

Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd  
– Gauteng Operations Unit



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**FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE  
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 132 KV POWER  
LINE AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATIONS FOR THE  
RANDFONTEIN NORTHERN STRATEGY WITHIN THE  
WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG  
PROVINCE**

J35567

ORIGINAL

*June 2017*

*DEA Reference: 14//12/16/3/3/1/1771*

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## 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 (the Applicant/ Eskom), 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 13.5 kilometre (km), 132 kilovolt (kV) power line as well as four associated substations for the Randfontein Northern Strategy. 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, 12 and 19 as well as GNR No. 985 / GNR 324 or Listing Notice 3, Activity 12 and 14 are 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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1676, 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 **14/12/16/3/3/1/1771**.

**Table 1: List of Activities Triggered in GN.R 983 (Listing Notice 1) and GN.R 985 (Listing Notice 3)**

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 132 kV power line connection for the transmission and/or distribution of electricity from the existing Westgate Substation to the newly proposed Fariaville Substation.
GN No. R. 983 / GNR 327,  Activity 12: The development of -  (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more  where such development occurs- (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;	Several watercourses may be crossed along the powerline route, and as such pylons may be constructed within 32 metres of the watercourse.

<p>GN No. R. 983 / GNR 327,</p> <p>Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.</p>	<p>Several watercourses may be crossed along the powerline route, and as such pylons may need to be constructed within a watercourse, however this is considered unlikely and every effort will be made to avoid this.</p>
<p>GN No. R. 985 / GNR 324</p> <p>Activity 12: The clearance of an area 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation</p> <p>c. Gauteng</p> <p>ii. Within Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas identified in the Gauteng Conservation plan or bioregional plans</p>	<p>Since the project alternatives transect irreplaceable and ecological support areas, while unlikely the removal of 300 square metres or more may be required during pylon placement.</p>
<p>GN No. R. 985 / GNR 324</p> <p>Activity 14: The development of -</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more</p> <p>where such development occurs-</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p> <p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p>c. Gauteng</p> <p>iv. Sites identified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) or Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) in the Gauteng Conservation Plan or bioregional plans</p>	<p>Several watercourses may be crossed along the powerline route, and as such pylons may be constructed within 32 metres of the watercourse. All project alternatives transect irreplaceable and ecological support areas, some to a lesser extent than others.</p>

### 1.1. Details of Project Role Players

- **Details of Applicant**

Eskom is the applicant for the proposed construction of a 13.5km, 132kV Randfontein powerline as well as four proposed substations related to the Randfontein Northern Strategy. 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:	086 668 6182
Telephone:	011 711 2527	Cell:	072 278 2465
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**

<b>Project EAP:</b>		<b>GIBB (Pty) Ltd</b>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Chevonne Stevens		
<b>Physical Address:</b>	Woodmead North Office Park, 54 Maxwell Drive, Woodmead, 2191		
<b>Postal Address:</b>	P.O. Box 2700, Rivonia		
<b>Postal code:</b>	2128	<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	011 519 4712	<b>Cell:</b>	072 3830382
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:cstevens@gibb.co.za">cstevens@gibb.co.za</a>		
<b>Expertise:</b>	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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Specialist study conducted</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
Deon de Wit	GIBB	Visual Impact Assessment	012 348 5880
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
Robyn Phillips	GIBB	Avi-faunal Impact Assessment	031 267 8560
Chanel Turner	Turnscapes	Social Impact Assessment	072 204 6094

- **Details of Competent/Relevant Authority**

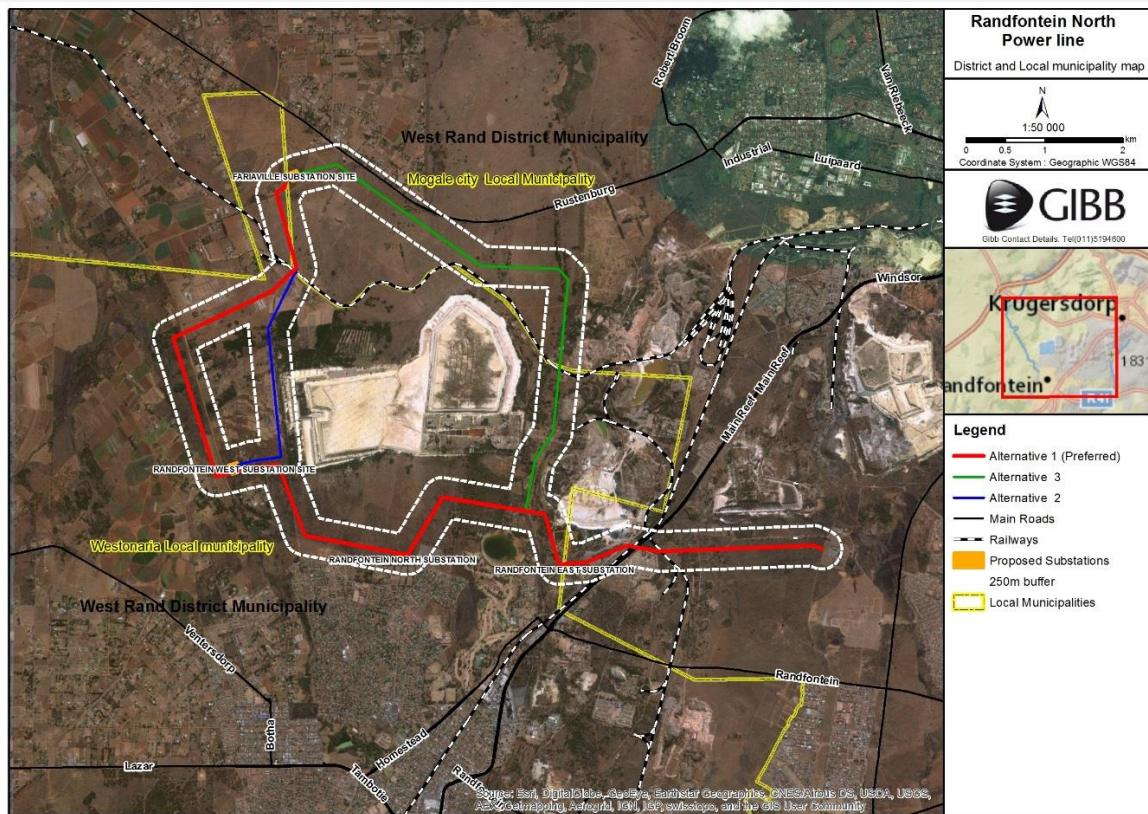
DEA is the identified Competent Authority (CA) to lodge the application of the proposed power line development, and also report to during the impact assessment process.

## **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 the Mogale City

Local Municipality (MCLM) and Randfontein Local Municipality (RLM) which both form part of the West Rand District Municipality (WRDM). It should be noted that recently the RLM and the Westonaria Local Municipality (WLM) were combined to form the Rand West City Local Municipality (RWCLM). Refer to Figure 1 below for a map indicating the proposed power line locality.



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

As can be seen in Figure 1 above three route alternatives exist for the proposed 132kV power line development for the Randfontein Northern Strategy, these alternatives are outlined in Section 3 below.

**2.2. Project Description**

As mentioned above Eskom is proposing to construct a 132kV power line with associated substations 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 Randfontein powerline project, connecting from the existing Westgate substation to the newly proposed Fariaville substation site with a total distance of approximately 13.5 km.

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. The main purpose of the proposed power line 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.

The aim of the project is to provide an additional 132kV line as well as four additional substations to the Randfontein area, thus providing needed capacity and improving back-feed capabilities to provide power to the surrounding communities and companies.

