice and a BID that took place on 17 October 2006.

- a. Mr. Botha and Mr. Gossayn declined a meeting because of personal problems with Eskom. These problems do not relate to the proposed substation upgrade.
- b. The unit manager in Viljoenskroon, Mr. Thekiso Leie (Moqhaka Local Municipality) suggested we meet and present the project to Mr. Hannes Bruwes who also declined the meeting because he met the study team in Sasolburg during a public meeting on 10 May 2006. Mr. Bruwes felt that there was no need for a meeting because he is aware of the proposed development.
- c. In Standerton communications regarding the project were telephonically done with Mr. Luwazi Cindi, the IDP manager. He asked that we send notices to the Electrical Department Manager and if there is a need for a meeting they will contact the PIP Team.
- d. Mr. Mark Till of Anglo Gold Ashanti declined a meeting because he had already met Eskom representative and had received a request from Eskom for drilling on the farm Mispah and Zaaiplaats. On 02 November 2006 Mr. Till was contacted telephonically to confirm if he received the notice emailed to him earlier. He acknowledged receipt of the notice and BID and stated that the documents have also been sent to their Environmental Management Department.

Correspondences and Comments from stakeholders are included in Appendix 6.

5. Comments on Stakeholder Participation

The landowners around Mercury substation were not willing to participate and make inputs/comment mainly because of poor relationship they have with Eskom. Unfortunately the strained relations relate to other departments of Eskom and the Transmission department could not resolve the existing differences before this report was compiled.

The local municipalities were given notices addressed to four different departments but no response was received from them.

The advertisements were placed in local newspapers, in English and Afrikaans. No comments were received from the public in response to the advertisements.

6. Concluding Remarks

The comment period ended on 12 November 2006 with no response from the public. Notices were delivered at the offices of the local municipalities and the offices of landowners [Mr. Botha; Mr. Gossayn and Rhino Lodge] and homes of the landowner [Mr. de Jager] surrounding the substations. The landowners surrounding Mercury substation expressed anger at the way Eskom handles the relationship with them and therefore did not want to participate in the study. The PIP Team understood their frustration but it is our belief that for the purpose of the substation upgrade project sufficient opportunity to raise issues and objection has been given to the public.

The presentations at Public Meetings, Public Open Day Sessions and Focus Group meetings during the EIA process for the 765 kV lines also included discussions on substations upgrades.

The information outlined above gives the PIP Team confidence that the public participation process for substations upgrade to be sufficient and therefore request the authority to approve the application for exemption on the basis of the information submitted.

Appendix 1: Authority Consultation



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e-mail: delno@telkomsa.net
CK No: 2002/087973/23

The Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Management
Department: Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Private Bag X447
Pretoria, 0001

Date: 30 June 2006

Attention: Ms Mosili Ntene

Dear Ms Ntene

Applications for Exemption for the expansions of Mercury Substation in the Free State Province

Eskom herewith applies for exemption for the above substation expansions according to section 28A(1) of the Environmental Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989. At the time of lodging the application for the above project the extent and design of the substations was unknown. However, it should be noted that although not included in the study application, the expansions, once known were covered in the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The following has been undertaken throughout the projects to inform the public and authorities about the proposed expansions:

- a. All three substations have been addressed in the full EIAs done for the Zeus-Mercury and Zeus-Perseus 765kV line projects
- b. The Zeus & Mercury Substations were addressed in the Zeus-Mercury 765kV line EIA
- c. The Perseus Substation was addressed in the Zeus-Perseus 765kV line EIA.
- d. All were addressed in the Draft and Final Scoping Reports
- e. All were presented at the public open days in the Scoping Phase
- f. All were presented in the Key Stakeholder Workshops in the Scoping Phase.
- g. All were addressed in the Draft EIRs and final EIRs
- h. All were presented at the public meetings during the EIA phase.
- i. All affected landowners have been made aware of the planned expansions during the power line EIAs.

