

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd
– Gauteng Operations Unit



**FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE ELIM-TARLTON
132kV LINE SERVITUDE T-OFF TO WOLVEKRANS
WITHIN THE WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,
GAUTENG PROVINCE**

J35566

ORIGINAL

June 2017

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1770

Head Office

54 Maxwell Drive, Woodmead 2191
Johannesburg, South Africa

Tel: +27 11 519 4600
Fax: +27 11 807 5670

www.gibb.co.za



BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(For official use only)

File Reference Number:

Application Number:

Date Received:

Basic assessment report in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

Kindly note that:

1. This **basic assessment report** is a standard report that may be required by a competent authority in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and is meant to streamline applications. Please make sure that it is the report used by the particular competent authority for the activity that is being applied for.
2. This report format is current as of **08 December 2014**. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the competent authority
3. The report must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. The report is in the form of a table that can extend itself as each space is filled with typing.
4. Where applicable **tick** the boxes that are applicable in the report.
5. An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.
6. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
7. This report must be handed in at offices of the relevant competent authority as determined by each authority.
8. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted.
9. The signature of the EAP on the report must be an original signature.
10. The report must be compiled by an independent environmental assessment practitioner.
11. Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party must be provided with the information contained in this report on request, during any stage of the application process.
12. A competent authority may require that for specified types of activities in defined situations only parts of this report need to be completed.
13. Must a specialist report or report on a specialised process be submitted at any stage for any part of this application, the terms of reference for such report must also be submitted.
14. Two (2) colour hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the report must be submitted to the competent authority.
15. Shape files (.shp) for maps must be included in the electronic copy of the report submitted to the competent authority.

SECTION A: ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for the specialist appointed and attach in Appendix I.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

a) Describe the project associated with the listed activities applied for

1. Introduction

GIBB (Pty) Ltd, hereunder referred to as GIBB, has been appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited, Gauteng Operations Unit (Eskom) as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake an Environmental Authorisation (EA) process in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA) for the proposed construction of an approximately 2.5 kilometre (km), 132 kilovolt (kV) power line with associated substation for the Wolverkrans area. See **Appendix A** for maps indicating project locality and sensitive areas.

In terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended, Government Notice R. (GNR) No. 983 / GNR 327 or Listing Notice 1, Activity 11(i) is triggered by the proposed power line development and therefore a Basic Assessment (BA) is required as part of the impact assessment to obtain an EA (refer to Table 1 for the activity triggered). GIBB as the independent environmental consultant will undertake the Basic Assessment, EMPr and associated stakeholder engagement processes for the proposed project. The main objective of the Basic Assessment process is to identify and assess potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, and to compile appropriate mitigation measures.

Eskom had previously applied for EA to the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), under Reference number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1699, however since a lapse in regulated timeframes a new application has been lodged and a new reference number was assigned to the project. Therefore the **new** project reference number issued by DEA is **14/12/16/3/3/1/1770**.

Table 1: List of Activities Triggered in GN.R 983 (Listing Notice 1)

Detailed description of listed activities associated with the project	
GNR No. 983 / GNR 327, Activity 11. The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity (i) Outside urban areas or on industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.	The applicant, Eskom, is proposing to erect a 132kV power line connection for the transmission and/or distribution of electricity.

1.1. Details of Project Role Players

- **Details of Applicant**

Eskom is the applicant for the proposed construction of a 2.5km, 132kV power line as well as proposed substation for the Wolverkrans area. The details of the project applicant can be found in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Details of the Applicant

Project Applicant:		Eskom Holdings SOC Limited	
Contact Person:	Lutendo Moabi		
Physical Address:	Eskom Centre, 204 Smit Street, Braamfontein		
Postal Address:	Eskom Centre, 204 Smit Street, Braamfontein		
Postal code:	2001	Fax:	086 604 1274
Telephone:	011 711 2824	Cell:	079 412 0171

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

E-mail:	MoabiLM@eskom.co.za
---------	---------------------

- **Details of Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner**

GIBB is an integrated group of scientists, project managers, engineers and architects providing cost-effective solutions and specialist services in a wide range of disciplines. The multi-disciplinary consulting, management and design approach allows for the execution of projects in a holistic way, as this is believed to be the best approach to fully meet the needs of Clients.

The GIBB Environmental Services Division has a formidable track record and comprises highly qualified and experienced technical staff viz, environmental scientists and specialists, environmental engineers and geologists that collectively form the national environmental team. The team members have broad experience in terms of working on a range of environmental projects within the public and private sector. Refer to Table 3 for the EAP details. Refer to **Appendix H** for a full CV and more details for the EAP.

Table 3: Details of the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Project EAP:		GIBB (Pty) Ltd	
Contact Person:	Chevonne Stevens		
Physical Address:	Woodmead North Office Park, 54 Maxwell Drive, Woodmead, 2191		
Postal Address:	P.O. Box 2700, Rivonia		
Postal code:	2128	Fax:	
Telephone:	011 519 4712	Cell:	072 383 0382
Email:	cstevens@gibb.co.za		
Expertise:	Chevonne Stevens is an environmental scientist with five years of experience in the environmental management field. Her key experience includes Project Management, Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting, Basic Assessments, Client Liason, etc. She also has experience as an Environmental Control Officer (ECO). She has worked extensively in South Africa within the renewable energy sector.		

- **Details of Specialists**

The following specialist studies will be undertaken as part of the BA process. See Table 4 for the specialist contact details.

Table 4: Details of the Specialists

Name	Organisation	Specialist study conducted	Contact details
Johannes Mare	Sativa Travel And Environmental Consultants	Ecological Impact Assessment Wetland Impact Assessment	071 685 9247
Trust Mlilo	Sativa Travel And Environmental Consultants	Heritage Impact Assessment	071 685 9247
John Phipson	Mzansi Agriculture	Agricultural Potential	035 340 1940
Chanel Turner	Turnscapes	Social Impact Assessment	072 204 6094
Robyn Phillips	Avifauna	GIBB	031 267 6175

- **Details of Competent/Relevant Authority**

DEA is the identified Competent Authority (CA) to lodge the application of the proposed power line development, and also report to during the impact assessment process.

2. Project Location and Description

2.1. Project Location (Study Area)

At a regional level, the proposed study area falls within the Gauteng province and is situated within Mogale City Local Municipality which forms part of the West Rand District Municipality. The study site is located in the Wolvekrans area situated North West of Tarlton area. The site is adjacent to both the national road N14 providing the north south link between Tshwane areas to the north and Ventersdorp to the south and Rustenburg road (R24) providing the east west link between Krugersdorp through Tarlton and Magaliesberg to Rustenburg. The general topography of the area is relatively flat, with no steep gradients, however very slight slopes in some areas. The site is further surrounded by agricultural activities namely Flamingo Flowers Crop Productions and residential areas. Refer to Figure 1 below for a map indicating the proposed power line locality.

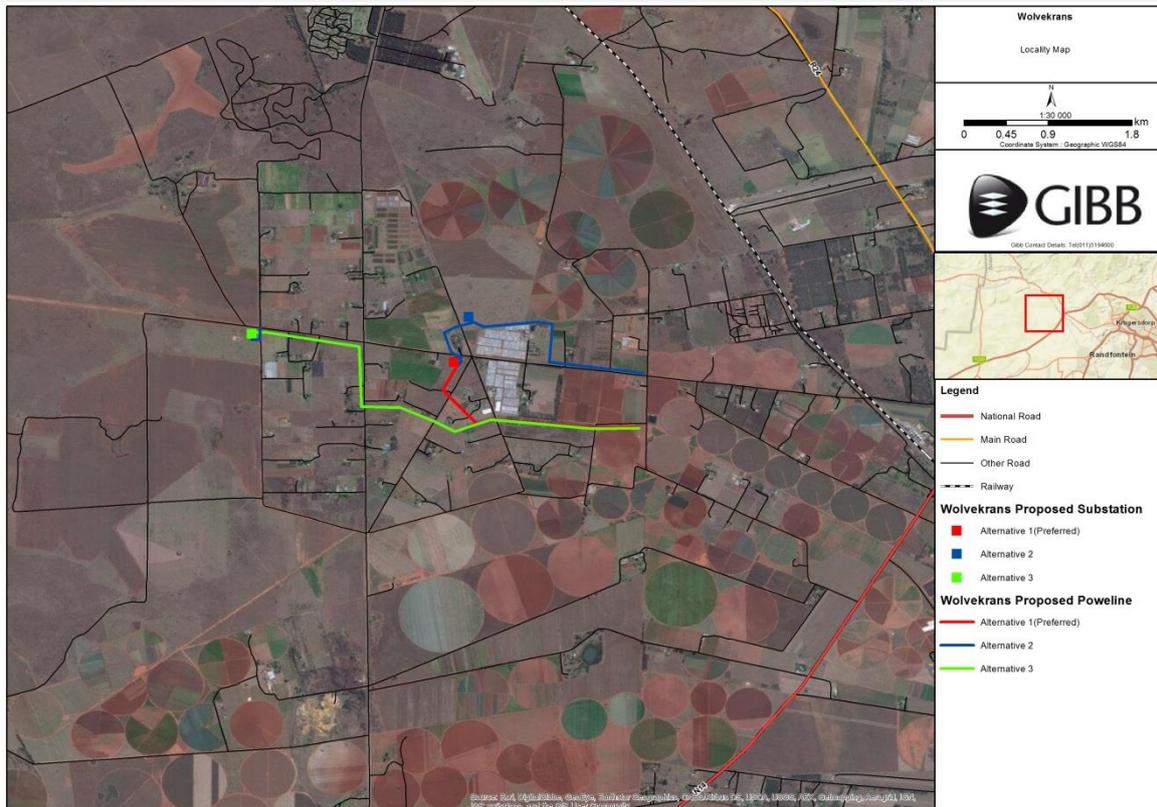


Figure 1: Locality Map showing proposed route alternatives and substation position (Larger image can be found in Appendix A)

As can be seen in Figure 1 above three route alternatives and three substation alternatives exist for the proposed 132kV power line development for the Wolvekrans area, these alternatives are outlined in Section 2 below.

2.2. Project Description

As mentioned above Eskom is proposing to construct an approximately 2.5km 132kV power line with associated substation in order to strengthen the existing electricity supply in the area, and as such provide the area with adequate and reliable power supply to meet current and future demands. Therefore, three route alternatives exist for the proposed 132kV Wolvekrans connection power line alignment. It is envisaged that the new route will T-off from the existing Elim-Tarlton 132kV line to the new proposed substation. The main purpose of the proposed powerline is to strengthen the existing electricity supply in the area, and as such provide the area with adequate and reliable power supply to meet current and future demands.

A 500 metre (m) corridor was assessed along each of the proposed routes (250m on either side of the routes) to determine the potential environmental impacts and significance of these impacts associated with the proposed power line development.

- **Technical Details of the Proposed 132kV Power Line and Substation**

- 132kV Towers/Pylons

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

It is envisaged that a combination of steel lattice and/or monopoles structures will be required for the proposed line and will be located within Eskom's servitude. The type of structure required will be dependent on a number of factors including geotechnical investigations, site terrain, span length, etc. These structures vary in specifications.

Lattice structures can weigh approximately 2 100 kilograms (kg) each and vary in height from approximately 20.7 to 32.1m. The estimated footprint size for this structure is 25 square metres (m²). The average span between two lattice towers is approximately 200m, but can vary between 250 and 375m depending on the ground profile (topography) and the terrain to be spanned.

Monopoles weigh approximately 1 200kg each and vary in height from approximately 17.4 to 30m. The size of the footprint depends on the type of pole, i.e. whether it is a self-supporting, guyed suspension or an angle strain pole structure. The size of the footprint ranges from 0.6 m x 0.6 m to 1.5 m x 1.5 m, with the larger footprint associated with the guyed suspension and angle strain pole used as bend/strain structures.

For the proposed line it is highly likely that double circuit twin tern and/or single tern will be used. **Appendix C** represents a range of structures that are feasible for the proposed 132kv powerline.

- Proposed Substation

One substation will be required for the proposed powerline project. Three route alternatives exist and similarly 3 substation alternatives exist and the substation alternative and the route alternatives are directly linked. As such, route alternative 1 is directly linked to substation alternative 1 and so on. The co-ordinates for the proposed substation alternatives are given in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Proposed Substation Alternative locations

Proposed Substation Name	Longitude	Latitude
Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 1	26° 4'17.78"S	27°35'42.87"E
Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 2	26° 4'8.97"S	27°34'33.59"E
Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 3	26° 4'3.35"S	27°35'47.91"E

The purpose of this substation is to effectively augment power in the Wolverkrans area to cater for current and future developments. The substation will have an approximate footprint of 1.5ha.

- The power lines will be constructed in the following simplified sequence

- Step 1: Determination of technically feasible alternatives.
- Step 2: Basic Assessment input into route selection and obtaining of relevant environmental permits and Authorisations.
- Step 3: Negotiation of final route with affected landowners.
- Step 4: Survey of the route.
- Step 5: Selection of best-suited structures and foundations.
- Step 6: Final design of distribution line and placement of towers.
- Step 7: Issuing of tenders and award of contract to construction companies.
- Step 8: Vegetation clearance and construction of access roads (where required).
- Step 9: Pegging of structures.
- Step 10: Construction of foundations.
- Step 11: Assembly and erection of structures.
- Step 12: Stringing of conductors.
- Step 13: Rehabilitation of disturbed area and protection of erosion sensitive areas.
- Step 14: Testing and commissioning.
- Step 15: Continued maintenance.

- The Substation will be constructed in the following simplified sequence

- Step 1: Survey of the site;

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Step 2: EIA and site specific EMPr;
 Step 3: Design of substation;
 Step 4: Issuing of tenders and award of contract;
 Step 5: Establishment of construction camp, vegetation clearance and construction of access roads (where required);
 Step 6: Construction of terrace and foundations;
 Step 7: Assembly and erection of equipment;
 Step 8: Connection of conductors to equipment;
 Step 9: Rehabilitation of any disturbed areas and protection of erosion sensitive areas;
 Step 10: Testing and commissioning; and
 Step 11: Continued maintenance.

- Servitude and Clearance For the centre line of proposed power line

The minimum servitude width required by Eskom for a 132kV distribution line is 31m wide (15.5m on either side of the centre line of the power line). The minimum vertical clearance to buildings, poles and structures (not forming part of the power line) must be 3.8m, while the minimum vertical clearance between the conductors and the ground is 6.7m. In addition the minimum vertical ground clearance is 7.5m in urban areas and 10.5m for national road crossings.