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

- 132kV Towers/Pylons

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 (m<sup>2</sup>). 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 Substations

Four substations are proposed for the Randfontein Northern Strategy power line, these are included in this impact assessment so as to ensure adequate assessment of the potential impact associated with the proposed power line development. The names and locations of the proposed substations are as follows:

**Table 5: Proposed Substations**

<b>Proposed Substation Name</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Latitude</b>
Randfontein East Substation	26° 9'0.19"S	27° 43'12.91"E
Randfontein North Substation	26° 8'56.36"S	27° 41'58.52"E
Randfontein West Substation	26° 8'19.35"S	27° 40'41.15"E
Fariaville Substation	26° 6'17.99"S	27° 41'7.87"E

The purpose of these substations is to effectively augment power in the Randfontein area to cater for current and future developments. All substations 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;
- 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 / stay wire position	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 stumps to ground level, treating with an herbicide and re-compaction of soil. Allow controlled agricultural	Re-growth to be cut at ground level and treated with herbicide as necessary.



	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**

As highlighted in the Ecological Assessment undertaken by Sativa travel and environmental consultants.

**3.1. Topography and Land-Cover**

The topography of the study area comprises mostly flat plains with occasional gently to moderately undulating grassland plains on the Highveld plateau, supporting short-to-medium-high, and dense, tufted grassland. No rocky outcrops (koppies) or significant rocky ridges occur within the study area. Flat, broad valleys occur in which drainage lines or seasonal small streams run, with occasional associated wetlands. The land cover or land use of the study area are predominantly cultivated lands, urban areas, mining areas and open grassland areas.

### 3.2. Geology and Soils

The geology of the study area is that of shale, sandstone or mudstone of the Madzaringwe Formation (Karoo Super group) or the intrusive Karoo Suite dolerites, which feature prominently in the area. Further to the south of the region the Volksrust Formation (Karoo Supergroup) is found and in the west, the rocks of the older Transvaal, Ventersdorp and Witwatersrand Supergroups are most significant.

### 3.3. Climate

The study area is situated within a summer rainfall area, with little to no rain in the winter months. Average midday temperatures for the Krugersdorp area are about 26.4 and 16.6 degrees Celsius (°C), for January and June respectively. The region is the coldest during July when the night temperatures often drop below 0°C, furthermore frost is common in the area. Krugersdorp's average annual rainfall is about 614mm, with the highest rainfall been in February and the lowest in July. The study areas climate is very similar to that of Krugersdorp and Tarlton.

### 3.4. Hydrology

No large perennial rivers occur within the study area. A semi-perennial stream, the Bloubankspruit (Stream) is the main watercourse in the area. It flows approximately in a south to north direction and then turn northeast in the vicinity of the N14 / R24 intersection. The stream eventually flows into the Crocodile River. A few wetland areas exist along the Bloubankspruit. A few other wetland areas are found throughout the study area, but most of them are not naturally occurring and have resulted due to changes in topography, cultivation practices, mining, stormwater runoff from urban areas, impoundment from roads, etc.

### 3.5. Vegetation

The study area and the surrounding region fall within the Grassland Biome, which is also known as the Grassveld Biome. Grassveld vegetation types are dominated by a single layer of grasses, with middle layers of shrub or upper layers of trees are rare to absent, except in a few localised habitats such as koppies and ridges. The Grassland Biome is predominantly subdivided into dry and moist grasslands. Grassland veldtypes with a rainfall of +600mm per annum tend to be predominated by sour, andropogonoid grasses. While below 600mm rainfall, sweet chloridoid grasses are more common. Mucina and Rutherford (2010) have subdivided the Grassland Biome into four bioregions. Namely, Dry Highveld Grasslands; Drakensberg Grasslands; Meisic Highveld Grasslands; and Sub-Escarpment Grasslands. The study area falls predominantly within the Meisic Highveld Grassland Bioregion, with a small section in the north within the Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion. The vegetation of the study area is predominantly Soweto Highveld Grassland, with a small part of the study area in the north in Carletonville Dolomite Grassland. The grasslands of the study area are moderately to highly impacted upon. No pristine areas of grassland are present. Cultivations and urbanisation have totally transformed certain areas, while other areas are degraded due to mining activities. Most of the trees in the study area are alien species such as Eucalyptus species (gumtrees)

**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
<b>Example:</b> <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>
GNR No. 983 / GNR 327,	The applicant, Eskom, is proposing to erect a 132 kV power line connection for the

<p>Activity 11: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity (j) Outside urban areas or on industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</p>	<p>transmission and/or distribution of electricity from the existing Westgate Substation to the newly proposed Fariaville Substation.</p>
<p>GN No. R. 983 / GNR 327,  Activity 12: The development of -  (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more  where such development occurs- (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p>	<p>Several watercourses may be crossed along the powerline route, and as such pylons may be constructed within 32 metres of the watercourse.</p>
<p>GN No. R. 983 / GNR 327,  Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.</p>	<p>Several watercourses may be crossed along the powerline route, and as such pylons may need to be constructed within a watercourse, however this is considered unlikely and every effort will be made to avoid this.</p>
<p>GN No. R. 985 / GNR 324  Activity 12: The clearance of an area 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation  c. Gauteng  ii. Within Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas identified in the Gauteng Conservation plan or bioregional plans</p>	<p>Since the project alternatives transect irreplaceable and ecological support areas, while unlikely the removal of 300 square metres or more may be required during pylon placement.</p>
<p>GN No. R. 985 / GNR 324  Activity 14: The development of -  (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more  where such development occurs- (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;  c. Gauteng  iv. Sites identified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) or Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) in the Gauteng Conservation Plan or bioregional plans</p>	<p>Several watercourses may be crossed along the powerline route, and as such pylons may be constructed within 32 metres of the watercourse. All project alternatives transect irreplaceable and ecological support areas, some to a lesser extent than others.</p>

## 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.

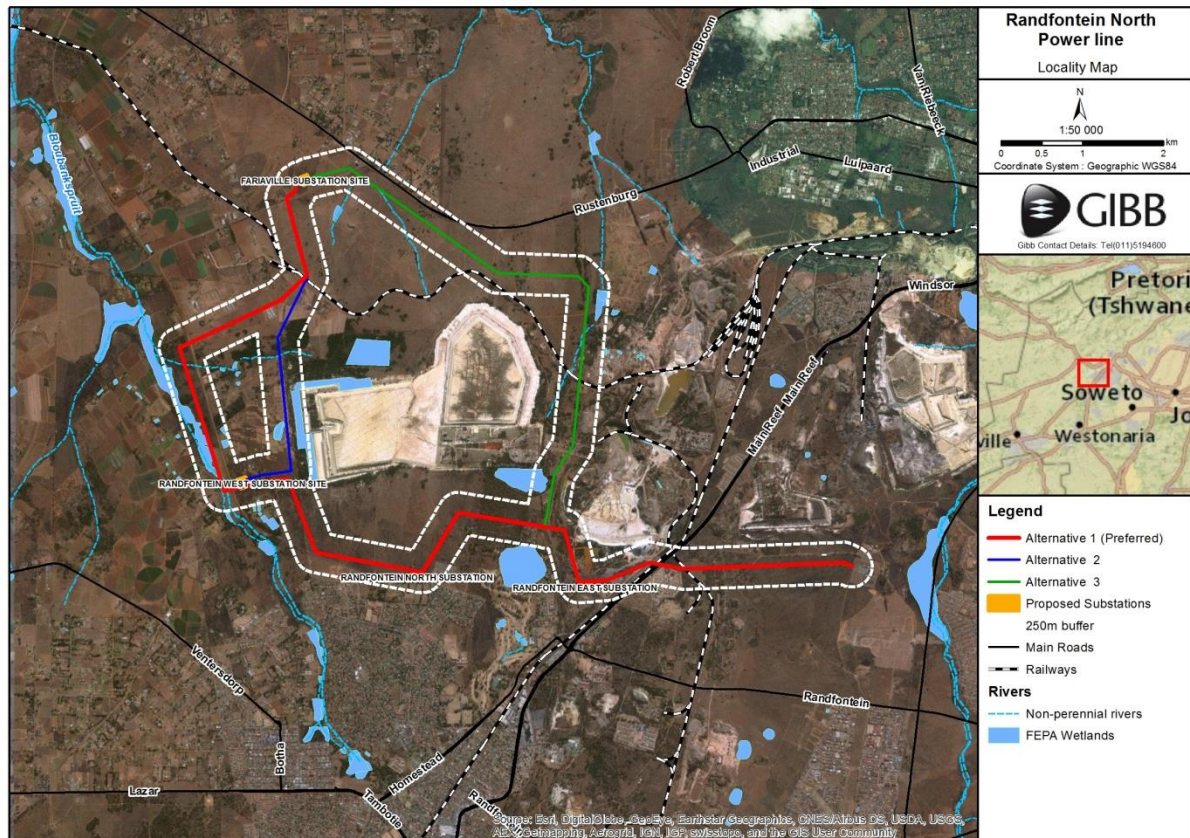
Describe alternatives that are considered in this application as required by Appendix 1(3)(h), Regulations of 2014. Alternatives must include a consideration of all possible means by which the purpose and need of the proposed activity (NOT PROJECT) could be accomplished in the specific instance taking 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.

