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**WILDLIFE AND
ENVIRONMENT
SOCIETY OF SA**
People caring for the Earth

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27 February 2007

COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE GAMMA SUB-STATION

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 land fills for depositing solid wastes.

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 must 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.

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 than no *in situ* heritage resources are degraded/destroyed, as pointed out in the scoping report.

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 than no rare plant species occur on the proposed site for development.

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).

Chairperson