The minimum distance of a 132kV distribution line running parallel to proclaimed public roads is 95m from the centre of the distribution line servitude to the centre of the road servitude. The minimum distance between trees or shrubs and any bare phase conductor of a 132kV distribution line must be 4m, allowing for the possible sideways movement and swing of both the distribution line and the tree or shrub.

An 8m wide strip (4m on either side of the centre line) for the centre line of proposed power line is generally required to be cleared of all trees and shrubs down to within 100 millimetres (mm) of the ground within the servitude for stringing purposes only. Any tree or shrub in other areas that will interfere with the operation and/or reliability of the distribution power line must be trimmed or completely cleared. The clearance is only undertaken as a last option.

Vegetation clearance for the proposed power line is expected to be minimal as a result of the area already being highly transformed due to vegetation clearance for agricultural and mining activities. The clearance of vegetation will take place with the aid of a surveyor along approved profiles and in accordance with the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), and in accordance with the minimum standards used for vegetation clearance during the preparation for construction of the proposed new distribution line as listed in Table 6 (Eskom, 2000) the Eskom Vegetation Management Standard 240-52456757.

Once the centre line has been cleared, the surveyor pegs every tower position and marks the crossing point with existing fences for new gate installation. Once the tower positions have been marked, the vegetation clearing team will return to every tower position and clear vegetation (in accordance with the EMPr) for assembling and erection purposes.

Table 6: Minimum Standards used for Vegetation Clearance

Item	Standard	Follow up
Centre line of the proposed distribution line	Clear to a maximum (depending on tower type and voltage) of an 8m wide strip of all vegetation along the centre line. Vegetation to be cut within 100mm of the ground. Treat stumps with herbicide.	Re-growth shall be cut within 100mm of the ground and treated with herbicide, as necessary.
Inaccessible valleys (trace line)	Clear a 1m strip for access by foot only, for the pulling of a pilot wire by hand.	Vegetation not to be disturbed after initial clearing – vegetation to be allowed to re-grow.
Access / service roads	Clear a maximum (depending on tower type) 5m wide strip for vehicle access within the maximum 8m width, including de-stumping/cutting stumps to ground level, treating with a herbicide and re-compaction of soil.	Re-growth to be cut at ground level and treated with herbicide as necessary.
Proposed tower position and proposed support /	Clear all vegetation within proposed tower position and within a maximum (depending on tower type) radius of 5m around the position, including de-stumping/cutting	Re-growth to be cut at ground level and treated with herbicide as necessary.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

stay wire position	stumps to ground level, treating with an herbicide and re-compaction of soil. Allow controlled agricultural practices, where feasible.	
Indigenous vegetation within servitude area (outside of maximum 8m strip)	Area outside of the maximum 8m strip and within the servitude area, selective trimming or cutting down of those identified plants posing a threat to the integrity of the proposed distribution line.	Selective trimming
Alien species within servitude area (outside of maximum 8m strip)	Area outside of the maximum 8m strip and within the servitude area, remove all alien vegetation within servitude area and treat with appropriate herbicide.	Cut and treat with appropriate herbicide.

- Foundations

The type of terrain encountered, as well as the underlying geotechnical conditions, determines the choice of foundation. The actual size and type of foundation to be installed will depend on the soil bearing capacity (actual sub-soil conditions). Strain structures require more extensive foundations for support than in-line suspension structures, which contribute to the cost of the construction of the line.

Foundations will be mechanically excavated where access to the pole position is readily available. The same applies to the pouring of concrete required for the setting of the foundations. Prior to erecting the poles and filling of the foundations, the excavated foundations will be covered in order to safeguard unsuspecting animals and people from injury. All foundations are back-filled, stabilised through compaction, and capped with concrete at ground level. The minimum working area required around a structure position is 20m x 20m.

- Insulators

Composite insulators have a glass-fibre core with silicon sheds for insulation and are used to insulate the conductors from the towers. Glass and porcelain have been used to insulate the conductors for many years. These products are, however, heavy and susceptible to damage by vandals, as well as contamination by pollution. Composite insulators are lightweight and resistant to both vandalism and pollution. Composite (Long rod type) insulators with silicone based weather-shed material will be used.

- Access

As far as possible, existing access roads and tracks will be used. It is anticipated that no additional roads will be required for the proposed project as ready access to the site exists. Access roads are required for the transportation of construction material as well as construction teams to the site and will also facilitate maintenance activities once the proposed power line has been constructed. Construction camps will be established at strategic positions to provide optimum access to the construction areas however, taking into consideration environmental sensitivities, if any. Eskom will make use of existing access roads for construction, operation and maintenance. Thus, the construction of additional access roads will not be necessary.

- Project Timing

Construction of the proposed power line will be approximately 12 to 18 months. The construction period will however depend on the season and environmental conditions in which construction is undertaken and may be fast tracked.

- Ongoing Maintenance

During the life span of the proposed distribution line, i.e. approximately 25 years, ongoing maintenance will be required to be performed from time to time. This maintenance work is undertaken by contractors employed by Eskom, and in compliance with the EMPr (once approved) and EA (if granted).

3. Description of Receiving Environment

3.1. Topography and Land-Cover

As per the ecological assessment undertaken by Sativa (Refer to appendix D) the topography of the area can be described broadly as plains with low relief. The area is that of slightly undulating plains that are dissected by prominent rocky chert ridges. The topography of the study area is flat to very flat plains with no prominent rocky ridges or rocky outcrops (koppies). No significant ravines, drainage lines, watercourse channels or even shallow valleys are present. The average gradient across the entire study area is 2,8%. The average height above sea level is mainly in the region of 1580m to 1600m.

3.2. Geology and Soils

The associated geology and soils of the veldtype in which the study area occurs is dolomite and chert of the Malmani Subgroup (Transvaal Super group) supporting mostly shallow Mispah and Glenrosa soil forms typical of the Fa land type, dominating the landscapes of this unit. Deeper red to yellow apedal soils (Hutton and Clovelly forms) occur sporadically, representing the Ab land type (Mucina & Rutherford, 2006).

3.3. Climate

The study area is within the summer rainfall area of South Africa. The study area is situated within the higher rainfall areas of South Africa as can be seen from the map below (Figure 2). Krugersdorp's average annual rainfall is about 614mm, with the highest rainfall been in February and the lowest in July. The average monthly minimum and maximum temperatures figures are shown in the figure 3 below. The study areas climate is very similar to that of Krugersdorp and Tarlton. The study area does experience frequent frost in the winter months of May to August.

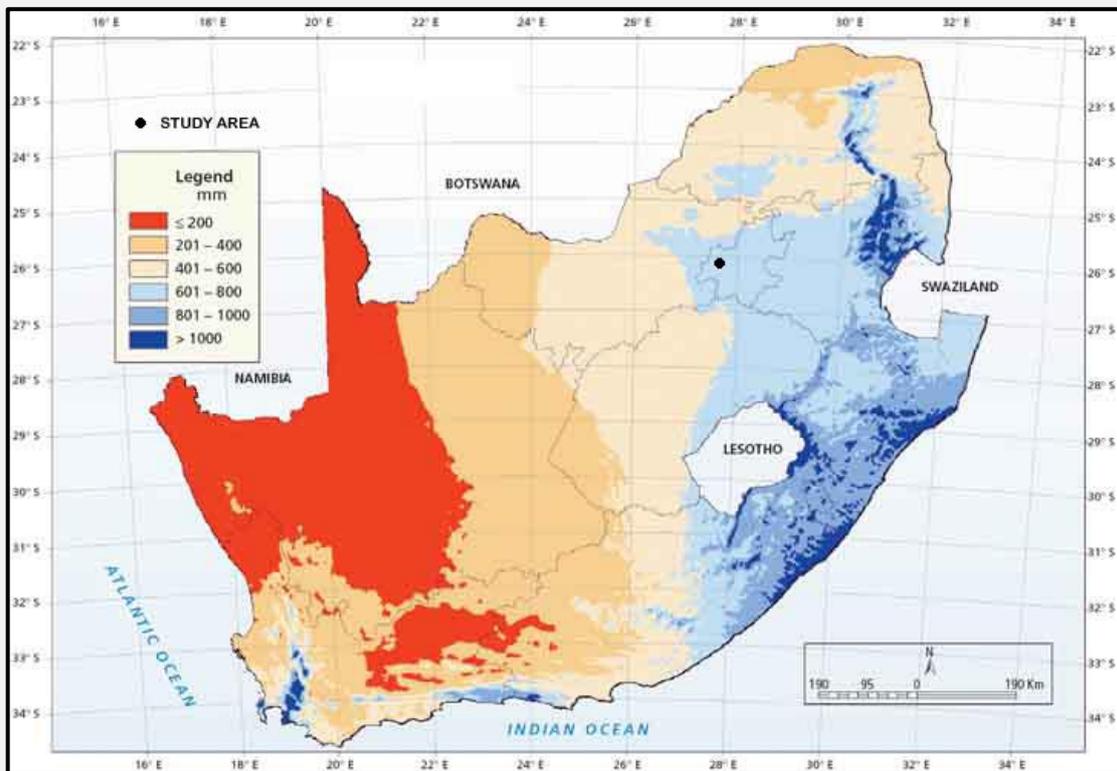


Figure 2: Rainfall averages for South Africa

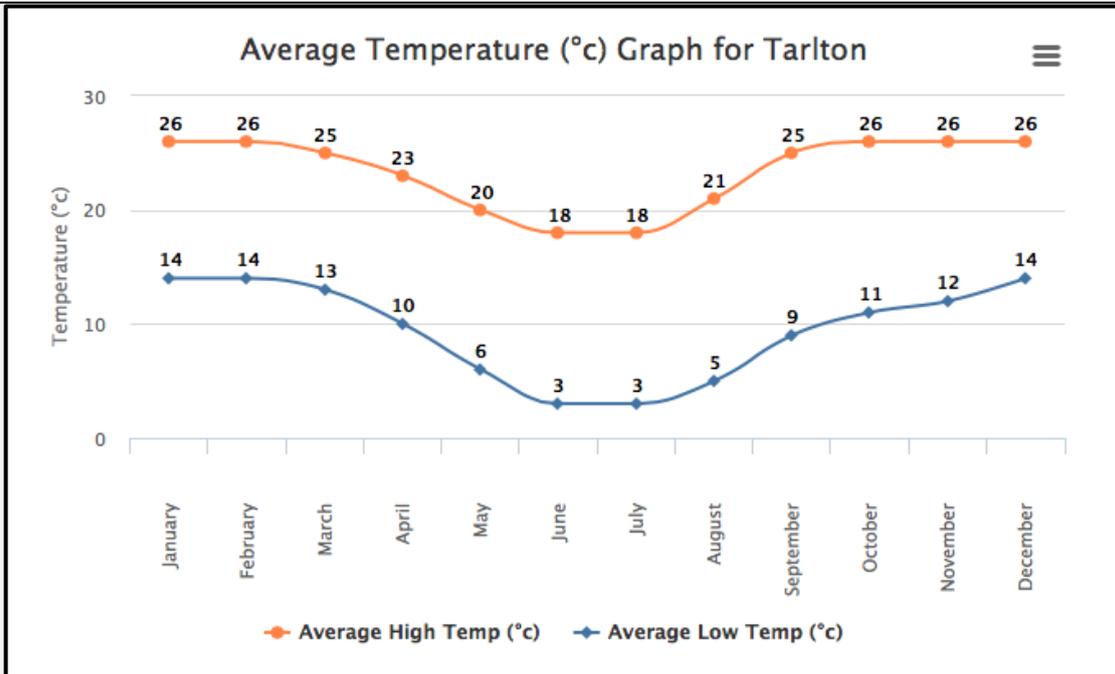


Figure 3: Average monthly min & max temperatures for Tarlton

3.4. Hydrology

As described in the wetland assessment (refer to Appendix D) undertaken by Sativa for the project there are no watercourses in the study area. There are no perennial rivers, non-perennial rivers, streams, wetlands or seasonal drainage lines in the study area, or even in the immediate surround. The area is very flat with no steep gradients or contours. There are no distinctive channels formed from stormwater run-off, such as drainage lines or even erosion dongas.

The closest large perennial / semi-perennial rivers to the study site are the Magalies River to the north, Bloubankspruit (Stream) to the east and the Brandvlei Stream to the south (Figure 4). From the centre point of the study site the three watercourses are approximately 5km, 5km and 4km away, respectively. The only bodies of open water present are farm dams. These dams are used primarily for irrigation purposes.

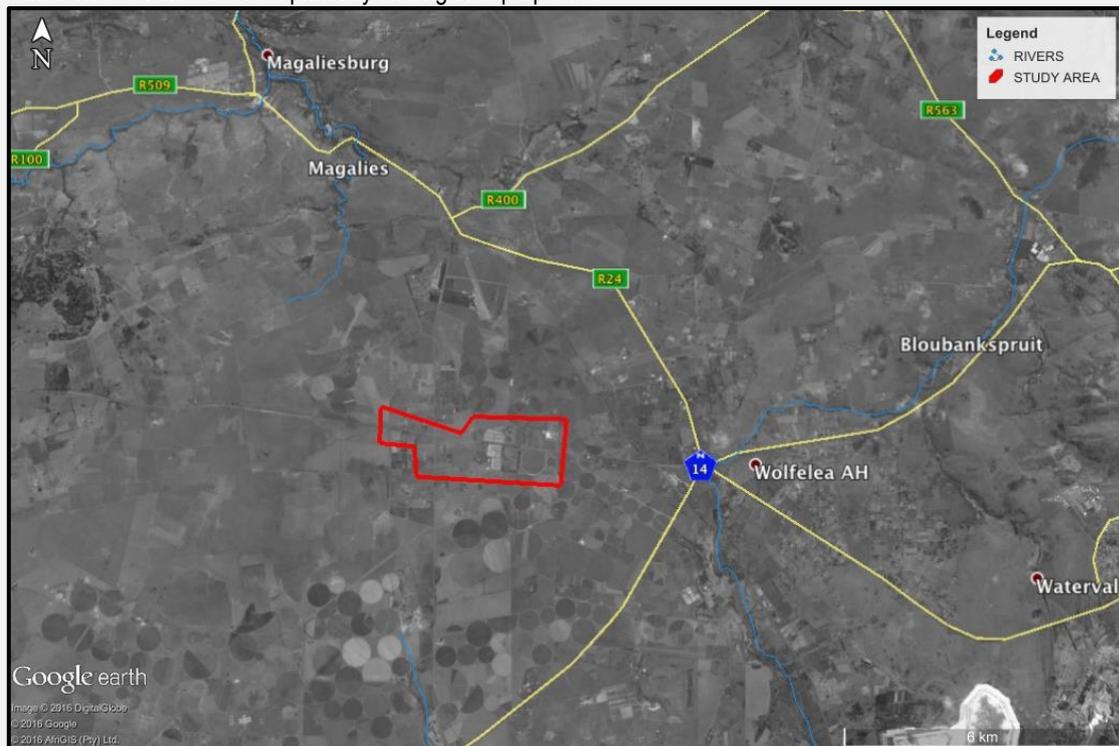


Figure 4: watercourses in relation to the study area

3.5. Vegetation

The Ecological assessment (Refer to Appendix D) undertaken by Sativa identifies that the study area is situated exclusively within Carletonville Dolomite Grassland, which is part of the larger Grassland Biome and Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion of South Africa. The conservation status of Carletonville Dolomite Grassland is considered vulnerable. However, the vegetation composition of the study area is not rich in species. The area is within an area of intensive agriculture, primarily in the form of cultivated and irrigated lands. A number of large multispan greenhouses are also present. These are used for cut flower production. Open grassland areas surrounding the greenhouses and cultivated lands are routinely mowed and kept short. No pristine grassland exists in the study area. The study area does not contain any rocky ridges, rocky outcrops (koppies) or wetlands and stream areas. This too limits the variety of floral species and natural habitats of the study site. No red data (endangered & threatened) floral species were observed during field investigations. According to the SANBI database no red data species have been recorded in the study area.