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**

All three route alternatives for the proposed power line commence at the existing Westgate Substation situated on Farm Rietvalei 241 IQ, Portion 53. All route alternatives continue to the west, parallel to the power station access road (refer to

**Error! Reference source not found.** above). The three route alternatives then cross over R28 (Main Reef) in the vicinity of the farm Uitvalfontein 244 IQ and continue below another mine dump adjacent to Robin Park where the route alternatives come to the proposed Randfontein East Substation.

From the proposed Randfontein East Substation, the three route alternatives travel in a north or north-east direction bordering closely to the mine dump opposite to the proposed substation. The three route alternatives then assume the westerly direction until after the mine access road (from R28) where route alternative 3 moves in between two mine dumps to the north and then reaches an existing power line servitude which it follows until 500m from the proposed Fariaville substation.

Alternative 1 and 2 extend further to the west after crossing the R28, moving south of the mine dumps in the same location intercepting the proposed Randfontein North Substation and moving further in a westerly direction until they reach the proposed Randfontein West substation. From here, Alternative 2 follows a line right next to the western boundary of the mine dump in the northern direction to the proposed Fariaville substation. Alternative 1 crosses the Northway Road and follows a line next to the existing wetlands and Bloubankspruit where it then again crosses the Northway Road back to join up with Alternative 2 to the proposed Fariaville substation.

### Substation Alternatives

The project involves four newly proposed substations the locations of which are shown in Table 5 below. No substation alternatives exist as all four substations as indicated below are proposed. However, it should be noted that substations positions will be established with the surrounding environment and potential sensitivities in mind. It is recommended that the final substations positions must be assessed and approved by an appropriate ecological and wetland specialist during a site walkover assessment prior to construction commencing.

### a) Site alternatives

Alternative 1 (preferred alternative)		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Please see description below, no alternatives for substation placement		
Alternative 2		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)
Alternative 3		
Description	Lat (DDMMSS)	Long (DDMMSS)

Four substations are proposed for the Randfontein Northern Strategy power line project; these are included in this impact assessment so as to ensure adequate assessment of the potential impact associated with the proposed power line development. The names and locations of the proposed substations are as follows:

**Table 7: Proposed Substations**

Proposed Substation Name	Longitude	Latitude
Randfontein East Substation	26° 9'0.19"S	27°43'12.91"E
Randfontein North Substation	26° 8'56.36"S	27°41'58.52"E
Randfontein West Substation	26° 8'19.35"S	27°40'41.15"E
Fariaville Substation	26° 6'17.99"S	27°41'7.87"E

The purpose of these substations is to effectively augment power in the Randfontein area to cater for current and future developments. All substations will have an approximate footprint of 1.5ha. It should be highlighted that no substation alternatives exist however; it is the recommendation of the EAP that the final substations positions must be assessed and approved by an appropriate ecological and wetland specialist during a site walkover assessment prior to construction commencing.

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 <b>Appendix J</b>	
26° 6'19.29"S	27°41'5.62"E
26° 8'54.86"S	27°42'0.83"E
26° 8'51.34"S	27°45'11.29"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 <b>Appendix J</b>	
26° 6'18.60"S	27°41'5.59"E
26° 8'54.76"S	27°42'0.70"E
26° 8'51.43"S	27°45'11.14"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 <b>Appendix J</b>	
26° 6'17.25"S	27°41'9.91"E
26° 7'1.94"S	27°43'14.22"E
26° 8'52.08"S	27°45'10.48"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.

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 Randfontein 132kV power line.
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**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.
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**d) Other alternatives (e.g. scheduling, demand, input, scale and design alternatives)**

No other alternatives have been considered
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**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.
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<b>The No-Go Alternative is therefore not recommended.</b>
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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:**

Proposed Randfontein East Substation  
 Proposed Randfontein North Substation  
 Proposed Randfontein West Substation  
 Proposed Fariaville Substation

**Size of the activity:**

	15000 m <sup>2</sup>
	15000 m <sup>2</sup>
	15000 m <sup>2</sup>
	15000 m <sup>2</sup>

or, for linear activities:

**Alternative:**

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

**Length of the activity:**

	14.3km
	13.5km
	11.3km

#### 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:**

	500 000 m <sup>2</sup>
	432 000 m <sup>2</sup>
	360 000 m <sup>2</sup>

### 4. SITE ACCESS

Does ready access to the site exist?

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

Describe the type of access road planned:

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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.

## 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):

<b>1. Is the activity permitted in terms of the property's existing land use rights?</b>	<b>YES</b> ✓	<b>NO</b>	<b>Please explain</b>
The power line and structures will be located in a servitude area that will be registered by Eskom upon completion of landowner consideration negotiations.			
<b>2. Will the activity be in line with the following?</b>			
<b>(a) Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)</b>	<b>YES</b> ✓	<b>NO</b>	<b>Please explain</b>
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>(b) Urban edge / Edge of Built environment for the area</b>	<del>YES</del>	<b>NO</b> ✓	<b>Please explain</b>
The proposed distribution line falls outside the urban edge.			



<b>(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?).</b>	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 further highlights the lack of access to electricity in informal areas.			
<b>(d) Approved Structure Plan of Municipality</b>	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.			
<b>(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?)</b>	YES	NO✓	Please explain
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			
<b>(f) Any other Plans (e.g. Guide Plan)</b>	YES	NO✓	Please explain
No other plans applicable			
<b>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)?</b>	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.			
<b>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.)</b>	YES✓	NO	Please explain
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			

<p><b>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.)</b></p>	<p>YES✓</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>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.</p>			
<p><b>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.)</b></p>	<p>YES✓</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>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.</p>			
<p><b>7. Is this project part of a national programme to address an issue of national concern or importance?</b></p>	<p>YES✓</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>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.</p>			
<p><b>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.)</b></p>	<p>YES✓</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>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.</p>			
<p><b>9. Is the development the best practicable environmental option for this land/site?</b></p>	<p>YES✓</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<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>			
<p><b>10. Will the benefits of the proposed land use/development outweigh the negative impacts of it?</b></p>	<p>YES✓</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<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>			

<b>11. Will the proposed land use/development set a precedent for similar activities in the area (local municipality)?</b>	<del>YES</del>	<b>NO✓</b>	<b>Please explain</b>
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.			
<b>12. Will any person's rights be negatively affected by the proposed activity/ies?</b>	<del>YES</del>	<b>NO✓</b>	<b>Please explain</b>
Potentially affected landowners (both directly and adjacently affected) have been notified timeously (please refer to <b>Appendix E</b> ) 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).			
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.			
As such, no juristic or natural person's right will be adversely affected.			
<b>13. Will the proposed activity/ies compromise the "urban edge" as defined by the local municipality?</b>	<del>YES</del>	<b>NO✓</b>	<del>Please explain</del>
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".			
<b>14. Will the proposed activity/ies contribute to any of the 17 Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)?</b>	<b>YES✓</b>	<del>NO</del>	<b>Please explain</b>
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.			
<b>15. What will the benefits be to society in general and to the local communities?</b>	<b>Please explain</b>		
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.			
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.			
<b>16. Any other need and desirability considerations related to the proposed activity?</b>	<b>Please explain</b>		
This project will not only benefit the communities of the affected municipalities but also the economic growth of these municipalities.			
<b>17. How does the project fit into the National Development Plan for 2030?</b>	<b>Please explain</b>		
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.			
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.			