Following the submission of the application forms by hand to yourself by Jean Beater of PBA International some three weeks ago, I would like to confirm the way forward subject to your approval. As part of the way forward we propose the following:

1. A separate briefing document will be prepared for each site setting out the environmental impacts assessed in the power line EIAs.
2. The planned expansions will be advertised in local newspapers (English and Afrikaans) relevant to each site.
3. All directly affected landowners will be revisited as part of this exercise and their approval sought for the expansion.
4. Input from relevant municipalities will also be sought.
5. Notices will be placed on site.
6. Input from all specialists who worked on the power line project will be sought regarding the environmental impacts of the proposed expansions.
7. A 28-day comment period will be held from the date of first advertisement placed for each site.

Your comments and recommendations regarding the proposed way forward would be appreciated and we trust this approach meets with your approval.

In the meantime, I would be very grateful if you could provide me with copies of the application forms submitted by Jean Beater such that we can make these available on the web site as part of our records for public scrutiny.

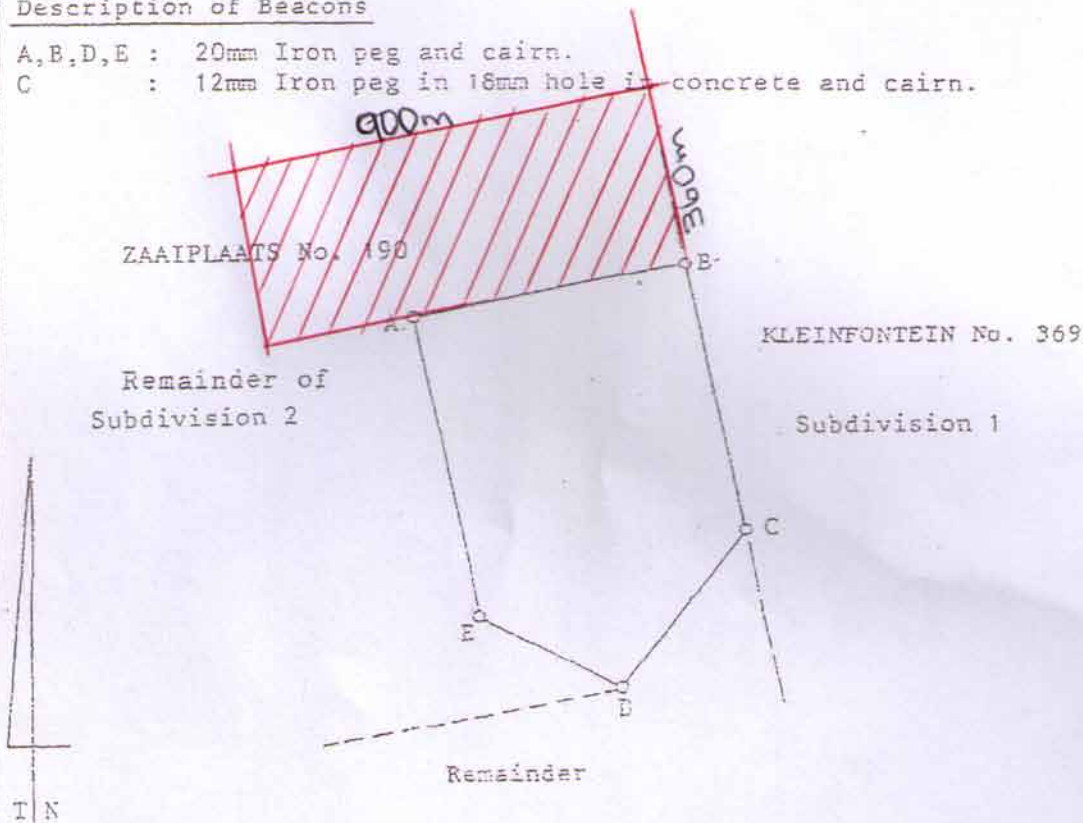
Yours sincerely,

GM Mahlangu
082 854 9538

SIDES Metres	ANGLES of DIRECTION	CO-ORDINATES System Lo 27° X			S.G.No. 543/1990
		Y	X		
		Constants	+ 0,00	+2 900 000,00	
AB	559,09	258 26 31	A + 18 238,62	+ 87 418,90	Approved for Surveyor- General
BC	584,01	348 27 38	B + 17 690,87	+ 87 306,88	
CD	417,73	36 36 35	C + 17 574,04	+ 87 879,08	1990-06-19
DE	324,09	119 00 20	D + 17 823,35	+ 88 214,25	
EA	651,67	168 19 44	E + 18 106,79	+ 88 057,10	
	Kroon 37 (141)	▲	+ 16 893,43	+ 88 256,43	
	Kroon 11 (305)	▲	+ 21 746,65	+ 86 847,90	