3.6. Fauna

No red data or priority faunal species were encountered during field investigations. No large- or medium sized mammals are expected to occur.

b) Provide a detailed description of the listed activities associated with the project as applied for

Listed activity as described in GN 983, 984 and 985	Description of project activity
Example: <i>GN 734 Item xx xx): The construction of a bridge where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</i>	<i>A bridge measuring 5 m in height and 10m in length, no wider than 8 meters will be built over the Orange river</i>
GN No. R. 983 / GNR 327, Activity 11. The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – (i) Outside urban areas or on industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.	The applicant, Eskom, is proposing to erect a 132 kV power line connection for the transmission and/or distribution of electricity.

2. FEASIBLE AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

“alternatives”, in relation to a proposed activity, means different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to—

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

Describe alternatives that are considered in this application as required by Appendix 1(3)(h), Regulations of 2014. Alternatives must include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity (NOT PROJECT) could be accomplished in the specific instance taking account of the interest of the applicant in the activity. The no-go alternative must in all cases be included in the assessment phase as the baseline against which the impacts of the other alternatives are assessed.

The determination of whether site or activity (including different processes, etc.) or both is appropriate needs to be informed by the specific circumstances of the activity and its environment. After receipt of this report the, competent authority may also request the applicant to assess additional alternatives that could possibly accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed activity if it is clear that realistic alternatives have not been considered to a reasonable extent.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

The identification of alternatives must be in line with the Integrated Environmental Assessment Guideline Series 11, published by the DEA in 2004. Must the alternatives include different locations and lay-outs, the co-ordinates of the different alternatives must be provided. The co-ordinates must be in degrees, minutes and seconds. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection.

Description of Alternatives:

Three (3) route alternatives exist for the proposed Randfontein 132kV power line with an approximate distance of 13km.

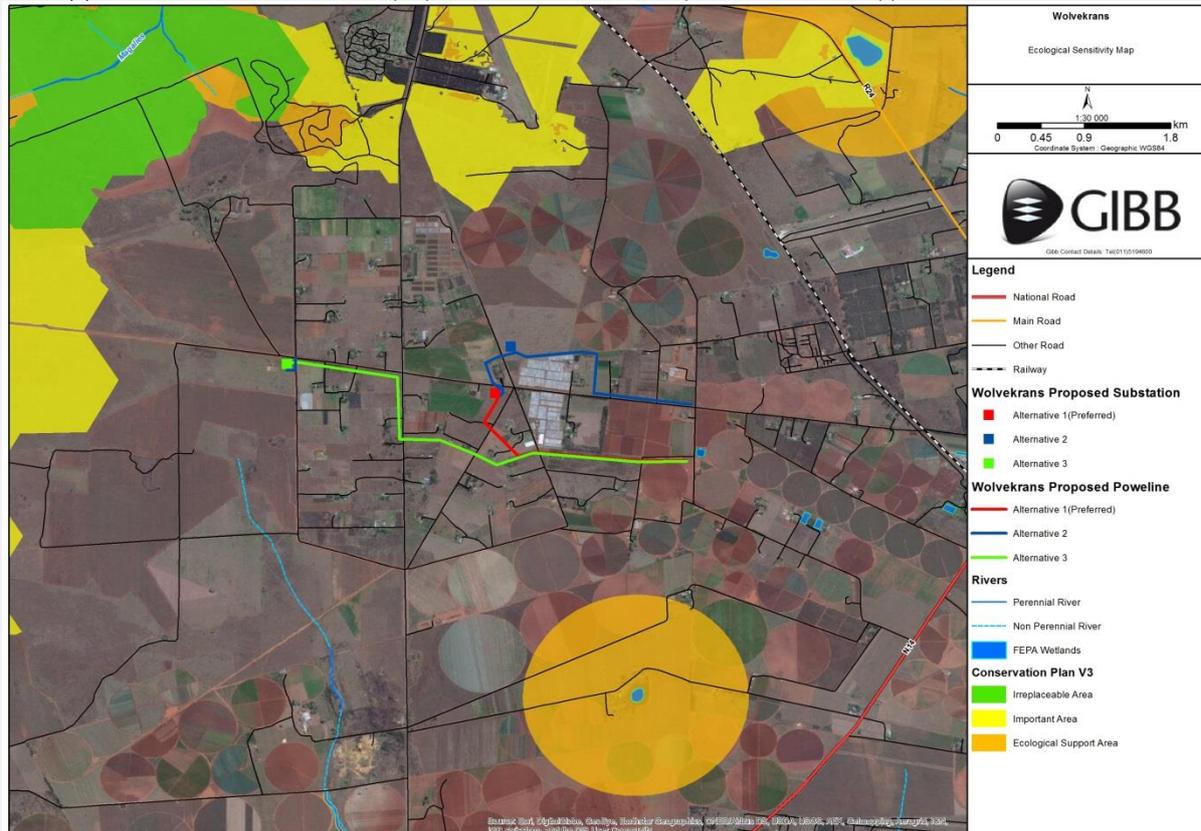


Figure 2: Map indicating proposed route alternatives and substation positions (Larger image can be found in Appendix A)

Route Alternatives

Route Alternative 1 is approximately 2,35km in length. The route runs between the proposed Wolvekrans Alternative 1 Substation site and the existing Elim-Tarleton 132kV line. The route alternative will T-off from the existing Elim-Tarleton line in the east of the study site and run about 1,67km in a westerly direction. This area is very flat and consists of active cultivated lands, greenhouses and some dormant cultivation and grazing lands along the south of the servitude. The servitude then turns northwest and north for about 0,7km up to the proposed substation site of Alternative 1. For the last 0,25km the servitude runs parallel with an existing 400kV Transmission line. This area is also grassland with old dormant farmlands.

Route Alternative 2 is approximately 2,7km long and runs predominantly in an east to west direction. It will also T-off from the existing Elim-Tarleton 132kV power line in the east. The servitude runs parallel to an existing sand road for just under a kilometre, before turning 90 degrees north for about 0,5km. Hereafter it makes another almost 90 degree bend west and arrives at the proposed substation Alternative 2 site after about 0,8km. Roads, cultivated lands and greenhouses border the entire length of the servitude. The exception is the last section of about 0,5km where there is open, unused cultivation / grazing lands (grassland) on the northern side only. The route alternatives of 1 & 2 are very similar in terms of habitat and length.

Route Alternative 3 is the longest of the three power line route alternatives at approximately 4,4km. The overall direction of the servitude is in an east-west direction. It follows the identical corridor of Alternative 1 for 1,7km from the T-off point on the Elim-Tarleton 132kV line, until just past the multispan greenhouses of the cut flower farm. From there it carries on in a

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

westerly direction, while Alternative 1 turns north. From here the servitude runs approximately 2,7km through agricultural holdings, scattered homesteads, along an existing tarred road, an existing sand road and through some open grassland. Route Alternative 3 is longer and crosses through more open grassveld than Alternatives 1 & 2.

Substation Alternatives

The proposed substation site for Alternative 1 is linked to the power line route alternative 1. The Site is situated next to an existing sand road (north side) and an existing 400kV power line (east side). The site is close to existing multispan greenhouses. The site was previously ploughed and grazed, but is presently dormant veld. The grassland is not in pristine condition. The area is flat and there are no rocky outcrops or watercourses on the site or even close to the site.

As in the case of Alternative 1 & 3, the proposed substation site for Alternative 2 is linked to the power line route alternative 2. The habitat of the site is very similar to Alternative 1. It is also within open veld area that was previously ploughed and sits on the edge of actively cultivated lands and greenhouses. There is also an existing sand road (west side) and 400kV power line (east side) of the proposed site. The site is flat with a few scattered rocks on the surface, but no rocky outcrops or watercourses are present on site, or close by.

Substation Alternative 3 is situated in the extreme west of the study area and is linked to the proposed power line route alternative 3. The site is within in a more open, grassland area. The area is routinely ploughed, cut or grazed. The site is within a very broad, shallow depression area. In times of high rainfall the area could become water-logged for a short period. Of all the Substation site alternatives, Alternative 3 is the least recommended. Besides being within a slight depression it is also situated within the best of the grassland present in the study area.

a) Site alternatives

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)	26° 4'17.78"S	27°35'42.87"E
Alternative 2		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 2	26° 4'3.35"S	27°35'47.91"E
Alternative 3		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 3	26° 4'8.97"S	27°34'33.59"E

In the case of linear activities:

Alternative:

Alternative S1 (preferred)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

Latitude (S):

Longitude (E):

Please also see the coordinates attached in Appendix J	
26° 4'17.26"S	27°35'45.29"E
26° 4'38.33"S	27°36'3.09"E
26° 4'40.47"S	27°36'47.10"E

Alternative S2 (if any)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

Please also see the coordinates attached in Appendix J	
26° 4'16.17"S	27°35'44.68"E
26° 4'4.15"S	27°36'7.22"E
26° 4'21.54"S	27°36'48.82"E

Alternative S3 (if any)

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle/Additional point of the activity
- End point of the activity

Please also see the coordinates attached in Appendix J	
26° 4'7.46"S	27°34'34.55"E
26° 4'37.11"S	27°35'31.79"E
26° 4'40.95"S	27°36'47.41"E

For route alternatives that are longer than 500m, please provide an addendum with co-ordinates taken every 250 meters along the route for each alternative alignment.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

In the case of an area being under application, please provide the co-ordinates of the corners of the site as indicated on the lay-out map provided in Appendix A of this form.

b) Lay-out alternatives

Layout alternatives are not applicable to the construction of the proposed Wolverkrans 132kV power line.

c) Technology alternatives

Alternative technologies have not been considered as the technology to be used is already considered as the most appropriate technology and in some cases has been specifically designed for the existing environmental conditions and terrain, as specified by standard Eskom specifications and international best practice. The pylons under consideration for this project are the most appropriate based on the terrain and design integrity as well as for the purpose for which the power line is to be constructed.

d) Other alternatives (e.g. scheduling, demand, input, scale and design alternatives)

No other alternatives have been considered

e) No-go alternative

The No-go alternative in the context of this project implies that the power line is not to be constructed. If the project does not proceed, the potential negative impacts related to the risk of collisions of birds, clearing of vegetation and soil erosion would be avoided. The surrounding area will however, be negatively affected due to the lack of a constant and reliable electricity supply. This will directly inhibit future developments and economic growth in the area. The need for stable and reliable power supply to meet current and future demand will outweigh the potential impacts to the surrounding environment. The impacts to the surrounding environment can be proactively mitigated to acceptable levels.

The No-Go Alternative is therefore not recommended.

Paragraphs 3 – 13 below must be completed for each alternative.

3. PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE ACTIVITY

a) Indicate the physical size of the preferred activity/technology as well as alternative activities/technologies (footprints):

Alternative:

Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 1
Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 2
Wolverkrans Substation Alternative 3

Size of the activity:

	150000 m ²
	150000 m ²
	150000 m ²

or, for linear activities:

Alternative:

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)
Alternative A2 (if any)
Alternative A3 (if any)

Length of the activity:

	2.35 km
	2.73 km
	4.42 km

b) Indicate the size of the alternative sites or servitudes (within which the above footprints will occur):

Alternative:

Alternative A1 (preferred activity alternative)
Alternative A2 (if any)
Alternative A3 (if any)

Size of the site/servitude:

	72 230 m ²
	84 630 m ²
	137 020 m ²

4. SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist?

YES ✓	NO
#	

If NO, what is the distance over which a new access road will be built

Describe the type of access road planned:

Include the position of the access road on the site plan and required map, as well as an indication of the road in relation to the site.

5. LOCALITY MAP

An A3 locality map must be attached to the back of this document, as Appendix A. The scale of the locality map must be relevant to the size of the development (at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map.). The map must indicate the following:

- an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any;
- indication of all the alternatives identified;
- closest town(s);
- road access from all major roads in the area;
- road names or numbers of all major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- all roads within a 1km radius of the site or alternative sites; and
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- locality GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the site for each alternative site. The co-ordinates must be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes must have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

6. LAYOUT/ROUTE PLAN

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as Appendix A to this document.

The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
- the current land use as well as the land use zoning of the site;
- the current land use as well as the land use zoning each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
- the exact position of each listed activity applied for (including alternatives);
- servitude(s) indicating the purpose of the servitude;
- a legend; and
- a north arrow.

7. SENSITIVITY MAP

The layout/route plan as indicated above must be overlain with a sensitivity map that indicates all the sensitive areas associated with the site, including, but not limited to:

- watercourses;
- the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by DWS);
- ridges;
- cultural and historical features;
- areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or infested with alien species); and
- critical biodiversity areas.

The sensitivity map must also cover areas within 100m of the site and must be attached in Appendix A.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

8. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached under Appendix B to this report. It must be supplemented with additional photographs of relevant features on the site, if applicable.

9. FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of at least 1:200 as Appendix C for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

10. ACTIVITY MOTIVATION

Motivate and explain the need and desirability of the activity (including demand for the activity):

1. Is the activity permitted in terms of the property's existing land use rights?	YES ✓	NO	Please explain
The power line and structures will be located in a servitude area that will be registered by Eskom upon completion of landowner consideration negotiations.			
2. Will the activity be in line with the following?			
(a) Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)	YES ✓	NO	Please explain
The Gauteng Provincial Spatial Development Framework (GPSDF) of 2011 has found that there will be, or already are drivers that are likely to, or are already affecting the provincial urban system, among these drivers is energy. The GPSDF further asserts that measures in prevention or mitigation of these impacts will be, amongst others, sector plans for electricity distribution.			
(b) Urban edge / Edge of Built environment for the area	YES	NO ✓	Please explain
The proposed distribution line falls outside the urban edge.			
(c) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Spatial Development Framework (SDF) of the Local Municipality (e.g. would the approval of this application compromise the integrity of the existing approved and credible municipal IDP and SDF?).	YES ✓	NO	Please explain
According to the MCLM IDP of 2015/16, the municipality still requires some electricity substations as well as upgrade to the existing substations as there are still houses without access to the electricity. The IDP of 2014/15 for the RLM highlights the lack of access to electricity in informal areas.			
(d) Approved Structure Plan of Municipality	YES ✓	NO	Please explain
The proposed project entails electricity infrastructure, which is compatible with Provincial and Local Municipality objectives to provide access to electricity. Additionally, the proposed development falls within the category of service infrastructure and as such will have no bearing on the municipality's Structure Plans.			
(e) An Environmental Management Framework (EMF) adopted by the Department (e.g. Would the approval of this application compromise the integrity of the existing environmental management priorities for the area and if so, can it be justified in terms of sustainability considerations?)	YES	NO ✓	Please explain
The Environmental Management Framework (EMF) aims to ensure that environmental limits to development are included in spatial planning documents. The need for spatial environmental information is critical both as a guide to areas that should be protected from excessive development, as well as to highlight to other planning disciplines the opportunities those environmental resources present to enhancing development. Further to this, the EMF aims to guide protection and enhancement of environmental assets as an integrated process with development patterns throughout the Gauteng Province.			
The proposed project is in line with the desired outcomes and objectives of the Environmental Management Framework adopted by the Department and will not compromise the integrity of the existing environmental management priorities for the area. Appropriate and effective mitigation measures, aligned to the desired outcomes, will be incorporated into the EMP and adhered to throughout the various development phases of the proposed project. It should be noted that the pylon structures will have a minimal impact on the vegetation and all impacts have been rated as low to medium negative by the ecological specialist given that the mitigation measures are implemented effectively.			
(f) Any other Plans (e.g. Guide Plan)	YES	NO ✓	Please explain
No other plans applicable			

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

3. Is the land use (associated with the activity being applied for) considered within the timeframe intended by the existing approved SDF agreed to by the relevant environmental authority (i.e. is the proposed development in line with the projects and programmes identified as priorities within the credible IDP)?	YES✓	NO	Please explain
As mentioned above the proposed project is line with the GPSDF and so the timeframes will adhere to the approved guidelines.			
4. Does the community/area need the activity and the associated land use concerned (is it a societal priority)? (This refers to the strategic as well as local level (e.g. development is a national priority, but within a specific local context it could be inappropriate.)	YES✓	NO	Please explain
Electricity provision in South Africa is a critical issue and it is impossible to create an economically sound country without a secure and reliable electricity source. As previously mentioned, the proposed development forms part of the country's strategies to meet future electricity consumption requirements. Given that the provision and maintenance of electricity supply has been highlighted as key areas of concern in both Municipalities' IDPs, increasing the capacity of the electrical infrastructure throughout the study area will provide a stable and reliable supply of electricity which will encourage development in areas which have previously been limited. In addition to this, the proposed development could also improve the livelihoods of local communities by assisting the Local Government in providing electricity to them. Local employment opportunities will also be created during the construction phase of the proposed development.			
5. Are the necessary services with adequate capacity currently available (at the time of application), or must additional capacity be created to cater for the development? (Confirmation by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report as Appendix I.)	YES✓	NO	Please explain
No additional services will be required to cater for the new electricity infrastructure. Water will be sourced commercially and locally from the municipality; however large volumes will not be required. During the construction phase, water will only be used for concrete batching activities and portable water will be required for drinking and cleaning activities. The municipality has been provided an opportunity to comment on this BAR. Proof of this communication (request for comments from the Municipality) will be included in the Final BAR to be submitted to the competent authority (DEA) for decision making.			
6. Is this development provided for in the infrastructure planning of the municipality, and if not what will the implication be on the infrastructure planning of the municipality (priority and placement of services and opportunity costs)? (Comment by the relevant Municipality in this regard must be attached to the final Basic Assessment Report as Appendix I.)	YES✓	NO	Please explain
Provision and maintenance of electricity supply has been highlighted as a key area of concern in municipal IDP. The development will contribute to the service infrastructure of the municipality and is therefore mandated to prioritise the upgrade of the electricity supply network. The relevant municipality has been provided an opportunity to comment on this BAR and proof of this communication will be included in the Final BAR for submission to the competent authority for decision making.			
7. Is this project part of a national programme to address an issue of national concern or importance?	YES✓	NO	Please explain
According to Statistics South Africa, a percentage of approximately 85.4 (national) and 84.6 (Gauteng Province) households have access to electricity with about 15.4% households relying on Gas (2.9%), Paraffin (10.3%), Wood (0.7%), Coal (0.3%) and other (1.2%) forms of energy source within the Gauteng Province. The project forms part of the national programme to address the need for social and economic growth within the local community of the Gauteng Province.			
8. Do location factors favour this land use (associated with the activity applied for) at this place? (This relates to the contextualisation of the proposed land use on this site within its broader context.)	YES✓	NO	Please explain
The proposed project area is not well developed; it is characterised by mine dumps, cultivated lands, open grasslands (that may be degraded due to the land use), existing electricity power lines, farmsteads, etc. The proposed power line will blend in with the existing land uses.			

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

9. Is the development the best practicable environmental option for this land/site?	YES✓	NO	Please explain
<p>Most of the power line route cuts through areas that are not developed or less developed, cultivated areas and areas that have been affected by mining, this means that there are less objects (high-rise buildings, etc.) affected by the power line and the environment in this area is not pristine. The regional importance of the development in terms of the improved reliability of electricity supply, economic and social growth in the surrounding communities, outweighs the potential loss of a minor amount of natural vegetation.</p>			
10. Will the benefits of the proposed land use/development outweigh the negative impacts of it?	YES✓	NO	Please explain
<p>Most of the negative impacts associated with the proposed development are of low significance following mitigation measures. Improved reliability of electricity supply and the increase of supply to the surrounding areas will result in both social and economic growth which is considered to be of high significance. The development will also create temporary employment opportunities during the construction and possibly the operational phases which are considered to be of a High positive significance.</p> <p>As mentioned above, there are existing informal settlements in both the affected municipalities which do not have access to electricity. This project will benefit these communities profoundly.</p>			
11. Will the proposed land use/development set a precedent for similar activities in the area (local municipality)?	YES	NO✓	Please explain
<p>The construction of the electricity grid is not driven by profit gains but to ensure service delivery to the surrounding area and communities. This will inherently have a positive impact on the surrounding communities and region in terms of social and economic growth as well as economic stability. Infrastructure for service delivery will not set a precedent for similar activities in the area at large. However, should additional power lines be required in the area in future it may be beneficial to align them parallel to one another in order to consolidate the impacts and lessen the severity thereof.</p>			
12. Will any person's rights be negatively affected by the proposed activity/ies?	YES	NO✓	Please explain
<p>Potentially affected landowners (both directly and adjacently affected) have been notified timeously (please refer to Appendix E) with regards to the proposed development and provided an opportunity to comment. A public meeting is also planned to be held during the public review period of the Final BAR during which time any concerns with regards to the proposed development can be voiced and discussed by all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).</p> <p>The proposed power line will ultimately be owned by Eskom during the operation and maintenance phases thereof. Therefore, the proposed servitude and power lines are being assessed on behalf of Eskom and all Eskom procedures will be implemented and adhered to with regards to landowner negotiations, land acquisition and access.</p> <p>As such, no juristic or natural person's right will be adversely affected.</p>			
13. Will the proposed activity/ies compromise the "urban edge" as defined by the local municipality?	YES	NO✓	Please explain
<p>According to the West Rand District Municipality's (WRDM) Growth and Development Strategy Report of 2012, the proposed development will not comprise the "urban edge".</p>			
14. Will the proposed activity/ies contribute to any of the 17 Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPS)?	YES✓	NO	Please explain
<p>The applicable SIP is SIP 10: Electricity transmission and distribution for all. However, it should be noted that this project is not directly related to this SIP and rather as an indirect contribution.</p>			

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

15. What will the benefits be to society in general and to the local communities?	Please explain
<p>The potential benefit of the proposed power line and associated infrastructure to the Gauteng Province are centred on the stimulation of the local economy through the additional employment opportunities created and supplied by the power line construction and maintenance thereof. Some of the surrounding households are still reliant on domestic fires, which in turn negatively impacts on the environment in terms of air quality as well as through the uncontrolled harvesting of woodlands.</p> <p>On a local and regional scale, economies will also be stimulated in the form of additional employment opportunities which will act as a catalyst promoting economic growth in the area. The proposed development will align with Eskom's long term planning for the area and will provide a platform for future electrification of the surrounding households.</p>	
16. Any other need and desirability considerations related to the proposed activity?	Please explain
<p>This project will not only benefit the communities of the affected municipalities but also the economic growth of these municipalities.</p>	
17. How does the project fit into the National Development Plan for 2030?	Please explain
<p>The NDP for 2030 has a vision that by 2030 South Africa will have an energy sector that promotes economic growth and development through adequate investments in energy infrastructure and the provision of quality energy services (NDP, 2011). It further emphasises the need to create 11 million more employment opportunities.</p> <p>Based on the abovementioned statement and requirements associated with achieving this goal, the proposed development is aligned with the NDP in that it will assist with the promotion of economic growth by means of producing electricity, strengthening the local electrical feed supply and additional employment opportunities.</p>	
18. Please describe how the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management as set out in section 23 of NEMA have been taken into account.	
<p>The proposed development has been adequately considered by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and identified specialists, and all potential impacts that may have a significant impact on the receiving environment have been considered and mitigated to acceptable levels as required by the EIA Regulations of 2014 published under NEMA. The findings of the specialist reports have been integrated into this assessment thus giving effect to holistic environmental management.</p> <p>The conclusions of the impact assessment have been concisely summarised to adequately inform decision-making by the Competent Authority (CA – the National Department of Environmental Affairs in this case). A comprehensive Public Participation (PP) process will be undertaken, which will conform to the requirements stipulated on Chapter 6 (GN No. R. 982) of the EIA Regulations of 2014. Furthermore, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be given an opportunity to review and comment on all documents and reports related to this project.</p>	
19. Please describe how the principles of environmental management as set out in section 2 of NEMA have been taken into account.	
<p>The primary objective of the proposed project is to provide stable electricity supply to the affected municipalities and surrounding areas. Provision of stable electricity supply with spare capacity will encourage future development in the area and will potentially improve the economic situation through additional employment opportunities.</p> <p>The social, economic and environmental impacts have been identified and rated by the EAP with assistance from various specialists. The Basic Assessment (BA) process was advertised and members of the public will be given the opportunity to register as I&APs as described in Section C: PP and a Comment and Response Report (CRR) will be attached to the Final BAR for DEA's decision making.</p> <p>Most of the negative impacts associated with the proposed project will occur during the construction phase. Where negative impacts are unavoidable, these will be mitigated accordingly as stipulated in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). Recommendations and mitigations presented in the EMPr will reduce the disturbance to ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity. Where negative impacts are unavoidable, strict management and rehabilitation is recommended to minimise these potential impacts. The use of potentially polluting substances will be managed according to requirements stipulated in the EMPr. The Developer is bound to the stipulations of the EMPr and will be held accountable should there be diversion from the EMPr.</p> <p>The workers will be given environmental health and safety training prior to commencing any work. Daily 'tool box talks' will be used to inform workers of any specific environmental issues or health and safety concerns relating to the activities or location. The cost of rehabilitation required due to pollution or unnecessary environment degradation resulting from the activity will be the responsibility of the developer.</p>	

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

11. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND/OR GUIDELINES

List all legislation, policies and/or guidelines of any sphere of government that are applicable to the application as contemplated in the EIA regulations, if applicable:

Title of legislation, policy or guideline	Applicability to the project	Administering authority	Date
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa	The constitution paved the way for the protection of the natural environment and heritage resources through the recognition of the rights to a safe and healthy environment.	South African Government	1996
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)	NEMA is the key environmental management legislation and states in section 2(4)(k) that “the environment is held in public trust for the people, the beneficial use of resources must serve the public interest and the environment must be protected as the people’s common heritage” thereby paving the way for EIA process to assess developments that may have a harmful impact on the environment	Department of Environmental Affairs	1998
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014	The EIA regulations describe the EIA process to be followed including the public participation process, and the listed activities that may have a harmful impact on the environment and must be assessed.	Department of Environmental Affairs	2010
National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999)	Under section 38(1) of the NHRA any person who intends to construct a power line or other linear development exceeding 300m in length must notify the responsible heritage resources agency of its intention.	South African Heritage Resources Agency	1999
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983)	In terms of section 6 of the Act, the Minister may prescribe control measures with which all land users have to comply. The control measure may relate to the regulating of the flow pattern of run-off water, the control of weeds and invader plants, and the restoration or reclamation of eroded land or land which is otherwise disturbed or denuded. This act will regulate construction activities to prevent the spreading of invasive species and to ensure successful rehabilitation of the receiving environment.	Department of Environmental Affairs	1983
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)	The Biodiversity Act provides for the management and protection of the country’s biodiversity within the framework established by NEMA. It provides for the protection of species and ecosystems in need of protection, sustainable use of indigenous biological resources, and equity in bio-prospecting. Some Critical Biodiversity Areas and vulnerable and endangered ecosystems have been identified by the vegetation specialist in the study site.	Department of Environmental Affairs	2004
National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998)	The proposed project may result in the disturbance or damage to a tree protected under the NFA.	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	1998
National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003)	The Protected Areas Act provides for the protection and conservation of ecologically viable areas representative of the country’s biological diversity, its natural landscapes and seascapes. The proposed routes both preferred and alternative routes runs through a non-statutory protected area.	Department of Environmental Affairs	2003
Electricity Regulations Act, 2006 (Act No. 4 of 2006)	This act establishes a nationally regulatory framework for the electricity supply industry, and provides for licenses and registrations as the manner in which generation, transmission, distribution, reticulation, trading and the import and export of electricity are regulated. The erection of new electricity distribution infrastructure is thus regulated in terms of this act.	National Energy Regulator of South Africa	2006

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Title of legislation, policy or guideline	Applicability to the project	Administering authority	Date
National Energy Act, 2008 (Act No. 34 of 2008)	The Act allows for the regulation, construction and maintenance of security of energy supply in South Africa. The act empowers the energy regulator to invest in the construction and maintenance of energy infrastructure, which includes the installation of electrical infrastructure in areas where the grids are operating at near maximum capacity as well as where electricity is needed for the successful operation of various economically empowering procedures.	South African National Energy Development Institute.	2008
National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996)	All the requirements stipulated in the NRTA regarding traffic matters will need to be complied with during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed power line.	South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL)	1996
Gauteng Spatial Development Framework	This GSDF was used to determine whether the proposed development is aligned to the outcomes and goals set in the Provincial Spatial Development Framework drawn up for the Gauteng.	Office of the Premier of the Gauteng	2012
Gauteng Biodiversity Conservation Plan	This Conservation plan provides the boundaries and areas where critical biodiversity zones and important support areas have been identified and accepted by the provincial authority. The location of the CBAs in the CTMM have been taken acknowledged and mitigation measures to minimise impacts on these CBAs have been proposed by the competent vegetation specialist	Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	2011
Gauteng EMF	The Gauteng EMF is a decision making tool that must be used to facilitate the consideration of applications for environmental authorisation in order to protect the natural resources within the district.	Gauteng Province	2014
Mogale City Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan	The IDP identifies the need to install, upgrade and increase the electricity grid in the local municipality, thus supports the proposed installation of distribution line.	Mogale City Local Municipality	2015/16

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

12. WASTE, EFFLUENT, EMISSION AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

a) Solid waste management

Will the activity produce solid construction waste during the construction/initiation phase?