**18. Please describe how the general objectives of Integrated Environmental Management as set out in section 23 of NEMA have been taken into account.**

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.

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.

**19. Please describe how the principles of environmental management as set out in section 2 of NEMA have been taken into account.**

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.

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.

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.

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.



## 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

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

## 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 <sup>3</sup>	

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 <sup>3</sup>
--	----------------

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:

--



**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
-----	----

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

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.

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
-----	----

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

YES	NO
-----	----

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"/> <b>Municipal</b>	<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 crosses drainage lines and watercourse features along various sections of the proposed alignment. The main impact of the power line is due to construction of the pylon structures (which has a very small local footprint). The pylon structures will be positioned to avoid the actual drainage lines and watercourses, where applicable, but may occur within the buffer area of the watercourses.

A water use license application (WULA) will be applied for from the Department of Water Affairs in a separate process. Please note that Section 21 (c) and (i) activities likely to be triggered.

**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

## 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
Local Municipality	Mogale City Local Municipality (MCLM) and Randfontein Local Municipality (RLM)
Ward Number(s)	Ward 9 (MCLM) and Ward 3 (RLM)
Farm name and number	Refer to <b>Appendix J</b> for farm details
Portion number	Refer to <b>Appendix J</b> for Portion details
SG Code	Refer to <b>Appendix J</b> 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
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### **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
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### **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
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## 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:	
	YES	NO✓	YES	NO✓	YES	NO✓
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 <sup>E</sup>	Natural veld with scattered aliens <sup>E</sup>	Natural veld with heavy alien infestation <sup>E</sup>	Veld dominated by alien species <sup>E</sup>	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

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

No large perennial rivers occur within the study area. A semi-perennial stream, the Bloubankspruit (Stream) is the main watercourse in the area. It flows approximately in a south to north direction and then turn northeast in the vicinity of the N14 / R24 intersection. The stream eventually flows into the Crocodile River.

A few wetland areas exist along the Bloubankspruit. A few other wetland areas are found throughout the study area, but most of them are not naturally occurring and have resulted due to changes in topography, cultivation practices, mining, stormwater runoff from urban areas, impoundment from roads, etc.

A detailed study on ecological aspects including flora, fauna and wetlands was undertaken by a specialist (Sativa Travel and Environmental Consultants) and the full report is 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:

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

The railway line, if operational, as well as R28 will be impacted upon visually by the proposed project; a Visual Impact Assessment (**Appendix D**) was undertaken as part of the impact assessment for the proposed project, mitigation measures and recommendations are provided on the report, however it should be noted that the study concludes that the entire study area is of a moderate-low visual quality. Due to the fact that the landscape character consists of existing distribution lines as well as numerous mining activities including discard dumps, it is expected that the visual impact will be of low significance. Eskom will also make provisions and/or adjustments so that the proposed power line does not affect the normal operation of these activities.

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:

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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 m<sup>2</sup> 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 m<sup>2</sup> 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 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. A formal burial site (Green Hills Cemetery - RSPBS1) was discovered during the undertaking of the HIA, the burial site is however located in approximately a kilometre away from route alternative 1 and it is not anticipated that the proposed route alternative will impact the burial site in any way. No historical sites were uncovered during the impact assessment of this route alternative, except for the derelict farm and mining structures along the proposed route. These structures were rated low significance due to their derelict nature.

### Alternative 2

Most of route alternative 2 runs in parallel to route alternative 1, and so as in route alternative 1, no significant heritage and/or archaeological material or sites were found along the proposed route alternative 2; the HIA report attributes this to the degraded nature of the proposed project site. A burial site, RSPBS1, was discovered during the undertaking of the HIA, this is however located in away from the impact zone of route alternative 2 and it is not anticipated that the proposed route alternative will impact the burial site in any way. No historical sites were uncovered during the impact assessment of this route alternative, except for the derelict farm and mining structures along the proposed route. These structures were attributed a low significance rating due to their derelict nature. It is noted on the report (HIA) that the Randfontein area has heritage and/or archaeological sites listed by the South African Heritage Resources Information System, however, none of these are on this route alternative.

### Alternative 3

The impact assessment was undertaken for route alternative 3 as well and no significant heritage material or sites were uncovered for this proposed route alternative. This was the same for the historical, burial and monumental material or sites.

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 ✓
-----	------

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

YES	NO ✓
-----	------

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 Mogale City Local Municipality (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 Randfontein Local Municipality (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 Geographic 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. 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 100 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](mailto: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 (NNR)	Sensitive vegetation types

- 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)	20%	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)	20%	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)	50%	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)	<del>Critical</del>	Wetland (including rivers, depressions, channelled and unchanneled wetlands, flats, seeps pans, and artificial wetlands)	Estuary		Coastline			
	<b>Endangered</b>							
	<b>Vulnerable</b>							
	<del>Least Threatened</del>							
		<b>YES✓</b>	<del>NO</del>	<del>UNSURE</del>	<del>YES</del>	<b>NO✓</b>	<del>YES</del>	<b>NO✓</b>



**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 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.

**Ecological Sensitivity:**

As stated in the Ecological Impact Assessment Report (**Appendix D**), the ecological sensitivity of a study area is determined by combining the sensitivity analysis of both the floral and faunal components. The highest calculated sensitivity unit of the two categories is taken to represent the sensitivity of that ecological unit, whether it is floristic or faunal in nature. The grassland habitat within the proposed study site was rated overall as having a sensitivity rating of medium, however, the grassland areas within the study area and along the three power line route alternatives that are highly degraded or transformed were rated as of low sensitivity rating. The floral ecological sensitivity of the watercourses and the cultivated lands was rated medium/high and low, respectively; with the faunal ecological sensitivity of the same two components rated as medium/high and low, in that order

**Land-cover**

The land use of the proposed project site is characterised by cultivated lands, mining areas, urban areas, as well as open grasslands; the mentioned open grasslands are shown as natural on Figure 4 of the Ecological Impact Assessment Report, these grassland areas are highly degraded and no pristine areas exist. According to the Ecological Impact Assessment Report, no large perennial rivers occur within the study area; however, a semi-perennial river (Bloubankspruit) occurs within the proposed project site. This river flows approximately in a south to north direction and then turns northeast in the vicinity of the N14/ R24 intersection. The stream eventually flows into the Crocodile River (see Figure 4 of the Ecological Impact Assessment Report). The Bloubankspruit falls under the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) and is also listed under the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (GDARDs) Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) CPlan V.3.3 as it is an Irreplaceable Area. The report further states that, a few wetlands exist along the Bloubankspruit and a few others are found throughout the study area, but most of these wetlands are not naturally occurring and have resulted due to changes in topography, cultivation practices, mining activities, storm-water runoff from urban areas, impoundments from roads, etc.