Description of Beacons

A, B, D, E : 20mm Iron peg and cairn.
C : 12mm Iron peg in 18mm hole in concrete and cairn.



The figure ABCDE
represents 41,2079 hectares of land being
Subdivision 3 of the farm ZAAIPLAATS No. 190

situate in the Administrative District Viljoenskroon Province of ORANGE FREE STATE
Surveyed in December 1988 and by me J.S. Vaughan
September 1989 J.S. VAUGHAN
Land Surveyor

This diagram is annexed to Deed of <u>TSCB 190</u> No. <u>3710/1956</u> dated <u>1956-06-01</u> i.o. <u>Transfer/Grant</u> ESCOM No. <u>2879/1959</u>	The original Diagram is No. <u>3710/1956</u> <u>Transfer/Grant</u> No. <u>2879/1959</u>	File S.R. No. <u>140/1990</u> Comp. No. <u>HP-2B</u> Act/Art. <u>70/1970</u> Art./Sec. <u>2(a)(1)</u>
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Registrar of Deeds



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, 0001 • Fedsure Building, 315 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, 0002. Tel: (+27 12) 310 3911 Fax: (+27 12) 322 2682

Ref: 12/12/20/829

Tel: (012) 310 3031 Fax: (012) 320 7539 e-mail mntene@deal.gov.za

Enquiries: Ms Mosili Ntene

Mr Moses Mahlangu
Margen Industrial Services
P.O Box 12822
LERAATSFONTEIN
0138

Dear Mr Mahlangu

Fax: (013) 656 2233

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF MERCURY SUBSTATION NEAR VIERFONTEIN, FREE STATE, TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROPOSED 765KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINES.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your application, dated 30 June 2006, addressed to the Free State DTEEA, submitted to this department regarding the above-mentioned matter. You have submitted this application in order to comply with the requirements of Government Notice No. R. 1183 of 5 September 1997.

As per the requirements of Government Notice No. R. 1183, your organisation is hereby advised to carry out the activities as proposed in your application covering letter, and to submit the relevant documentation as discussed during your pre-application meeting with this department, to this department as well as the relevant provincial department. Please use the above reference number in all future correspondence with this department.

Yours sincerely

Ms Pam Yako
Director – General
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Letter signed by: M Ntene
Designation: Deputy Director, Env. Impact Mngt
Date: 15/09/2006

Muqesho wo zwa Vhupo na Vhuendeleleshango • Li Tikhi le Tesimondzwa nokuVakasha • Isobe lemiCimbi yokusiNqongileyo naKhankeho
Ndzawulo ya Tinheka & Mbango • Departement: Omgewingsake en Toerisme • Letapha la Tikoloho le Bohan'nieudi • Letapha la Bojanala
Kgoro ya Tikologo le Boeti • Umnyango wezeBhuduluko nokuVakasha • Umnyango WezeMvelo NokuVakaha



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CK No: 2002/087973/23

The Deputy Director: Environmental Impact Management

Date: 12 December 2006

Department: Environmental Affairs and Tourism

Private Bag X447

Pretoria, 0001

Attention: Ms Mosili Ntene

DEAT Ref: 12/12/20/827

Dear Ms Ntene

Applications for Exemption for the expansion of Mercury Substation in Free State Province

Eskom applied for exemption for the above substation expansion in accordance with section 28A(1) of the Environmental Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989 on 30 June 2006. All the actions suggested in this application in order to fulfill Departmental requirements for exemption were authorized by your Department in a letter dated 15-09-2006.