YES	NO
Minimal	

If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

How will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

All solid waste which is not reusable will be collected at a central location and stored temporarily until removed to a lawfully registered landfill site. Waste will under no circumstances be allowed to be burned or buried on site. It must be noted that due to the nature of the project the amount of construction waste that will be generated will be minimal.

Where will the construction solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

The construction solid waste will be disposed of at an approved municipal landfill site.

Will the activity produce solid waste during its operational phase?

YES	NO
m ³	

If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

How will the solid waste be disposed of (describe)?

If the solid waste will be disposed of into a municipal waste stream, indicate which registered landfill site will be used.

Where will the solid waste be disposed of if it does not feed into a municipal waste stream (describe)?

If the solid waste (construction or operational phases) will not be disposed of in a registered landfill site or be taken up in a municipal waste stream, then the applicant must consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Can any part of the solid waste be classified as hazardous in terms of the NEM:WA?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, inform the competent authority and request a change to an application for scoping and EIA. An application for a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA must also be submitted with this application.

Is the activity that is being applied for a solid waste handling or treatment facility?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, then the applicant must consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA. An application for a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA must also be submitted with this application.

b) Liquid effluent

Will the activity produce effluent, other than normal sewage, that will be disposed of in a municipal sewage system?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, what estimated quantity will be produced per month?

m ³	
----------------	--

Will the activity produce any effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of on site?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, the applicant must consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

Will the activity produce effluent that will be treated and/or disposed of at another facility?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, provide the particulars of the facility:

Facility name:		
Contact person:		
Postal address:		
Postal code:		
Telephone:	Cell:	
E-mail:	Fax:	

Describe the measures that will be taken to ensure the optimal reuse or recycling of waste water, if any:

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

c) Emissions into the atmosphere

Will the activity release emissions into the atmosphere other than exhaust emissions and dust associated with construction phase activities?

YES	NO
YES	NO

If YES, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

If YES, the applicant must consult with the competent authority to determine whether it is necessary to change to an application for scoping and EIA.

If NO, describe the emissions in terms of type and concentration:

--

d) Waste permit

Will any aspect of the activity produce waste that will require a waste permit in terms of the NEM:WA?

YES	NO
-----	----

If YES, please submit evidence that an application for a waste permit has been submitted to the competent authority

e) Generation of noise

Will the activity generate noise?

YES	NO
YES	NO

If YES, is it controlled by any legislation of any sphere of government?

Describe the noise in terms of type and level:

--

13. WATER USE

Please indicate the source(s) of water that will be used for the activity by ticking the appropriate box(es):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal	<input type="checkbox"/> Water board	<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/> River, stream, dam or lake	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> The activity will not use water
---	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------	--

If water is to be extracted from groundwater, river, stream, dam, lake or any other natural feature, please indicate the volume that will be extracted per month:

litres	
YES	NO

Does the activity require a water use authorisation (general authorisation or water use license) from the Department of Water Affairs?

If YES, please provide proof that the application has been submitted to the Department of Water Affairs.

This power line does not cross any drainage lines and watercourse features along as there are none within close proximity to the proposed powerline. The report will be sent to the Department of Water Affairs for comments and instruction, if necessary.

14. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Describe the design measures, if any, which have been taken to ensure that the activity is energy efficient:

N/A

Describe how alternative energy sources have been taken into account or been built into the design of the activity, if any:

N/A

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

SECTION B: SITE/AREA/PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Important notes:

- For linear activities (pipelines, etc) as well as activities that cover very large sites, it may be necessary to complete this section for each part of the site that has a significantly different environment. In such cases please complete copies of Section B and indicate the area, which is covered by each copy No. on the Site Plan.

Section B Copy No. (e.g. A):

- Paragraphs 1 - 6 below must be completed for each alternative.

- Has a specialist been consulted to assist with the completion of this section? YES NO

If YES, please complete the form entitled "Details of specialist and declaration of interest" for each specialist thus appointed and attach it in Appendix I. All specialist reports must be contained in Appendix D.

Alternative 1 (Preferred alternative); Alternative 2 & Alternative 3:

Property description/physical address:	Province	Gauteng
	District Municipality	West Rand district Municipality
	Local Municipality	Mogale City Local Municipality (MCLM)
	Ward Number(s)	Ward 30 and 31
	Farm name and number	Refer to Appendix J for farm details
	Portion number	Refer to Appendix J for Portion details
	SG Code	Refer to Appendix J for SG codes

Where a large number of properties are involved (e.g. linear activities), please attach a full list to this application including the same information as indicated above.

List attached as Appendix J

Current land-use zoning as per local municipality IDP/records:	Agriculture/Residential
---	-------------------------

In instances where there is more than one current land-use zoning, please attach a list of current land use zonings that also indicate which portions each use pertains to, to this application.

- Is a change of land-use or a consent use application required? YES NO

1. GRADIENT OF THE SITE

Indicate the general gradient of the site.

Alternative S1 (Preferred Alternative):

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
------	-------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	-------------	------------------

Alternative S2:

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
------	-------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	-------------	------------------

Alternative S3:

Flat	1:50 – 1:20	1:20 – 1:15	1:15 – 1:10	1:10 – 1:7,5	1:7,5 – 1:5	Steeper than 1:5
------	-------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	-------------	------------------

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

2. LOCATION IN LANDSCAPE

Indicate the landform(s) that best describes the site:

2.1 Ridgeline	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.4 Closed valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.7 Undulating plain / low hills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Plateau	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.5 Open valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.8 Dune	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Side slope of hill/mountain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.6 Plain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.9 Seafront	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.10 At sea	<input type="checkbox"/>				

3. GROUNDWATER, SOIL AND GEOLOGICAL STABILITY OF THE SITE

Is the site(s) located on any of the following?

	Alternative S1 (Preferred):	Alternative S2:	Alternative S3:
Shallow water table (less than 1.5m deep)	YES NO✓	YES NO✓	YES NO✓
Dolomite, sinkhole or doline areas	YES✓ NO	YES✓ NO	YES✓ NO
Seasonally wet soils (often close to water bodies)	YES NO✓	YES NO✓	YES NO✓
Unstable rocky slopes or steep slopes with loose soil	YES NO✓	YES NO✓	YES NO✓
Dispersive soils (soils that dissolve in water)	YES NO✓	YES NO✓	YES NO✓
Soils with high clay content (clay fraction more than 40%)	YES NO✓	YES NO✓	YES NO✓
Any other unstable soil or geological feature	YES NO✓	YES NO✓	YES NO✓
An area sensitive to erosion	YES NO✓	YES NO✓	YES NO✓

If you are unsure about any of the above or if you are concerned that any of the above aspects may be an issue of concern in the application, an appropriate specialist must be appointed to assist in the completion of this section. Information in respect of the above will often be available as part of the project information or at the planning sections of local authorities. Where it exists, the 1:50 000 scale Regional Geotechnical Maps prepared by the Council for Geo Science may also be consulted.

4. GROUNDCOVER

Indicate the types of groundcover present on the site. The location of all identified rare or endangered species or other elements must be accurately indicated on the site plan(s):

Alternative 1 (Preferred alternative); Alternative 2 & Alternative 3:

Natural veld - good condition ^E	Natural veld with scattered aliens ^E	Natural veld with heavy alien infestation ^E	Veld dominated by alien species ^E	Gardens
Sport field	Cultivated land	Paved surface	Building structure or other	Bare soil

If any of the boxes marked with an "E" is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn't have the necessary expertise.

5. SURFACE WATER

Indicate the surface water present on and or adjacent to the site and alternative sites?

Perennial River	YES	NO✓	UNSURE
Non-Perennial River	YES	NO✓	UNSURE
Permanent Wetland	YES	NO✓	UNSURE
Seasonal Wetland	YES	NO✓	UNSURE
Artificial Wetland	YES	NO✓	UNSURE
Estuarine / Lagoonal wetland	YES	NO✓	UNSURE

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

If any of the boxes marked YES or UNSURE is ticked, please provide a description of the relevant watercourse:

There are no perennial rivers, non-perennial rivers, streams, wetlands or seasonal drainage lines in the study area, or even in the immediate surround.

A detailed study on ecological aspects including flora, fauna and wetlands was undertaken by a specialist (Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants) and the full reports are attached in **Appendix D**.

6. LAND USE CHARACTER OF SURROUNDING AREA

Indicate land uses and/or prominent features that currently occur within a 500m radius of the site and give description of how this influences the application or may be impacted upon by the application:

Natural area	Dam or reservoir	Polo fields
Low density residential	Hospital/medical centre	Filling station ^H
Medium density residential	School	Landfill or waste treatment site
High density residential	Tertiary education facility	Plantation
Informal residential ^A	Church	Agriculture
Retail commercial & warehousing	Old age home	River, stream or wetland
Light industrial	Sewage treatment plant ^A	Nature conservation area
Medium industrial ^{AN}	Train station or shunting yard ^N	Mountain, koppie or ridge
Heavy industrial ^{AN}	Railway line ^N	Museum
Power station	Major road (4 lanes or more) ^N	Historical building
Office/consulting room	Airport ^N	Protected Area
Military or police base/station/compound	Harbour	Graveyard
Spoil heap or slimes dam ^A	Sport facilities	Archaeological site
Quarry, sand or borrow pit	Golf course	Other land uses (describe)

If any of the boxes marked with an "N" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:

--

If any of the boxes marked with an "An" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:

--

If any of the boxes marked with an "H" are ticked, how will this impact / be impacted upon by the proposed activity? Specify and explain:

--

Does the proposed site (including any alternative sites) fall within any of the following:

Critical Biodiversity Area (as per provincial conservation plan)	YES	NO ✓
Core area of a protected area?	YES	NO ✓
Buffer area of a protected area?	YES	NO ✓
Planned expansion area of an existing protected area?	YES	NO ✓
Existing offset area associated with a previous Environmental Authorisation?	YES	NO ✓
Buffer area of the SKA?	YES	NO ✓

If the answer to any of these questions was YES, a map indicating the affected area must be included in Appendix A.

7. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES

Are there any signs of culturally or historically significant elements, as defined in section 2 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, (Act No. 25 of 1999), including Archaeological or paleontological sites, on or close (within 20m) to the site? If YES, explain:

YES ✓	NO
Uncertain	

According to the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) as amended (NHRA), Section 38, Subsection (1), an Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is required as part of the proposed project's impact assessment if one or more of the following are applicable to the proposed project.

Section 38 (1) of NHRA:

Subject to the provisions of Subsections (7), (8) and (9) of the same section, any person who intends to undertake a development categorised as:

- The construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development, or barrier exceeding 300m in length;
- The construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length;
- Any development or other activity which will change the character of a site:
 - Exceeding 5 000 m² in extent; or
 - Involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
 - Involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
 - The costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of Regulations by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (PHRA);
 - The re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m² in extent; or
- Any other category of development provided for in Regulations by SAHRA or PHRA;

Must at the very earliest stages of initiating such a development, notify the responsible Heritage Resources Authority (HRA) and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

Therefore a Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken By Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants for the proposed project and the results of which are summarised below. Further details pertaining to the study have been included as **Appendix D** to this report.

Alternative route 1

No significant heritage and/or archaeological material or sites were found along the proposed route alternative 1; the HIA report attributes this to the degraded nature of the proposed project site. Two informal burial sites were recorded during the undertaking of the HIA. Burial site WBS1 comprised if one traditional grave marked by oval shaped stone piles was identified approximately 50m from the proposed route alternative. Burial site WBS2 was identified approximately 60m from the propped route consisting of 7 graves located under thick vegetation cover. It is recommended that the line be shifted slightly more south to mitigate any impacts on these burial sites. No historical sites or monuments were uncovered during the impact assessment of this route alternative, apart from 5 abandoned and derelict homesteads along the proposed route. These structures were rated low significance due to their derelict nature.

Alternative route 2

Alternative 2 is similar in length to that of Alternative 1 and did not yield any significant heritage and/or archaeological material or sites. No historical sites or monuments were uncovered during the impact assessment of this route alternative. Nor were any burial ground or sites identified during the assessment.

Alternative route 3

As a large section of this alternative runs parallel to that of Alternative 1 the results of the 2 alternatives are similar in nature. However, this alternative is less preferred by the specialist as it the longest route and will therefore by its nature have a larger impact on the surrounding environment. No significant heritage and/or archaeological material or sites were found along the proposed route alternative 3; the HIA report attributes this to the degraded nature of the proposed project site. No historical sites or monuments were uncovered during the impact assessment of this route alternative, apart from 5 abandoned and derelict homesteads along the proposed route. These structures were rated low significance due to their derelict nature. Two informal burial sites were recorded during the undertaking of the HIA. Burial site WBS1 comprised if one traditional grave marked by oval shaped stone piles was identified approximately 50m from the proposed route alternative. Burial site WBS2 was identified approximately 60m from the propped route consisting of 7 graves located under thick vegetation cover. It is recommended that the line be shifted slightly more south to mitigate any impacts on these burial sites.

Alternative Substation 1

Alternative substation 1 site did not yield any confirmable archaeological sites or material. The affected landscape is similarly heavily degraded from previous and current agricultural land use. Based on the field study results and field observations, the study concluded that the receiving environment for the proposed substation development is of a low to

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

medium potential to yield previously unidentified archaeological sites during subsurface excavations and construction work associated with the proposed substation development. However, the substation construction has limited ground footprint, which in turn reduces the possibility to inflict a wider spatial impact. Furthermore, the study did not record any historical monuments and sites nor were any burial sites or graves identified.