**Flora:**

According to the Ecological Impact Assessment undertaken as part of this BA, the study area and the surrounding region fall within the Grassland Biome, also known as the Grassveld Biome; this Biome is one of nine (9) biomes that occur in South Africa. The Grassveld Biome vegetation types are dominated by a single layer of grasses, with middle layers of shrub or upper layers of trees rare to absent, except in a few localised habitats such as koppies and ridges.

The Ecological Impact Assessment Report further asserts that the study area falls predominantly in the Meisic Highveld Grassland Bioregion, with a small section in the north within the Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion. The report also states that the vegetation of the study area is the Soweto Highveld Grassland, with a small part of the study area in the north in the Carletonville Dolomite Grassland. It is also stated in the Ecological Impact Assessment Report that the conservation

status of the Soweto Highveld Grassland is endangered with the Carletonville Dolomite Grassland vulnerable.

The report recorded no Red Data Species during the field investigations, except for some provincially important species (Priority Species) identified. This was the Aloe zebrina (*A. transvaalensis*). Also, no protected trees were recorded within the study area. A number of alien plants were discovered during the undertaking of the Ecological Impact Assessment, these included herbaceous plants that are especially prevalent in disturbed areas, tree species such as black wattle, gumtrees and syringe, other species, some of which are invasive, that occur scatterely throughout the proposed project area, especially in disturbed areas, old mining areas and along roadsides. The proposed study area is rated moderately-to-highly impacted upon, and most trees in the area are alien, i.e. Eucalyptus species (gumtrees). A comprehensive list of the alien species discovered during the ecological assessment is provided in Table 7 of the Ecological Impact Assessment Report (**Appendix D** of this report).

**Fauna:**

According to the Ecological Impact Assessment Report, no priority species, including red data species, were observed during the field investigations. There were no mammals or wild faunal species, except for some common birds and butterflies, observed within the proposed development site. The Ecological Impact Assessment Report further asserts that some parts of the proposed development site are in close proximity to habitats of reptiles (snakes and lizards); however none of the proposed route alternatives directly traverse these habitats.

**Fatal flaws:**

The Ecological Impact Assessment Report found no fatal flaws for the proposed project site as a whole, except for a localised flaw which was recognised in terms of the route corridor and which runs within, or very close to a priority and sensitive area, the Bloubankspruit and associated wetland areas. The report recommended that the proposed project may proceed in terms of the natural environment component, with caution and recommended mitigating measures put in place.

**Alternative Route Recommendation:**

Route alternative 2 for the proposed project is recommended by the Ecological Impact Assessment Report, after taking all the biodiversity issues into account.

## SECTION C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 1. ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICE

<b>Publication name</b>	Randfontein Herald and Krugersdorp News	
<b>Date published</b>	13 December 2016 and 11 January 2017	
<b>Site notice position:</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Randfontein Library	26°10'54.20"S	27°42'0.87"E
West Rand District Municipality	26°10'52.69"S	27°42'6.24"E
Randfontein Golf Club	26° 9'22.52"S	27°42'49.90"E
Cemetery Fence	26° 8'57.20"S	27°41'48.35"E
<b>Date placed</b>	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
Comments from the Draft BAR review period have been included in the comment and response report (CRR) attached in Appendix E.3.	
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.	
All comments received during these public review periods have been collated and included in the Comments and Response Report (Appendix E.3)	

### 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.

## 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	<a href="mailto:gladys.ngwana@randfontein.org.za">gladys.ngwana@randfontein.org.za</a>
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	<a href="mailto:hettieb@daff.gov.za">hettieb@daff.gov.za</a>
Vongani Mhinga	Department of Water and Sanitation	012 392 1503		Bothongo Plaza East, 15th Floor, 285 Schoeman Street, Pretoria, 0002	<a href="mailto:mhingav@dws.gov.za">mhingav@dws.gov.za</a>
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	<a href="mailto:MmaphakaT@daff.gov.za">MmaphakaT@daff.gov.za</a>
Maurice Mogane	Department of Public Transport, Roads and Works	011 355 7173	011 355 7243	Suige Life Building, 41 Simmons Street, Johannesburg	<a href="mailto:mauricem@gpg.gov.za">mauricem@gpg.gov.za</a>
Thomas Ndou	Department of Economic Development	012 394 1001 082 416 7207		Block A, Floor 3, The DTI, 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, 0002	<a href="mailto:odgcorrespondency@economic.gov.za">odgcorrespondency@economic.gov.za</a>
Annelize Roesch	Rural Development and Land Reform	012 312 8503	012 323 6072	184 Jeff Masemola Street, Pretoria, 0002	<a href="mailto:aroesch@ruraldevelopment.gov.za">aroesch@ruraldevelopment.gov.za</a>
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	<a href="mailto:mapula.modipa@gauteng.gov.za">mapula.modipa@gauteng.gov.za</a>
Nhlanhla Ntjatje	Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport	011 355 7188	086 554 7265	8th Floor, South Tower, 41 Simmonds Street (Conner Pritchard), Johannesburg	<a href="mailto:nhlanhla.ntjatje@gauteng.gov.za">nhlanhla.ntjatje@gauteng.gov.za</a>
Tebogo Molokomme	South African Heritage Resources Agency - Gauteng	011 355 2500	011 355 2878	Surrey House, 35 Rissik Street, Johannesburg, 2000	<a href="mailto:tebogo.molokomme@gauteng.gov.za">tebogo.molokomme@gauteng.gov.za</a>

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

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.

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	
<b>Alternative 1 (preferred)</b>				
<b>Construction Phase</b>				
<i>Increased soil erosion due to the removal of vegetation</i>	<b>Direct Impact</b> <i>Soil erosion and degradation</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake vegetation clearing during the dry season;</li> <li>• Only clear vegetation where absolutely necessary; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<i>Surface water contamination and degradation due to oil and fuel leaks from construction vehicles</i>	<b>Direct Impact</b> <i>Surface water contamination and degradation</i>	Moderate	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All construction vehicles must be kept in good working condition;</li> <li>• All construction vehicles must be parked in demarcated areas when not in use, and the soil in this area must be rehabilitated (if required);</li> <li>• Drip trays must be placed under construction vehicles when not in use; to collect any spillages/leaks if necessary;</li> <li>• Construction activities associated with the establishment of access roads drainage lines (if unavoidable) must be restricted to a working area 10m in width either side of the road, and these working areas must be clearly demarcated. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, cement, fuel, oil or waste must be allowed outside of the demarcated working areas;</li> <li>• No fuel storage, refuelling, vehicle maintenance or vehicle depots must be</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<p>allowed within 30m of the edge of any drainage lines;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refuelling and fuel storage areas, and areas used for the servicing or parking of vehicles and machinery, must be located on impervious bases and must have bunds around them. Bunds must be sufficiently high to ensure that all the fuel kept in the area is captured in the event of a major spillage;</li> <li>• Vehicles and machinery must not be washed within 30m of the edge of any drainage line;</li> <li>• No effluents or polluted water must be allowed to discharge into any drainage lines;</li> <li>• If construction areas are to be pumped of water (e.g. after rains), this water must be pumped into an appropriate settlement area, and not allowed to flow straight into any drainage lines;</li> <li>• Freshwater ecosystems located in close proximity to construction areas (i.e. ~30m) must be inspected on a regular basis by the ECO for signs of disturbance from construction activities, and for signs of sedimentation or pollution. If signs of disturbance, sedimentation or pollution are noted, immediate action must be taken to remedy the situation and, if necessary, a freshwater ecologist must be consulted for advice on the most suitable remediation measures;</li> <li>• The construction footprint along the watercourse (perennial river associate with Bloubankspruit) must be limited as far as possible; and</li> <li>• If a hydrocarbon spillage occurs, clean it up immediately and dispose of at an appropriate registered landfill site.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Degradation of watercourses due to the construction of the proposed power line and associated infrastructure</i></p>	<p><b>Direct Impact</b>  <i>Degradation of the watercourse due to the erection of the pylons and 132kV cable</i></p>	Moderate	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that pylon structures are kept at a minimum of 50m outside of the outer edge of any watercourse or drainage lines;</li> <li>• Use existing access roads as far as possible;</li> <li>• Construction impacts must be contained within the servitude of the power line;</li> <li>• No mixing of cement/concrete must take place within 50m of aquatic features or on bare soil;</li> <li>• All drainage lines must generally be treated as “no-go” areas and appropriately</li> </ul>



Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<p>demarcated as such. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction materials, cement, fuel, oil or waste must be allowed into these areas without the express permission of and supervision by the ECO;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction activities associated with the establishment of access roads through drainage lines (if unavoidable) must be restricted to a working area of 10m in width either side of the road, and these working areas must be clearly demarcated. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, cement, fuel, oil or waste must be allowed outside of the demarcated working areas;</li> <li>• Construction camps, toilets and temporary laydown areas must be located at least 100m from the edge of any wetlands and drainage lines;</li> <li>• No temporary accommodation or temporary storage sites to be erected within 100m of the any river, stream, drainage line, pan, wetland or farm dam.</li> <li>• Positioning of the foundation slabs for the pylons must be a minimum of 50m away from the edge of all watercourses.</li> <li>• Positioning of the foundation slabs for the pylons must be a minimum of 50m away from the edge of riverbanks and riparian zones, if present.</li> <li>• No fuel storage, refuelling, vehicle maintenance or vehicle depots must be allowed within 50m of the edge of any drainage lines;</li> <li>• Vehicles and machinery must not be washed within 50m of the edge of any drainage line;</li> <li>• No effluents or polluted water must be allowed to discharge into any drainage lines;</li> <li>• If construction areas are to be pumped of water (e.g. after rains), this water must be pumped into an appropriate settlement area, and not allowed to flow straight into any drainage lines or wetland areas;</li> <li>• Freshwater ecosystems located in close proximity to construction areas (i.e. ~30 m) must be inspected on a regular basis by the ECO for signs of disturbance from construction activities, and for signs of sedimentation or pollution. If signs of disturbance, sedimentation or pollution are noted, immediate action must be</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<p>taken to remedy the situation and, if necessary, a freshwater ecologist must be consulted for advice on the most suitable remediation measures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers must be made aware of the importance of not destroying or damaging the vegetation along drainage lines, of not undertaking activities that could result in the pollution of drainage lines, and of not killing or harming any animals that they encounter. This awareness must be promoted throughout the construction phase (and decommissioning phase, if applicable);</li> <li>Ensure that unnecessary impacts on watercourse do not occur; and</li> <li>Proper erosion control structures must be constructed.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Floral destruction and faunal displacement due to vegetation clearance activities taking place along the proposed power line alignments and servitude routes</i></p>	<p><b>Direct impact</b> <i>Loss of flora and fauna due to construction activities</i></p>	Moderate	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction impacts must be contained within the footprint of the pylon structures and/or the servitude routes of the power line;</li> <li>Use existing access roads as far as possible;</li> <li>Vegetation clearance must be conducted systematically from the start to the end of the route to allow fauna to move away;</li> <li>Avoid strip clearing;</li> <li>Vegetation must be removed only where construction is to take place;</li> <li>Sequential construction must occur in order to allow faunal species to move away from the area of disturbance;</li> <li>Construction activities must be restricted to daylight hours when the majority of faunal species are inactive;</li> <li>No animals may be snared, captured or wilfully damaged or killed;</li> <li>Species such as tortoises and porcupines must be moved to surrounding areas if encountered on site and not collected as this is illegal;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>Clearing of the servitude must be as narrow as possible to prevent major destruction of habitats;</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No trees may be affected in the grassland habitats where sufficient space is available for the tweaking of pylon positions;</li> <li>A road management plan must be compiled, showing allocated access points and roads, to prevent tracks all over the landscape; and</li> <li>The removal of large sections of woodland in densely wooded areas must be avoided.</li> </ul>
<i>Increased noise generation due to construction activities and the movement of construction vehicles</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>The construction activities will cause an increase in the ambient noise levels</i>	Very Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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);</li> <li>All noise and sounds generated during the proposed activity must comply with the relevant SANS codes and standards;</li> <li>All construction equipment or machinery must be switched off when not in use;</li> <li>Construction equipment must be kept in good working condition;</li> <li>Plant and vehicles must be in good working order and inspected daily; and</li> <li>Use silencers on all equipment, where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<i>Increased dust generation due to the clearing of vegetation, construction activities and earthworks</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <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"> <li>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;</li> <li>Water to be used sparingly and only where no water restrictions are in effect;</li> <li>Water to be sourced from an approved supplier;</li> <li>The option to use grey water must be investigated prior to construction;</li> <li>The soil must be dampened with water during/ after vegetation removal (where practical);</li> <li>The clearing of vegetation must be kept to the minimal; and</li> <li>Avoid unnecessary movement of construction vehicles on site.</li> </ul>
<i>Increased occurrence of fires due to unmanaged fires and its increased severity due to human interference</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Increased risk of damage due to unmanaged fires</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The safety officer must control on-site fires;</li> <li>Firefighting equipment to be kept on site and serviced regularly; and</li> <li>No fires to be lit on site and smoking to occur in designated areas only.</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
<i>Increased damage to roads due to the continued travelling of vehicles on minor and gravel roads during the construction phase</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Increased damage to local roads due to increased traffic volumes</i>	Very Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit construction vehicles to 20km/h on access roads and keep to the speed limit on public roads; and</li> <li>• Regular monitoring of roads for damage must be undertaken, followed by immediate repair of any damage resulting from use of heavy machinery.</li> </ul>
<i>Increase in traffic volumes and associated congestion due to the transportation and construction vehicles travelling to and from the construction site</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Increase in traffic congestion due to the construction vehicles</i>	Very Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit construction vehicle movement during peak periods.</li> </ul>
<i>Change in visual aesthetics due to construction activities, placement of construction equipment and disposal of construction waste material</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Adjacent residents may be visually impacted on by the unsightliness of the construction camp (depending on the location of the camp).</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction vehicles must be kept in demarcated areas only so as to reduce the visual intrusion of the construction activities;</li> <li>• 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 required and as directed by the ECO);</li> <li>• Construction workers must ensure and implement good housekeeping practises to minimise the visual impact of waste and discarded materials; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<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>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Degradation of the soil due to spillages</i>	Moderate	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store fuels and chemicals in an impermeable bunded area;</li> <li>• Provide staff with hazardous materials training;</li> <li>• Chemical toilets to be used on site, grey water must be disposed of off-site at a licensed waste treatment works;</li> <li>• No storage of fuel on site, vehicles to be fuelled off-site;</li> <li>• No mixing of cement/concrete must take place within 30m of aquatic features or in natural vegetation;</li> <li>• No servicing or repair of vehicles on site (unless absolutely necessary);</li> <li>• No concrete mixing on site unless on a mortar board;</li> <li>• Water used to clean concrete off of machinery must be treated as grey water and disposed of at a licensed water treatment works;</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction vehicles must be maintained on a regular basis so as to prevent oil spills/leaks;</li> <li>Drip trays must be placed under vehicles when not in use; and</li> <li>If a hydrocarbon spillage occurs, it must be cleaned up immediately and disposed of at an appropriate registered landfill site.</li> </ul>
<i>Increased domestic waste generation (solid waste) and insufficient management on site</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Unightly litter on site</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep waste in vermin proof bins with lids (as needed); and</li> <li>Waste to be removed from site on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
<i>Loss of Riparian vegetation along watercourse crossings and drainage lines due to the construction of the power line</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Loss of riparian vegetation due to construction vehicles</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No access roads must be constructed within 32m of a watercourse and/or drainage lines, unless no alternative is possible;</li> <li>No temporary accommodation or temporary storage sites to be erected within 100m of the any river, stream, drainage line, pan, wetland or farm dam;</li> <li>Positioning of the foundation slabs for the pylons must be a minimum of 50m away from the edge of riverbanks and riparian zones, if present; and</li> <li>If access roads/ tracks must pass through drainage lines, the footprint must be a small as possible.</li> </ul>
<i>Increased risk of alien invasion by vegetation species due to unmanaged vegetation clearing activities taking place on site</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Increase in alien invasive species due to vegetation clearing activities</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<i>Loss of avifauna and roosting sites due to the clearance of vegetation for the power line servitude</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Loss of avifaunal species and roosting sites</i>	Moderate	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerline routes should be routed alongside existing infrastructure such as existing powerlines, roads, buildings, and railway lines where possible;</li> <li>To avoid electrocution by large species such as vultures, the vertical phase-earth clearance should be greater than 1.8m;</li> <li>All jumpers at transformers, T-offs and strain structures should be insulated;</li> <li>Only pole structures that are approved as “bird friendly” by Eskom’s ENVIROTECH Forum should be used;</li> <li>Diverters on the earth wires must be installed as per specifications devised by the Endangered Wildlife Trust;</li> <li>Once the final route has been decided, a detailed walk-through must be</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<p>undertaken by a qualified avifaunal specialist to identify the sections of line that require diverters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• The construction corridor of the selected alignment must be closely inspected before the start of construction in order to locate any active nests;</li> <li>• Reduce the construction time where possible and schedule construction activities around avian breeding schedules where practical;</li> <li>• Lower the levels of associated noise; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<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>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Loss of heritage resources constituting a high local significance</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<i>Increase in crime due to the creation of additional access roads and or thoroughfares to surrounding areas during the construction phase</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Increase in crime due to increase in workers within the town</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workers will not be allowed to stay overnight at the crew camps unless authorised by the ECO (as applicable).</li> </ul>
<i>Temporary job creation during the construction of the proposed power line and associated infrastructure</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Unskilled labour force may be required for construction activities</i>	Very Low Positive	Low Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development must proceed and must employ local labour as far as possible; and</li> <li>• The employment of people from disadvantaged backgrounds must be motivated.</li> </ul>
<i>Impacts on Ecological Support Areas, Important Areas, Irreplaceable and associated sensitive areas and species during the construction of the proposed power line and associated infrastructure</i>	<b>Direct Impact</b> <i>Loss of sensitive fauna and flora species</i>	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit construction activities to the footprint of the power line servitude; and</li> <li>• Ensure that pylon structures are located outside of the immediate reaches of the Ecological Support Areas, Important Areas, Irreplaceable Areas and associated sensitive areas and species.</li> </ul>
<i>Potential increase in HIV/ AIDS in the</i>	<b>Indirect impact</b>	Moderate	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV &amp; AIDS awareness discussions must be given to the workers on a regular</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
<i>area due to construction workers (migrant labour) associated with the proposed development</i>	<i>Due to the increase in workforce within the town, there may potentially be an increase in sexually transmitted diseases</i>			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>	<b>Indirect impact</b> <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"> <li>• Locate pylon structures within natural fire breaks within the currently farmed areas (where possible); and</li> <li>• Compensate farmers for the loss of arable land / servitude restrictions.</li> </ul>
<b>Operational Phase</b>				
<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>	<b>Direct impact</b> <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"> <li>• Continue with the proposed development and ensure that the line is maintained.</li> </ul>
<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>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Increase in theft of electrical cables</i>	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install anti-climb pylons; and</li> <li>• Access control at the substation needs to be implemented.</li> </ul>