Attached to this letter is relevant documentation outlining actions undertaken to fulfill the above requirements and include a report on the public participation process that was followed and input from the specialists who worked on the associated power line project. They assessed the impact of the proposed expansion from various disciplines. Overall, the impact of the expansion of the Mercury substation is assessed as been low.

Following the submission of the above documentation, it is understood that exemption for the substation expansion is confirmed. Copies of the same documentation have been forwarded to the Free State Department of Tourism, Environmental and Economic Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

GM Mahlangu

082 854 9538

Member: GM Mahlangu



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001 • Fedsure Building, 315 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, 0002. Tel: (+27 12) 310 3911 Fax: (+27 12) 322 2682

Ref: 12/12/20/829

Tel: (012) 310 3031 Fax: (012) 320 7539 e-mail mntene@deat.gov.za

Enquiries: Ms Mosili Ntene

Mr Moses Mahlangu
Margen Industrial Services
P.O Box 12822
LERAATSFONTEIN
0138

Dear Mr Mahlangu

Fax: (013) 656 2233

EIA APPLICATION: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF MERCURY SUBSTATION NEAR VIERFONTEIN, FREE STATE, TO ACCOMMODATE PROPOSED 765KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINES.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your report supporting your application for exemption, dated December 2006, submitted to this department regarding the above-mentioned matter. You have submitted this report in order to comply with the requirements of the departmental letter dated 15 September 2006, requirements of GN R. 1183 of 5 September 1997 and the subsequent decision-making process.

A decision on the matter would be made once comments on this report have been received from Free State, Department of Tourism, Environmental and Economic Affairs. It is assumed that you have already sent a similar document to the above-mentioned provincial department.

Yours sincerely

Ms Pam Yako
Director – General
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Letter signed by: D Smit
Designation: Director, Env. Impact Eval (Acting)

Date: 03/01/2007.



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: 12/12/20/829

Tel: (012) 310 3491 Fax: (012) 310 3688 e-mail mntene@deat.gov.za

Enquiries: Ms Mosili Ntene

Ms Carol Streaton
Eskom Holdings Limited: Transmission, Land and Rights
P O Box 1091
Johannesburg
2000

Fax: (011) 800 3917

Dear Ms Streaton

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 28A OF THE ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION ACT, 1989: EXTENSION OF MERCURY ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION

I refer to your request of 30 June 2006 regarding the above-mentioned matter.

The department has evaluated your request and associated Environmental Impact Report for the Zeus-Mercury 765kV Transmission line, site plans and drawings and the report detailing your public participation process followed, dated December 2006, pertinent to the above-mentioned application.

Your organisation is hereby exempted from the fulfilment of GN R.1183 of 5 September 1997, in respect of the activity mentioned above, from the submission of a separate Environmental Impact Report. The report submitted for the Zeus-Mercury 765kV Transmission line have covered the extent and assessment of the impacts associated with the proposed extension of the Mercury substation by approximately 50ha to allow for the installation of 765kV equipment

By virtue of the power delegated to me in terms of section 33 (1) of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989), I hereby in terms of section 28A of the said Act, exempt Eskom Transmission Services from further compliance with the requirements of Regulation 1183 for the :

The extension of Mercury substation by approximately 50ha, to upgrade the substation to 765 kilovolt.

The development entails the construction of the following as per the site layout drawing TD-1133 A in Appendix 2 of your report dated December 2006 drafted in support of you application for exemption:

- The extension and construction of the terrace, drainage system, foundations and internal access roads.
- The installation of 765kV transformers and ancillary oil catchment dams required for spill prevention.

Munsho wa zwa Vhupo na Yivundelamashango • Litiko le Tesmondzawo netaKuvakasha • Isabe IsimiCimbi yokuaNggongileyo noKhenketho Ndzawulo ye Tihaka & Mbango • Departement: Ompewingsake en Toarisme • Lefapha la Tikoloho le Bohankhadi • Lefapha la Bojansi Kgoro ya Tikologo le Boali • UmNyango wezeBhudulux nokuVakalja • Umnyango Wezemvelo NokuVakasha

2.3 Monitoring and auditing

- 2.3.1 Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.
- 2.3.2 This department reserves the right to monitor and audit the development throughout its full life cycle to ensure that it complies with the conditions stipulated in the ROD and relevant EMP.