Alternative Substation 2

As with Alternative 1, Alternative substation 2 did not yield any verifiable archaeological sites or material. Agricultural fields, grazing land, rail and powerlines, roads and other associated infrastructures can be found within the entire project area. As such, due to the nature of the surrounding environment, the chances of recovering significant archaeological materials in situ, particularly significant open settlement sites were seriously compromised and limited. The study did not record any historical monuments and sites nor were any burial sites or graves identified.

Alternative Substation 3

Similarly to Alternative 1 and 2, Alternative substation 3 is positioned as such that no archaeological sites or material were identified during the assessment. The affected landscaped is heavily degraded from previous and current agricultural land use and from infrastructure developments. It is assumed that the chances of recovering significant archaeological materials were seriously compromised and limited due to infrastructural developments and other destructive land use patterns such as deep ploughing, road works and residential areas that already exist within the project area. The study did not record any historical monuments and sites nor were any burial sites or graves identified. The study therefore concluded that the proposed Alternative substation 2 site would cause minimum damage to archaeological remains.

If uncertain, conduct a specialist investigation by a recognised specialist in the field (archaeology or palaeontology) to establish whether there is such a feature(s) present on or close to the site. Briefly explain the findings of the specialist:

An HIA has been undertaken and forms part of this report, please see **Appendix D**.

Will any building or structure older than 60 years be affected in any way?

YES	NO ✓
YES	NO ✓

Is it necessary to apply for a permit in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)?

If YES, please provide proof that this permit application has been submitted to SAHRA or the relevant provincial authority.

8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER

a) Local Municipality

Please provide details on the socio-economic character of the local municipality in which the proposed site(s) are situated.

Level of unemployment:

According to the MCLM IDP 2015/16 the households earn an income of between R96 000 - R153 800 annually. The household's income has increased across the board, with an average 2.34% increase from 2001 to 2011. In addition, households with no income have increased by 3 191 in the past ten years from 15 028 in 2001 to 18 219 in 2011. MCLM has 37.15% employed people compared to Gauteng's 36.40%, whereas the unemployed makes up 13.02% for MCLM and 12.10% for the overall province. The employment level has dropped by 13% from 50.16% in 2007 to 37.16% in 2011. Unemployed people and discouraged work seekers make up 10.29% of the total population. The unemployment maybe much higher, since 28% of the population over 15 year did not indicate employment status.

The RLM, as per the LRM IDP 2014/15 has about 104 848 of working age population with 70 652 characterised as economically active and 34 196 not economically active. The employed are about 51 480 and unemployed approximately 19 172. The unemployment rate is at 27.1%.

Economic profile of local municipality:

The economic growth of the local municipality area, otherwise known as Gross Geographical Value (GGV), refers to value of all goods produced and services rendered in a geographic space, such as MCLM (Mogale City Local Municipality IDP, 2015/16). The GGV dropped from 5% to negative growth of -3% in 2008/2009, from mid-2009 to the end of 2010 the growth had been hovering between 2% and 3%.

The economic activities of the RLM, according to the RLM IDP 2014/15 are characterised by agriculture, forestry & fishing, mining & quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas & water, construction, and wholesale & retail trade. In 2002, mining & quarrying and manufacturing made a yield of more than 20% of which this was less than 20% for both in 2011.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Wholesale & retail trade was a little more than 10% in 2002, the yield increased in 2011. The rest of the activities had a yield far less than 10% in 2002, these saw an increase in 2011 but were still less than 10%.

Level of education:

As per the MCLM IDP 2015/16 in 2009 a total number of 13 231 persons had no schooling compared to the figure of 16 743 registered in 2006. This indicates that illiteracy level has declined with a figure of 3 512. By 2009, the total number of persons who received schooling from grade 0 – 11 was at 149 687 compared to figure of 142 461 registered in 2006. These figures indicate that additional 7 226 persons received education in this category. In 2009 a total number of 74 632 persons had a matriculation certificate compared to the figure of 68 207 registered in 2006.

b) Socio-economic value of the activity

What is the expected capital value of the activity on completion?	Approximately R 90 Million	
What is the expected yearly income that will be generated by or as a result of the activity?	Unknown	
Will the activity contribute to service infrastructure?	YES ✓	NO
Is the activity a public amenity?	YES	NO ✓
How many new employment opportunities will be created in the development and construction phase of the activity/ies?	Eskom undertakes an open tendering process to employ suitable contractors to carry out the construction phase of the development. Contractors are required to employ local unskilled labourers for non-specialized work.	
What is the expected value of the employment opportunities during the development and construction phase?	This can only be established once the contractor is appointed	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	Approximately 40%	
How many permanent new employment opportunities will be created during the operational phase of the activity?	None. Eskom will maintain the power line once constructed	
What is the expected current value of the employment opportunities during the first 10 years?	N/A	
What percentage of this will accrue to previously disadvantaged individuals?	N/A	

9. BIODIVERSITY

Please note: The Department may request specialist input/studies depending on the nature of the biodiversity occurring on the site and potential impact(s) of the proposed activity/ies. To assist with the identification of the biodiversity occurring on site and the ecosystem status consult <http://bgis.sanbi.org> or BGIShelp@sanbi.org. Information is also available on compact disc (cd) from the Biodiversity-GIS Unit, Ph (021) 799 8698. This information may be updated from time to time and it is the applicant/ EAP's responsibility to ensure that the latest version is used. A map of the relevant biodiversity information (including an indication of the habitat conditions as per (b) below) and must be provided as an overlay map to the property/site plan as Appendix D to this report.

a) Indicate the applicable biodiversity planning categories of all areas on site and indicate the reason(s) provided in the biodiversity plan for the selection of the specific area as part of the specific category)

Systematic Biodiversity Planning Category				If CBA or ESA, indicate the reason(s) for its selection in biodiversity plan
Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA)	Ecological Support Area (ESA)	Other Natural Area (ONA)	No-Natural Area Remaining (NNA)	N/A

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

b) Indicate and describe the habitat condition on site

Habitat Condition	Percentage of habitat condition class (adding up to 100%)	Description and additional Comments and Observations (including additional insight into condition, e.g. poor land management practises, presence of quarries, grazing, harvesting regimes etc).
Natural	10%	Parts of the site are categorised as grassland with patches of thicket or dense bush.
Near Natural (includes areas with low to moderate level of alien invasive plants)	15%	Parts of the proposed project area are characterised by alien invasive plants, please refer to the Ecological Impact Assessment Report.
Degraded (includes areas heavily invaded by alien plants)	15%	Some parts of the proposed project site are manifested with alien plants, as described in the Ecological Impact Assessment Report which forms part of the impact assessment of this BA report.
Transformed (includes cultivation, dams, urban, plantation, roads, etc)	60%	Most of the area is cultivated with urban built-up, medium and high residential development as well as informal residential, plantation or woodlands, mining, etc.

c) Complete the table to indicate:

- (i) the type of vegetation, including its ecosystem status, present on the site; and
- (ii) whether an aquatic ecosystem is present on site.

Terrestrial Ecosystems		Aquatic Ecosystems						
Ecosystem threat status as per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)	Critical	Wetland (including rivers, depressions, channelled and unchanneled wetlands, flats, seeps pans, and artificial wetlands)			Estuary		Coastline	
	Endangered							
	Vulnerable							
	Least Threatened							
		YES	NO✓	UNSURE	YES	NO✓	YES	NO✓

d) Please provide a description of the vegetation type and/or aquatic ecosystem present on site, including any important biodiversity features/information identified on site (e.g. threatened species and special habitats)

An ecological impact assessment was undertaken by Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants for the proposed project, which has been summarised below. Further details pertaining to the assessment can be seen in **Appendix D** of this report.

Ecological Surveys:

Desktop and field surveys were undertaken to assess the ecological impact that may be posed by the proposed project to the proposed project site as well as the surrounding environment; during these investigations cognisance was taken of environmental features and/or attributes. These environmental features and/or attributes include the biophysical environment, the regional and site specific vegetation, the habitats ideal for potential red data fauna species, the sensitive floral habitats, the red data fauna and flora species, the protected fauna and flora species, and watercourses and water bodies.

Flora:

The study area falls primarily within the Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion, with a small section in the north within the Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion. In terms of veld types the study area and immediate surround is situated exclusively within the veld type of Carletonville Dolomite Grassland. The vegetation composition of the study area is not rich in species. The area is within an area of intensive agriculture, primarily in the form of cultivated and irrigated lands. A number of large multispan greenhouses are also present. These are used for cut flower production. Open veld areas surrounding the greenhouses and cultivated lands are routinely mowed and kept short. No pristine grassland exists in the study area. The best quality veld is to the east side of the study area. However, even these open grassland areas are routinely grazed, cultivated or the grass cut for cattle fodder. The result of intense cultivation over the years has led to a lack of indigenous tree and shrub species, as well as herbaceous species. The open veld is dominated by only a few grass species. A number of alien species (weeds) are present, especially along the edges of cultivated lands in the disturbed areas. The grassland areas are not overly populated with weeds. The study area does not contain any rocky ridges, rocky outcrops (koppies) or wetlands and stream areas. This too limits the variety of floral species and natural habitats of the study site.

No red data (endangered & threatened) floral species were observed during field investigations. According to the SANBI database no red data species have been recorded in the study area. Due to the intense and regular cultivation of the lands no red data species are expected to occur. Two vulnerable (*Melolobium subspicatum*, *Khadia beswickii*) and one near threatened (*Pearsonia bracteata*) species have been recorded in the greater region. However, these three species were not observed during field investigations and are not expected to occur. No protected tree species (as per the national and provincial lists) were found within the study area during field investigations. None are expected to occur either.

Fauna:

The eastern half of the study area is under intense agriculture. Most of the natural vegetation has been removed over the years. In reality, the grasslands in the eastern half of the study area have been transformed. For this and other reasons little fauna in terms of large- and medium-sized mammals and rodents are present. No large- or medium-sized mammals or reptiles were observed during field investigations. A few common species of birds and butterflies were observed, but no priority species. Red Data species, such as *Pyxicephalus adspersus* - Giant bullfrog and *Python natalensis* - Southern African python, may likely be present from time to time. However, due to the excessive amount of intense cultivation their presence will be very limited. During construction care should be taken to avoid any burrows, dens or nesting sites encountered. The area is home to a number of snake species such as Rinkhals (*Hemachatus haemachatus*).

Watercourses:

There are no perennial rivers, non-perennial rivers, streams, wetlands or seasonal drainage lines in the study area, or even in the immediate surround. The area is very flat with no steep gradients or contours. There are no distinctive channels formed from stormwater run-off, such as drainage lines or even erosion dongas.

SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICE

Publication name	Randfontein Herald and Krugersdorp News	
Date published	13 December 2016 and 11 January 2017	
Site notice position:	Latitude	Longitude
Kerk, Tarlton	26° 5'9.89"S	27° 39'48.74"E
Randfontein Golf Club	26° 9'22.52"S	27° 42'49.90"E
Randfontein Library	26° 10'54.20"S	27° 42'0.87"E
Wolvekrans 1 – on gravel road	26° 4'21.33"S	27° 36'38.32"E
Wolvekrans 2 – corner of ventersdorp road and gravel road	26° 4'10.50"S	27° 35'13.30"E
Date placed	9 January 2017	

Include proof of the placement of the relevant advertisements and notices in Appendix E1.

2. DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

Provide details of the measures taken to include all potential I&APs as required by Regulation 41(2)(e) and 41(6) of GN 733.

Key stakeholders (other than organs of state) identified in terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of GN 733:

Title, Name and Surname	Affiliation/ key stakeholder status	Contact details (tel number or e-mail address)
Refer to Appendix E.2 for a list of stakeholders		

Include proof that the key stakeholder received written notification of the proposed activities as Appendix E2. This proof may include any of the following:

- e-mail delivery reports;
- registered mail receipts;
- courier waybills;
- signed acknowledgements of receipt; and/or
- any other proof as agreed upon by the competent authority.

3. ISSUES RAISED BY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Summary of main issues raised by I&APs	Summary of response from EAP
<p>Comments from the Draft BAR review period have been included in the comment and response report (CRR) attached in Appendix E.3.</p> <p>This Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) has been on public review for the following periods: First Public Review period took place from 6 January – 6 February 2017, after which additional studies had to be undertaken and the Draft BAR Revision 2 was made available to the public for a second time during 12 April to 17 May 2017. As a result of lapsing regulated timeframes the proposed project was re-applied for through submission of new application form and the Draft BAR was placed on public review for a third time from 22 May – 22 June 2017.</p> <p>All comments received during these public review periods have been collated and included in the Comments and Response Report (Appendix E.3)</p>	

4. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

The practitioner must record all comments received from I&APs and respond to each comment before the Final BAR is submitted. The comments and responses must be captured in a comments and response report as prescribed in the EIA regulations and be attached to the Final BAR as Appendix E3.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

5. AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION

Authorities and organs of state identified as key stakeholders:

NAME	ORGANISATION	TEL/MOBILE	FAX	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS
Samu Mdlalose	Mogale City Local Municipality	011 951 2112		P. O. Box 94, Krugersdorp, 1740	
Gladys Mahlangu	Westonaria Local Municipality	011 411 0447	0114110196	P. O. Box 218, Randfontein, 1760	gladys.ngwana@randfontein.org.za
Hettie Buys	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: Directorate - Land Use and Soil Management	012 319 7556	012 329 5938	Conner Annie Botha and Union Street, Riveria, Pretoria	hettieb@daff.gov.za
Vongani Mhinga	Department of Water and Sanitation	012 392 1503		Bothongo Plaza East, 15th Floor, 285 Schoeman Street, Pretoria, 0002	mhingav@dws.gov.za
M. E. Tau	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DDG: Forestry and Natural Resources Management)	012 309 5713		Hamilton Building, 110 Hamilton Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0002	MmaphakaT@daff.gov.za
Maurice Mogane	Department of Public Transport, Roads and Works	011 355 7173	011 355 7243	Suige Life Building, 41 Simmons Street, Johannesburg	mauricem@gpg.gov.za
Thomas Ndou	Department of Economic Development	012 394 1001 082 416 7207		Block A, Floor 3, The DTI, 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, 0002	odgcorrespondency@economic.gov.za
Annelize Roesch	Rural Development and Land Reform	012 312 8503	012 323 6072	184 Jeff Masemola Street, Pretoria, 0002	aroesch@ruraldevelopment.gov.za
Maggie Mapula Modipa	Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development	011 355 5500	011 355 7457	Local Government Building, 17th Floor, Cnr Sauer and Commissioner Street, Johannesburg	mapula.modipa@gauteng.gov.za
Nhlanhla Ntjatje	Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport	011 355 7188	086 554 7265	8th Floor, South Tower, 41 Simmonds Street (Conner Pritchard), Johannesburg	nhlanhla.ntjatje@gauteng.gov.za
Tebogo Molokomme	South African Heritage Resources Agency - Gauteng	011 355 2609	011 355 2878	Surrey House, 35 Rissik Street, Johannesburg, 2000	tebogo.molokomme@gauteng.gov.za