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>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Increase in alien invasive species</i>	Moderate	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas disturbed due to maintenance activities must be rehabilitated as quickly as possible;</li> <li>• Soil stockpiles must not be trans-located from areas with alien plants into the site;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Any alien plants must be immediately controlled to avoid establishment of a soil seed bank; and</li> <li>• Create an integrated alien invasive management programme to be implemented during maintenance activities.</li> </ul>
<i>Increased collision and electrocution of avifauna and resulting mortality of these large terrestrial bird species due to building nests on pylon structures</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Loss of avifauna due to electrocution and collisions</i>	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed selection of low impact alignments for new power lines relative to movements and concentrations of high risk species;</li> <li>• Use of either static or dynamic marking devices to make the lines and the earthwires more conspicuous;</li> <li>• Ensure that all new lines are marked with bird flight diverters along the entire length using industry standard markers and marker fitting protocols;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Fit bird perching bracket to the top of the pole;</li> <li>• Due to the potential for nocturnal collisions, it is recommended that the experimental LED bird flapper is used.</li> </ul>
<i>Increased alteration of hydrology of drainage lines and other watercourses due to the establishment of distribution line pylons within or immediately adjacent to freshwater ecosystems</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Alteration of watercourses due to the establishment of the pylons within the watercourse due to maintenance activities</i>	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use existing access roads where possible;</li> <li>• Do not establish new access roads within drainage lines; and</li> <li>• Limit maintenance footprint within drainage lines.</li> </ul>



Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
<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>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Maintenance activities resulting in the loss of flora and fauna</i>	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance impacts must be contained within the footprint of the pylon structures and / or the servitude routes of the power line;</li> <li>• Ensure that unnecessary impacts on natural vegetation do not occur;</li> <li>• Vegetation clearance must be conducted systematically from the start to the end of the route to allow fauna to move away;</li> <li>• Avoid strip clearing;</li> <li>• Maintenance activities must be restricted to daylight hours when the majority of faunal species are inactive; and</li> <li>• No animals must be snared, captured or wilfully damaged or killed.</li> </ul>
<i>Degradation of the cultural landscape and scenic qualities of the environment due to the proposed power line extending across such landscape</i>	<b>Direct impact</b> <i>Visual intrusion of the power line</i>	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Align the power line as close as possible to existing power lines so as to keep visual impacts clustered;</li> <li>• Ensure that vegetation is not unnecessarily removed during the construction period</li> <li>• Reduce the construction period through careful logistical planning and productive implementation of resources</li> <li>• Reduce construction activities to daylight hours where possible in order to reduce lighting impacts</li> <li>• Rehabilitate all disturbed areas immediately after construction</li> <li>• Crossings with linear features (roads, rail lines etc.), should be made at a right angle</li> <li>• Structures should be set as far back from the crossing of existing linear features as possible</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Efforts must be made to maintain the construction site in a clean and orderly condition during the construction phase</li> <li>• Galvanized steel on structures should be darkened to prevent glare</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select paint finishes with a low level of reflectivity</li> </ul>
Increased soil erosion due to the deterioration of access roads to the power line servitude for operation and routine maintenance activities	<b>Indirect impact</b> Soil erosion due to maintenance activities	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply the appropriate erosion protection measures where erosion is identified;</li> <li>Regular maintenance of the identified access roads as and when required;</li> <li>Improve the access of the identified access roads to ensure suitable passage for equipment, erosion control and maintenance of proper drainage; and</li> <li>Maintenance staff to stay on the designated access roads at all times.</li> </ul>
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	<b>Cumulative impact</b> Taking into consideration the future infrastructural upgrades that will occur, the local economy may increase	Low Positive	High Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Increased visual impact of additional powerlines due to the existence of other powerlines in the vicinity of the proposed Randfontein powerline	<b>Cumulative impact</b> Taking into consideration the impact additional lines will have on surrounding environment	Low	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure new powerlines are where possible, placed in the same vicinity as existing powerlines therefore minimising the impact of sense of place.</li> </ul>
<b>Decommissioning Phase</b>				
<b>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:</b>				
Waste generation in the form of generating metal and concrete waste during decommissioning activities	<b>Direct impact</b> Solid waste generation due to decommissioning activities.	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste generation must be managed according to Eskom's guidelines and standards; and</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Water and soil contamination due to hydrocarbon spills which may spill from decommissioning vehicles and/or machinery	<b>Direct impact</b> Soil and water degradation due to decommissioning activities	Low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contaminated soil must be removed and disposed of at an appropriate registered landfill site;</li> <li>Heavy vehicles and/or machinery must be serviced and maintained regularly;</li> <li>No fuel storage, refuelling, vehicle maintenance or vehicle depots must be allowed within 30m of the edge of any watercourse or drainage lines;</li> </ul>