2.4 Transportation and handling of hazardous materials

- 2.4.1 During the construction phase of the development, an effective monitoring system must be put in place to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substance containing equipment during transportation, their handling and installation.
- 2.4.2 The transportation and handling of hazardous substances must comply with all the provisions of the Hazardous Substances Act, (Act No.15 of 1973), associated regulations as well as SABS 0228 and SABS 0229 codes.

2.5 Compliance with other legislation

Authorisation is granted in terms of Section 22 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No.73 of 1989). Eskom shall also ensure compliance with the following environmental related legislation:

- Archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 60 years are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). Should any archaeological artefacts be exposed during vegetation clearing or excavation for the purpose of laying foundations, construction in the vicinity of the finding must be stopped. An archaeologist must be called to the site for inspection. Under no circumstances shall any artefacts be destroyed or removed from the site. The South African Heritage Resource Agency must be contacted to this effect. Their recommendations regarding the specific site should then be included in the construction EMP and be adhered to.
- Should fill material be required for any purpose, the use of borrow pits must comply with the provisions of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) administered by the Department of Minerals and Energy.

3 KEY FACTORS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1 There is a clearly defined need and justification for the proposed development.
- 3.2 The proposed development is connected to the boundaries of the existing Eskom Mercury substation.
- 3.3 This development is envisaged to benefit the whole country south of Bloemfontein in terms of security of electrical supply.



- The construction of a control building.
- Installation of steelwork and conductors and relocation of existing power lines should this be required to accommodate the new substation extension footprint.

Your proposal is exempted from further compliance with the regulations subject to the following conditions:

1. STANDARD CONDITIONS

- 1.1 This exemption is granted only in terms of section 22 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989) and does not exempt the holder thereof from compliance with any other legislation.
- 1.2 This exemption refers only to the activity as specified and described above. Any other activity listed under section 21 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (No. 73 of 1989) which is not specified above, is not covered by this exemption, and must therefore comply with the requirements of the Act, Government Notice R. 1183 and its amendments.
- 1.3 The conditions of this exemption must be brought to the attention of all persons (employees, sub-consultants, contractors etc.) associated with the undertaking of this activity and the applicant must take such measures necessary to bind such persons to these conditions. The applicant must carry out regular environmental audits to establish compliance with the conditions of this exemption.
- 1.4 The applicant must notify this department, in writing, within 48 hours thereof if any condition of the exemption is not complied with.
- 1.5 A copy of the exemption shall be available on site during construction and all staff, contractors and sub-contractors shall be familiar with or be made aware of the contents of this exemption.
- 1.6 Records relating to the compliance and non-compliance with the conditions of the exemption must be kept in good order. Such records shall be made available to this department within seven days of receipt of a written request by the department for such records.
- 1.7 The proposed development is authorised on condition that it adheres to the proposed site layout diagram submitted with this application. Any changes to the scope of works that may have a significant impact on the environment must be communicated to this department.
- 1.8 This department may add to, change and/or amend any of the conditions in this authorisation if, in the opinion of the department, the addition, change or amendment is environmentally justified.
- 1.9 This department must be notified, within 30 days thereof, of any change of ownership and /or project developer. Conditions imposed in this record of decision must be made known to the new owner and/or developer and are binding on the new owner and/or developer.

W. Hope

- 1.10 This department must be notified of any change of address of the applicant.
- 1.11 If any condition imposed in terms of this authorisation is not being complied with, the authorisation may be withdrawn after 30 days written notice to the applicant in terms of section 22(4).
- 1.12 Failure to comply with any of these conditions shall also be regarded as an offence and may be dealt with in terms of sections 29, 30 and 31 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989), as well as any other appropriate legal mechanisms.
- 1.13 The applicant shall be responsible for all costs necessary to comply with the above conditions unless otherwise specified.
- 1.14 Any complaint from the public during the construction of the facilities must be attended to as soon as possible to the satisfaction of the parties concerned. A complaint register must be kept up to date and shall be produced upon request.