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME	ORGANISATION	TEL/MOBILE	FAX	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS
Cindy Benyane	Commission on Restitution of Land Rights - Gauteng Regional Office	012 310 6620	012 324 5812	9 Bailey Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0002	cindy.benyane@drdlr.gov.za
Lizel Stroh	South African Civil Aviation Authority: Obstacle Specialist	011 545 1232		Building 16, Waterfall Park, Bekker Street & Treur Close, Midrand, Johannesburg, 1682	strohl@caa.co.za
Bonolo Tau	Telkom	012 311 3411 081 354 8335		152 Proes Street, Pretoria, 0002	tau.bm@telkom.co.za
Schalk du Plessis	Transnet SOC Ltd.	011 308 2771		Carlton Centre 150 Commissioner Street Johannesburg 200	Schalk.du_Plessis@transnet.net
Nono Gomez	SANRAL	012 426 6201	012 348 1512	48 Tambotie Avenue, Val de Grace, Pretoria	gomes@nra.co.za
Mosidi Makgae	Council for Geoscience	012 841 1911	012 841 1203	280 Pretorious Street, Silverton	mmakgae@geoscience.org.za
Cllr Thembi Matuwane	West Rand District Municipality - Environment	011 411 5204	086 613 9476	Cnr Sixth and Park Streets Randfontein	tmatuwane@wrdm.gov.za
Samu Mdlalose	Mogale City – Environmental Management	011 951 2112		Cnr commissioner and market streets Randfontein, krugersdorp	Samukelisiwe.mdlalose@mogalecity.gov.za
T Ndlovu	Municipal Manager Westonaria Local Municipality	011 278 3000		Neptune and Saturn Streets, Westonaria	mm@westonaria.gov.za
Lana Olivier	Randfontein Local Municipality	011 411 0051		Cnr Sutherland and Pollock streets, randfontein	lana.olivier@randfontein.gov.za

Include proof that the Authorities and Organs of State received written notification of the proposed activities as appendix E4.

In the case of renewable energy projects, Eskom and the SKA Project Office must be included in the list of Organs of State.

6. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Note that, for any activities (linear or other) where deviation from the public participation requirements may be appropriate, the person conducting the public participation process may deviate from the requirements of that sub-regulation to the extent and in the manner as may be agreed to by the competent authority.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Proof of any such agreement must be provided, where applicable. Application for any deviation from the regulations relating to the public participation process must be submitted prior to the commencement of the public participation process.

A list of registered I&APs must be included as appendix E5.

Copies of any correspondence and minutes of any meetings held must be included in Appendix E6.

SECTION D: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment of impacts must adhere to the minimum requirements in the EIA Regulations, 2014 and must take applicable official guidelines into account. The issues raised by interested and affected parties must also be addressed in the assessment of impacts.

1. IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Provide a summary and anticipated significance of the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that are likely to occur as a result of the planning and design phase, construction phase, operational phase, decommissioning and closure phase, including impacts relating to the choice of site/activity/technology alternatives as well as the mitigation measures that may eliminate or reduce the potential impacts listed. This impact assessment must be applied to all the identified alternatives to the activities identified in Section A(2) of this report.

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
Alternative 1 (preferred)				
Construction Phase				
<i>Increased soil erosion due to the removal of vegetation</i>	Direct Impact <i>Soil erosion and degradation</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake vegetation clearing during the dry season; • Only clear vegetation where absolutely necessary; • All construction vehicles must be kept in good working condition; • All construction vehicles must be parked in demarcated areas when not in use, and the soil in this area must be rehabilitated (if required); • Drip trays must be placed under construction vehicles when not in use; to collect any spillages/leaks if necessary; • If a hydrocarbon spillage occurs, clean it up immediately and dispose of at an appropriate registered landfill site; and • Stockpile areas will be decided and approved by the Project Manager and appointed ECO before construction commences on site and must not be located within drainage lines.
<i>Floral destruction and faunal displacement due to vegetation clearance activities taking place along the proposed power line alignments</i>	Direct impact <i>Loss of flora and fauna due to construction activities</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction impacts must be contained within the footprint of the pylon structures and/or the servitude routes of the power line; • Use existing access roads as far as possible;

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
<i>and servitude routes</i>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation clearance must be conducted systematically from the start to the end of the route to allow fauna to move away; • Avoid strip clearing; • Vegetation must be removed only where construction is to take place; • Sequential construction must occur in order to allow faunal species to move away from the area of disturbance; • Construction activities must be restricted to daylight hours when the majority of faunal species are inactive; • No animals may be snared, captured or wilfully damaged or killed; • Species such as tortoises and porcupines must be moved to surrounding areas if encountered on site and not collected as this is illegal; • During construction phase, existing access roads must be used where possible especially in the wooded habitats where a lot of vegetation will have to be removed if there is no access road; • Clearing of the servitude must be as narrow as possible to prevent major destruction of habitats; • No trees may be affected in the grassland habitats where sufficient space is available for the tweaking of pylon positions; • A road management plan must be compiled, showing allocated access points and roads, to prevent tracks all over the landscape; and • The removal of large sections of woodland in densely wooded areas must be avoided.
<i>Increased noise generation due to construction activities and the movement of construction vehicles</i>	<p>Direct impact <i>The construction activities will cause an increase in the ambient noise levels</i></p>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction time must be restricted to working hours (07:00-18:00) Monday to Friday excluding public holidays (unless prior permission is obtained from the landowners); • All noise and sounds generated during the proposed activity must comply with the relevant SANS codes and standards; • All construction equipment or machinery must be switched off when not in use;

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction equipment must be kept in good working condition; Plant and vehicles must be in good working order and inspected daily; and Use silencers on all equipment, where appropriate.
<i>Increased dust generation due to the clearing of vegetation, construction activities and earthworks</i>	Direct impact <i>Construction activities will cause an increase in ambient dust levels for a short period of time</i>	Very Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No potable water may be used for dust suppression (as far as is practically possible). Alternative dust suppression methods (such as shade cloths or dusticide) must be used instead; Water to be used sparingly and only where no water restrictions are in effect; Water to be sourced from an approved supplier; The option to use grey water must be investigated prior to construction; The soil must be dampened with water during/ after vegetation removal (where practical); The clearing of vegetation must be kept to the minimal; and Avoid unnecessary movement of construction vehicles on site.
<i>Increased occurrence of fires due to unmanaged fires and its increased severity due to human interference</i>	Direct impact <i>Increased risk of damage due to unmanaged fires</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The safety officer must control on-site fires; Firefighting equipment to be kept on site and serviced regularly; and No fires to be lit on site and smoking to occur in designated areas only.
<i>Increased damage to roads due to the continued travelling of vehicles on minor and gravel roads during the construction phase</i>	Direct impact <i>Increased damage to local roads due to increased traffic volumes</i>	Very Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit construction vehicles to 20km/h on access roads and keep to the speed limit on public roads; and Regular monitoring of roads for damage must be undertaken, followed by immediate repair of any damage resulting from use of heavy machinery.
<i>Increase in traffic volumes and associated congestion due to the transportation and construction vehicles travelling to and from the construction site</i>	Direct impact <i>Increase in traffic congestion due to the construction vehicles</i>	Very Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit construction vehicle movement during peak periods.
<i>Change in visual aesthetics due to construction activities, placement of construction equipment and disposal of construction waste material</i>	Direct impact <i>Adjacent residents may be visually impacted on by the unsightliness of the construction camp</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction vehicles must be kept in demarcated areas only so as to reduce the visual intrusion of the construction activities; During construction, all materials and stockpiles must be covered with tarps to prevent erosion, as well as dust, and to mitigate the visibility thereof (where

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
	<i>(depending on the location of the camp).</i>			required and as directed by the ECO); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction workers must ensure and implement good housekeeping practises to minimise the visual impact of waste and discarded materials; and • Construction activities to be kept to normal daytime working hours as far as possible to prevent the impact of floodlights and other sights during resting hours.
<i>Soil contamination due to spillage of hazardous substances, oil and fuel leaks at the construction site from the transportation and construction vehicles as well as accidental spillages</i>	Direct impact <i>Degradation of the soil due to spillages</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store fuels and chemicals in an impermeable bunded area; • Provide staff with hazardous materials training; • Chemical toilets to be used on site, grey water must be disposed of off-site at a licensed waste treatment works; • No storage of fuel on site, vehicles to be fuelled off-site; • No mixing of cement/concrete must take place within 30m of aquatic features or in natural vegetation; • No servicing or repair of vehicles on site (unless absolutely necessary); • No concrete mixing on site unless on a mortar board; • Water used to clean concrete off of machinery must be treated as grey water and disposed of at a licensed water treatment works; • Construction vehicles must be maintained on a regular basis so as to prevent oil spills/leaks; • Drip trays must be placed under vehicles when not in use; and • If a hydrocarbon spillage occurs, it must be cleaned up immediately and disposed of at an appropriate registered landfill site.
<i>Increased domestic waste generation (solid waste) and insufficient management on site</i>	Direct impact <i>Unsightly litter on site</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep waste in vermin proof bins with lids (as needed); and • Waste to be removed from site on a regular basis.
<i>Increased risk of alien invasion by vegetation species due to unmanaged vegetation clearing activities taking place on site</i>	Direct impact <i>Increase in alien invasive species due to vegetation clearing activities</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alien vegetation management plan must be implemented as directed by the ECO. The plan must limit vegetation clearing to the servitude of the powerline. This plan must be developed prior to construction.
<i>Loss of avifauna and roosting sites due to the clearance of vegetation for the</i>	Direct impact <i>Loss of avifaunal species</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerline routes should be routed alongside existing infrastructure such as existing powerlines, roads, buildings, and railway lines where possible;

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
<i>power line servitude</i>	<i>and roosting sites</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid electrocution by large species such as vultures, the vertical phase-earth clearance should be greater than 1.8m; • All jumpers at transformers, T-offs and strain structures should be insulated; • Only pole structures that are approved as “bird friendly” by Eskom’s ENVIROTECH Forum should be used; • Diverters on the earth wires must be installed as per specifications devised by the Endangered Wildlife Trust; • Once the final route has been decided, a detailed walk-through must be undertaken by a qualified avifaunal specialist to identify the sections of line that require diverters; • Construction should commence in the early winter months in order to minimise the impacts on the breeding activities of avifaunal species especially grassland and wetland species; • The construction corridor of the selected alignment must be closely inspected before the start of construction in order to locate any active nests; • Reduce the construction time where possible and schedule construction activities around avian breeding schedules where practical; • Lower the levels of associated noise; and • Restrict the construction activities to the footprint area. Do not allow any access to the remainder of the properties. Make maximum use of existing roads.
<i>Destruction of heritage sites (grave sites) identified along various sections of the proposed power line alignment due to construction of the servitude routes</i>	Direct impact <i>Loss of heritage resources constituting a high local significance</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any palaeontological materials (such as dense bone accumulations) are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area must be halted. The find will need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an appropriate specialist. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an approved institution. • Ensure that burial sites as identified in the heritage impact assessment are clearly marked and not impacted on by construction activities
<i>Increase in crime due to the creation of additional access roads and or</i>	Direct impact <i>Increase in crime due to</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers will not be allowed to stay overnight at the crew camps unless authorised by the ECO (as applicable).

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
<i>thoroughfares to surrounding areas during the construction phase</i>	<i>increase in workers within the town</i>			
<i>Temporary job creation during the construction of the proposed power line and associated infrastructure</i>	Direct impact <i>Unskilled labour force may be required for construction activities</i>	Very Low Positive	Low Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development must proceed and must employ local labour as far as possible; and The employment of people from disadvantaged backgrounds must be motivated.
<i>Potential increase in HIV/ AIDS in the area due to construction workers (migrant labour) associated with the proposed development</i>	Indirect impact <i>Due to the increase in workforce within the town, there may potentially be an increase in sexually transmitted diseases</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV & AIDS awareness discussions must be given to the workers on a regular basis by the relevant personnel.
<i>Impacts on agricultural potential and expansion due to the placement of the pylon structures in existing potential farm lands resulting in the minor loss of arable land or potential expansion of farming activities</i>	Indirect impact <i>Due to the location of pylon structures and the servitude restrictions, farming activities may be compromised</i>	Very Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate pylon structures within natural fire breaks within the currently farmed areas (where possible); and Compensate farmers for the loss of arable land / servitude restrictions.
Operational Phase				
<i>Economic growth and development in the surrounding area due to the strengthening of the existing electricity network to a point where it is stable and reliable and allowing future development and expansion of operations in the area</i>	Direct impact <i>Due to the power line stabilising the electricity grid and allowing for future development- economic benefits will be realised</i>	Very Low Positive	Medium Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with the proposed development and ensure that the line is maintained.
<i>Increased theft and vandalism of the distribution line and associated infrastructure resulting in the occurrence of potential deaths, interruption in electricity supply and the increased maintenance intervals</i>	Direct impact <i>Increase in theft of electrical cables</i>	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install anti-climb pylons; and Access control at the substation needs to be implemented.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
<i>Increased risk of alien invasion by vegetation species due to the disturbance in the landscape during operational and maintenance activities</i>	Direct impact <i>Increase in alien invasive species</i>	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas disturbed due to maintenance activities must be rehabilitated as quickly as possible; • Soil stockpiles must not be trans-located from areas with alien plants into the site; • Within the site, alien plants on stockpiles must be controlled so as to avoid the development of a solid seed bank of alien plants within the stock-piled soil; • Any alien plants must be immediately controlled to avoid establishment of a soil seed bank; and • Create an integrated alien invasive management programme to be implemented during maintenance activities.
<i>Increased collision and electrocution of avifauna and resulting mortality of these large terrestrial bird species due to building nests on pylon structures</i>	Direct impact <i>Loss of avifauna due to electrocution and collisions</i>	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed selection of low impact alignments for new power lines relative to movements and concentrations of high risk species; • Use of either static or dynamic marking devices to make the lines and the earthwires more conspicuous; • Ensure that all new lines are marked with bird flight diverters along the entire length using industry standard markers and marker fitting protocols; • Identified high risk sections of the power line need to be installed with a suitable anti-bird collision marking device approved by Eskom, and as per the Eskom standards; • Fit bird perching bracket to the top of the pole; • Due to the potential for nocturnal collisions, it is recommended that the experimental LED bird flapper is used.
<i>Floral destruction and faunal displacement due to clearing or trimming of natural vegetation located within the servitude of the power line as part of routine maintenance operations</i>	Direct impact <i>Maintenance activities resulting in the loss of flora and fauna</i>	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance impacts must be contained within the footprint of the pylon structures and / or the servitude routes of the power line; • Ensure that unnecessary impacts on natural vegetation do not occur; • Vegetation clearance must be conducted systematically from the start to the end of the route to allow fauna to move away; • Avoid strip clearing; • Maintenance activities must be restricted to daylight hours when the majority of