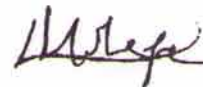
2 PROJECT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

2.1 Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

- 2.1.1 Eskom must submit a construction EMP to the competent authority for acceptance before commencement of any of the activities related to this authorisation. The EMP must include but not be limited to the following aspects:
 - Procedure for the demarcation of sites and working areas to limit environmental degradation and construction encroachment into areas not covered by the proposed footprint.
 - Procedure for the rehabilitation of all areas disturbed during the construction phase of the project excluding those areas where permanent structures are erected.
 - Procedure for the siting, demarcation and management of construction camps, sanitation, ablution and housing facilities as well as material storage areas used by the contractor. All work areas must be supplied with proper sanitation facilities by the contractor.
 - Measures for the management and rehabilitation of access roads to individual construction areas that will not become permanent roads upon completion of construction. Any new road constructed for any purpose as part of this authorisation, must comply with the relevant SANS codes.
 - Procedures for waste avoidance, minimisation and/or disposal of waste at an appropriate facility.
 - A storm water management plan that complies with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's standards must be compiled and implemented.
 - The protection of any unknown heritage sites likely to be impacted by the development, should such sites be found during any phase of the project.
 - Provisions for harvesting of any medicinal plants that may occur on site prior to site clearance if such plants can not be relocated.
 - Measures for the protection of indigenous vegetation where such is not affected by the physical footprint of the development or ancillary infrastructure and associated construction works.
 - Provision for plant search and rescue of protected and endangered species which should be done before commencement of any construction related activity.

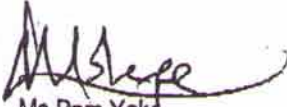


- Measures aimed at controlling alien vegetation, invasive plant species and weeds must be implemented and must form part of the construction EMP. Priority for vegetation management should be given to the prevention of re-infestation of disturbed areas where construction is completed.
 - Monitoring and management of noise and dust pollution levels during the construction phase.
 - A fire control management plan for implementation on site.
 - Measures for the implementation of site specific erosion and sediment and dust control measures during the construction phase of the project.
- 2.1.2 Once accepted by DEAT, the construction EMP will be seen as a dynamic document. However, any changes to the EMP must be submitted to the Department for acceptance before such changes could be effected.
- 2.1.3 Compliance with the accepted construction EMP must form part of all tender documentation for all contractors working on the project and must be endorsed contractually.
- 2.2 Environmental Control Officer (ECO)**
- 2.2.1 Eskom must appoint a suitably qualified Environmental Control Officer (ECO) who would on behalf of Eskom, on a regular basis monitor the project compliance with conditions of the Exemption conditions, environmental legislation and conditions stipulated in the relevant EMP. The cost of the services of the ECO shall be borne by Eskom.
- 2.2.2 The ECO is responsible for the issuing of a Non-Conformance Report (NCR) if non-compliance is noted and all NCR's shall be registered with the Department. The principles of rectify and repair should precede the issuing of an NCR. The Applicant has the duty to respond in writing to all NCR's raised.
- 2.2.3 The ECO must be appointed one month before the start of construction and the authorities must be notified of such an appointment for communication purposes.
- 2.2.4 The ECO shall submit an environmental compliance report on a quarterly basis, in writing, to the Department, addressed to the Director, Environmental Impact Evaluation and copy Eskom with such report. This report shall include a description of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO. This report must clearly reflect the reference number above.
- 2.2.5 The ECO shall maintain the following:
- A site diary
 - Copies of all quarterly reports submitted to the Department
 - A schedule of current development activities including the monitoring of such activities
 - A register of audits and audit findings
 - A complaints register
- 2.2.6 The ECO shall remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is handed over to Eskom by the contractors for operation.



- 3.4 The area concerned is already impacted on by previous development and there is an existing substation where construction will take place.

Based on the above findings the Department's conclusion is that the activity will not lead to a substantial detrimental effect on the environment, that potential detrimental impacts can largely be mitigated to acceptable levels and that the principles of section 2 of NEMA can largely be upheld.



Ms Pam Yako

Director - General

Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

Letter signed by: Lebogang Molefe

Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 7/3/2007