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				faunal species are inactive; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No animals must be snared, captured or wilfully damaged or killed.
<i>Degradation of the cultural landscape and scenic qualities of the environment due to the proposed power line extending across such landscape</i>	Direct impact <i>Visual intrusion of the power line</i>	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align the power line as close as possible to existing power lines so as to keep visual impacts clustered; Ensure that vegetation is not unnecessarily removed during the construction period Reduce the construction period through careful logistical planning and productive implementation of resources Reduce construction activities to daylight hours where possible in order to reduce lighting impacts Rehabilitate all disturbed areas immediately after construction Crossings with linear features (roads, rail lines etc.), should be made at a right angle Structures should be set as far back from the crossing of existing linear features as possible Introduce trees to the landscape at strategic points next to the line in order to break the full exposure of the powerline. Additional studies will be required in this regard Efforts must be made to maintain the construction site in a clean and orderly condition during the construction phase Galvanized steel on structures should be darkened to prevent glare Select paint finishes with a low level of reflectivity
<i>Increased soil erosion due to the deterioration of access roads to the power line servitude for operation and routine maintenance activities</i>	Indirect impact <i>Soil erosion due to maintenance activities</i>	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply the appropriate erosion protection measures where erosion is identified; Regular maintenance of the identified access roads as and when required; Improve the access of the identified access roads to ensure suitable passage for equipment, erosion control and maintenance of proper drainage; and Maintenance staff to stay on the designated access roads at all times.
<i>Stimulation and growth of the local economy due to the provision of a</i>	Cumulative impact <i>Taking into consideration</i>	Low Positive	High Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure maintenance must be prioritised to ensure that the provision of

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
<i>stable electricity supply which will lead to the steady growth and economic development of the surrounding regions</i>	<i>the future infrastructural upgrades that will occur, the local economy may increase</i>			stable electricity is not interrupted and future upgrades along this corridor must be encouraged.
<i>Increased visual impact of additional powerlines due to the existence of other powerlines in the vicinity of the proposed Wolverkrans powerline</i>	Cumulative impact <i>Taking into consideration the impact additional lines will have on surrounding environment</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure new powerlines are where possible, placed in the same vicinity as existing powerlines therefore minimising the impact of sense of place.
Decommissioning Phase				
Please note that due to the nature of the project and the fact that the project is an infrastructural project, no decommissioning is envisaged. However must decommissioning occur, the following impacts may be applicable:				
<i>Waste generation in the form of generating metal and concrete waste during decommissioning activities</i>	Direct impact <i>Solid waste generation due to decommissioning activities.</i>	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste generation must be managed according to Eskom's guidelines and standards; and All material that can be recycled must be recycled where possible. The rest of the rubble must be disposed of at an appropriate landfill site.
<i>Soil contamination due to hydrocarbon spills which may spill from decommissioning vehicles and/or machinery</i>	Direct impact <i>Soil and water degradation due to decommissioning activities</i>	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contaminated soil must be removed and disposed of at an appropriate registered landfill site; Heavy vehicles and/or machinery must be serviced and maintained regularly; No fuel storage, refuelling, vehicle maintenance or vehicle depots must be allowed within 30m of the edge of any watercourse or drainage lines; No effluents or polluted water must be allowed to discharge into any drainage lines or watercourse areas; and The construction footprint along the watercourse must be limited as possible.
Alternative 2				
The proposed impacts will be the same as that for Alternative 1.				

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
Alternative 3				
The proposed impacts will be the same as those for Alternative 1.				
No-go option				
No job creation	Direct impacts: No jobs will be created if the construction of the power line does not take place	High negative		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence with the proposed power line construction
Inhibition of economic growth and development	Direct impacts: If the power line is not constructed, inhibition of the economic growth and development of the surrounding regions will occur	High negative		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence with the proposed power line construction

A complete impact assessment in terms of Regulation 19(3) of GN 733 must be included as Appendix F.

Cumulative Impacts				
Aspect	Impact	Cause	Mitigation	Detailed Description
Climate	Release of greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land based vehicle activity Clearing of vegetation negatively affects carbon sequestration efficiency and increase emissions resulting from decomposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure vehicle exhaust systems function correctly. Ensure energy reduction practices are developed implemented. 	The release of greenhouse gasses and other contaminants to the atmosphere is expected as a result of land based vehicle activities. The clearing of vegetation negatively affects carbon sequestration efficiency and increase emissions resulting from decomposition. These impacts are regarded as insignificant in terms of contribution. The risks are recognised as a cumulative impact.
Air Quality	No impact expected	N/A	N/A	N/A
Noise	Increased ambient noise from increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More vehicles in the immediate area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit noise after working hours therefore between 18h00 and 6h00. 	As a result of increased traffic and movement of people within the recreational facility the ambient

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cumulative Impacts				
Aspect	Impact	Cause	Mitigation	Detailed Description
	traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of people visiting. 		noise of the area may be altered. However it is expected that the impact will be insignificant.
Soils	Loss of natural Resource (topsoil)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil erosion Soil contamination by chemicals and hydrocarbons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence rehabilitation of affected and completed areas Application of soil emplacement and storage practices Fertilisation and amendments Erosion control and treatment Implementation of good housekeeping practices (vehicle maintenance and waste management) Correct storage of dangerous goods, waste and other material which may cause contamination Spill clean up 	The loss of topsoil as a natural resource may be regarded as cumulative impact
Hydrology/ Surface water	Surface water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil erosion Soil contamination by chemicals and hydrocarbons Microbial contamination from waste streams generated on site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of good housekeeping practices (vehicle maintenance and waste management) Correct storage of dangerous goods, waste and other material which may cause contamination Spill clean up 	Surface water quality impacts will extend beyond the boundary of the site if not managed appropriately.
Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)	Loss of biodiversity and disruption of existing e functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land transformed for the recreational facility Anthropological activities (poaching, pollution) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation of vegetation Implementation of conservation practices (including the control of weeds and alien invasive species) 	The cumulative impacts relate to land transformation resulting in the loss of habitat. The habitat type is not regarded as threatened and not unique the area and the impacts on a regional scale is not expected to be significant.
Heritage	No impact expected	N/A	N/A	N/A
Visual	Visual disturbance and change of landscape character.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction and operation of the powerlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	Since the area is fairly built up it is not expected that the cumulative impact will be of high significance.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cumulative Impacts				
Aspect	Impact	Cause	Mitigation	Detailed Description
Traffic	Increased traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases in construction vehicles as well as private and public vehicles during operation. • Increased commuter traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to speed limits and road signage 	The increase in traffic flow may have an impact on regional and national roads in the area. The impact is regarded as minor.
Socio-economic	Stimulation and growth of the local economy due to the provision of a stable electricity supply which will lead to the steady growth and economic development of the surrounding regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Infrastructure maintenance must be prioritised to ensure that the provision of stable electricity is not interrupted and future upgrades along this corridor must be encouraged.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the assessment of potential impacts into account, please provide an environmental impact statement that summarises the impact that the proposed activity and its alternatives may have on the environment after the management and mitigation of impacts have been taken into account, with specific reference to types of impact, duration of impacts, likelihood of potential impacts actually occurring and the significance of impacts.

Alternative A (preferred alternative)

It has been illustrated that with the implementation of the above mitigation measures and Environmental Management Programme, all the identified impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels, thus allowing the proposed development to proceed. Impacts along all three (3) alternative routes are very similar with only a few differences in significance for some identified impacts.

Alternative route 1 and Alternative substation 1 is the shortest route (2.35km) in comparison to the other alternatives which will in turn of the least overall impact on the surrounding environment. The route and substation does not fall within any areas of archaeological importance nor are there any wetlands or watercourses present within the study area, however; it should be noted that burial sites and derelict homestead were found in the vicinity of this route as shown in the heritage study (Appendix D) which is therefore not ideal although the specialists concludes that there are no fatal flaws for the route. In terms of the ecological impact the study area is largely degraded and vegetation composition of the study area is not rich in species. The area is within an area of intensive agriculture, primarily in the form of cultivated and irrigated lands. In terms of social impacts this alternative was regarded as the least preferred option in relation to the substation position in particular. The specialist identified that this alternative has the most potential to change the social systems, sense of place, attachment to the place and functions of the community of the area. There would also always be a safety hazard with a high number of children in the area, to have a substation that is so visible and in a central region. The avifauna study identifies this route as having the smallest impact on avifauna and suggests this as the preferred route in that respect.

It should be highlighted that **all impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels** therefore ensuring that alternative route 1 and alternative substation 1 **can be considered as viable option** for the proposed project.

Alternative B

It has been illustrated that with the implementation of the above mitigation measures and Environmental Management Programme, all the identified impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels, thus allowing the proposed development to proceed. Impacts along all three (3) alternative routes are very similar with only a few differences in significance for some identified impacts.

Alternative route 2 and Alternative substation 2 is fairly similar in length to that of alternative route 1 with alternative 2 being only slightly longer (2.7km). Similarly Alternative route and Alternative substation 2 does not fall within any areas of archaeological importance nor are there any wetlands or watercourses present within the study area. In terms of the ecological impact the study area is largely degraded and vegetation composition of the study area is not rich in species. The area is within an area of intensive agriculture, primarily in the form of cultivated and irrigated lands. In terms of the social impacts associated with the substation in particular two homesteads would be directly affected mostly during the construction phase due to the close proximity to the servitude areas and agriculture would be impacted on a small scale. However, this alternative offers the most desirable option due to the fact that the location for an intended substation would be a good location with minimal social impact. The avifauna study regards this route as less preferred to alternative 1 however; the specialist has indicated that this route is still acceptable.

It should be highlighted that **all impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels** therefore ensuring that alternative route 2 and alternative substation 2 **can be considered as viable option** for the proposed project. Taking into consideration all specialist studies route and substation **Alternative 2** is recommended as the **preferred** from an environmental perspective.

Alternative C

It has been illustrated that with the implementation of the above mitigation measures and Environmental Management Programme, all the identified impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels, thus allowing the proposed development to proceed. Impacts along all three (3) alternative routes are very similar with only a few differences in significance for some identified impacts.

Alternative Route 3 and Alternative substation 3 is the longest route (4.4km) when compared to the other alternatives and will therefore by its nature have a larger impact on the overall surrounding environment. However, it should be noted that the study footprint is within an area of intensive agriculture, primarily in the form of cultivated and irrigated lands. The study

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

area is largely degraded and vegetation composition of the study area is not rich in species. Alternative route and Alternative substation 3 does not fall within any areas of archaeological importance nor are there any wetlands or watercourses present within the study area, however; it should be noted that burial sites and derelict homestead were found in the vicinity of this route as shown in the heritage study (Appendix D) which is therefore not ideal although the specialists concludes that there are no fatal flaws for the route. It should be noted that as a result of the longer length of this route the heritage specialist indicated that this would be the least preferred option. In terms of ecology the study area is fairly degraded and it is not anticipated that the proposed project will have a significant impact on the surrounding ecological environment. However, the wetland and ecology specialist study indicated that the substation for this alternative is the least preferred as a result of being in a slight depression and situated within the best of the grassland present in the study area. In terms of the social aspects the impacts is considered to be of low significance. In terms of avifauna this route is also considered acceptable however, as a result of the length is also not considered ideal.

While this is the longest route alternative and therefore the least preferred in general all **impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels** therefore ensuring that alternative route 3 and alternative substation 3 **can be considered as viable option** for the proposed project. This is considered the least preferred option.

No-go alternative (compulsory)

The significance ratings of this alternative are high negative, this is based on the facts that no job creations will occur if the proposed project does not go ahead and the economic growth of the affected municipalities will not benefit if this proposed project is not undertaken. This is not in line with the goals of the NDP for 2030 which endeavours to create jobs as well as enhance the economy.

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

SECTION E. RECOMMENDATION OF PRACTITIONER

Is the information contained in this report and the documentation attached hereto sufficient to make a decision in respect of the activity applied for (in the view of the environmental assessment practitioner)?

YES✓	NO
------	----

If "NO", indicate the aspects that must be assessed further as part of a Scoping and EIA process before a decision can be made (list the aspects that require further assessment):

--

If "YES", please list any recommended conditions, including mitigation measures that must be considered for inclusion in any authorisation that may be granted by the competent authority in respect of the application.

The recommendations that may be included, if the Environmental Authorisation (EA) is granted, may include the following:

- The contractor must abide by the recommendations and mitigation measures provided in this document, the specialist studies undertaken as well as the EMPr that forms part of this report;
- A Specialist walk down assessment, including avifauna and heritage, should be undertaken prior to final pylon position and substation placement;
- An ECO must be appointed by the applicant to ensure compliance with the EMPr, EA conditions and other legislation deemed necessary by the DEA; and
- The proposed project must be undertaken in accordance with the relevant legislation.

The mitigation measures, if the EA is granted, must include those listed in the above impact assessment, the attached impact assessment and the EMPr.

Is an EMPr attached?

YES✓	NO
------	----

The EMPr must be attached as Appendix G.

The details of the EAP who compiled the BAR and the expertise of the EAP to perform the Basic Assessment process must be included as Appendix H.

If any specialist reports were used during the compilation of this BAR, please attach the declaration of interest for each specialist in Appendix I.

Any other information relevant to this application and not previously included must be attached in Appendix J.

Chevonne Stevens

NAME OF EAP



SIGNATURE OF EAP

27 June 2017

DATE

SECTION F: APPENDIXES

The following appendixes must be attached:

Appendix A: Maps

Appendix B: Photographs

Appendix C: Facility illustration(s)

Appendix D: Specialist reports (including terms of reference)

Appendix E: Public Participation

Appendix F: Impact Assessment

Appendix G: Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

Appendix H: Details of EAP and expertise

Appendix I: Specialist's declaration of interest

Appendix J: Additional Information