Activity	Impact summary	Significance		Proposed mitigation
		Pre-mitigation	Post-mitigation	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No effluents or polluted water must be allowed to discharge into any drainage lines or watercourse areas; and</li> <li>The construction footprint along the watercourse must be limited as possible.</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Alternative 2</b>				
The proposed impacts will be the same as that for Alternative 1 however, because Alternative 2 doesn't run as closely to the wetland areas the impacts on ecological and wetlands is lower for this alternative. Mitigation measures as stipulated above are applicable to Alternative 2.				
<b>Alternative 3</b>				
The proposed impacts will be the same as those for Alternative 1 however, because Alternative 3 is the furthest away from the wetland areas and follows existing line for a large majority the impacts associated with this line are less significant than those of Alternative 1. Mitigation measures as stipulated above are applicable to Alternative 3.				
<b>No-go option</b>				
No job creation	<b>Direct impacts:</b> No jobs will be created if the construction of the power line does not take place	High negative		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence with the proposed power line construction</li> </ul>
Inhibition of economic growth and development	<b>Direct impacts:</b> 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"> <li>Commence with the proposed power line construction</li> </ul>

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"> <li>Land based vehicle activity</li> <li>Clearing of vegetation negatively affects carbon sequestration efficiency and increase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure vehicle exhaust systems function correctly.</li> <li>Ensure energy reduction practices are developed implemented.</li> </ul>	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

Cumulative Impacts				
Aspect	Impact	Cause	Mitigation	Detailed Description
		emissions resulting from decomposition		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 traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More vehicles in the immediate area.</li> <li>• Increased number of people visiting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit noise after working hours therefore between 18h00 and 6h00.</li> </ul>	As a result of increased traffic and movement of people within the recreational facility the ambient 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"> <li>• Soil erosion</li> <li>• Soil contamination by chemicals and hydrocarbons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence rehabilitation of affected and completed areas</li> <li>• Application of soil emplacement and storage practices</li> <li>• Fertilisation and amendments</li> <li>• Erosion control and treatment</li> <li>• Implementation of good housekeeping practices (vehicle maintenance and waste management)</li> <li>• Correct storage of dangerous goods, waste and other material which may cause contamination</li> <li>• Spill clean up</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Soil erosion</li> <li>• Soil contamination by chemicals and hydrocarbons</li> <li>• Microbial contamination from waste streams generated on site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of good housekeeping practices (vehicle maintenance and waste management)</li> <li>• Correct storage of dangerous goods, waste and other material which may cause contamination</li> <li>• Spill clean up</li> </ul>	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land transformed for the recreational facility</li> <li>• Anthropological</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of vegetation</li> <li>• Implementation of conservation practices</li> </ul>	The cumulative impacts relate to land transformation resulting in the loss of habitat. The habitat type is not regarded as threatened and not

Cumulative Impacts				
Aspect	Impact	Cause	Mitigation	Detailed Description
	functioning	activities (poaching, pollution)	(including the control of weeds and alien invasive species)	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"> <li>• The construction and operation of the powerlines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	Since the area is fairly built up it is not expected that the cumulative impact will be of high significance.
Traffic	Increased traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases in construction vehicles as well as private and public vehicles during operation.</li> <li>• Increased commuter traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to speed limits and road signage</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Better access to electricity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	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. Route Alternative 1 is the longest route compared to the other alternatives and runs closest to wetland and ecological sensitive areas. As such this Alternative will have a larger overall footprint and therefore a larger environmental impact on the receiving environment. **Despite having a larger footprint all impacts associated with Route Alternative 1 are mainly of a short – medium term, with a significance rating of low – very low (with the implementation of mitigation measures).**

It should be noted that all environmental impacts associated with Alternative 1 can be successfully mitigated to acceptable levels if the recommended mitigation measures above and in the EMP are adhered to. Therefore, **Alternative 1** can be **considered**. However, it should be highlighted that the **Wetland, Ecological and Avifaunal specialist** studies rated this as the **least preferred route** as the impacts on wetlands, ecological and avifauna are greater due to the close proximity of the powerline to the wetland and riparian areas. From an operational perspective this is the preferred alternative as it allows Eskom to connect to all four proposed substations, thereby ensuring proper upgrading of electrical infrastructure to the area as well as allowing the best future expansion options. It should also be noted that this route primarily follows Alternative 1 of the Westgate - Tarlton line/route (14/12/16/3/3/1/1772). As a result if both Alternative 1 routes are selected this will have less of an impact on the surrounding environment during construction.

### 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. Route Alternative 2 is the shorter when compared to Alternative 1 and as such will have a smaller overall footprint and similarly smaller environmental impact on the receiving environment. **All impacts associated with Route Alternative 2 are mainly of a short – medium term, with a significance of low – very low (with the implementation of mitigation measures).** It should be highlighted that the **Wetland and Ecological specialist** studies rated this alternative as the **most preferred route** while the **Social, Avifauna, Visual and Heritage** studies regard this route as **acceptable** as the impacts on wetlands, ecological and avifauna are less significant than Alternative 1 as this route is further from wetland and riparian areas. From an operational perspective this is also considered preferred/ feasible as it allows Eskom to connect to all four proposed substations, thereby ensuring proper upgrading of electrical infrastructure to the area as well as allowing the best future expansion options.

It should be noted that all environmental impacts associated with **Alternative 2** can be successfully mitigated to **acceptable levels** if the recommended mitigation measures above and in the EMP are adhered to. It should also be noted that this route primarily follows Alternative 2 of the Westgate - Tarlton line/route (14/12/16/3/3/1/1772). As a result if both Alternative 2 routes are selected this will have less of an impact on the surrounding environment during construction. From an environmental and operational perspective **Alternative 2** is considered the **most preferred route**.

### 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. Route Alternative 3 is the shortest when compared to the other Alternatives and as such will have a smallest overall footprint and environmental impact on the receiving environment. **All impacts associated with Route Alternative 3 are mainly of a short – medium term, with a significance of low – very low (with the implementation of mitigation measures).**

It should be noted that all environmental impacts associated with Alternative 3 can be successfully mitigated to acceptable levels if the recommended mitigation measures above and in the EMP are adhered to. While this Alternative 3 is acceptable and the **preferred route** in the **Avifauna, Social, Heritage and Visual specialist studies** it should be highlighted that **from an operational perspective it is not the preferred route**. Should this route be approved the lines will not be able to connect to all four proposed substations which will therefore affect connection to the Randfontein area,

as such this alternative is not considered feasible from an operational perspective. For this reason and based on the results of the impact assessment and the specialist studies stating that Alternative 2 is acceptable, Alternative 2 is preferred over Alternative 3. Alternative 3 should not be considered.

**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.

## 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
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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, heritage, wetland and ecology, 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;
- The construction must not commence without a decision from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) as amended (NWA);
- As highlighted in a comment by Sibanye the land is prone to excavations, shallow mining and old mining operations and therefore Eskom must liaise with the Sibanye mine engineers during the planning of final pylon placement; 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
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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

22 May 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

# Document Control

## Form IP180\_B

CLIENT : Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd, Eskom Distribution – Gauteng Operations Unit (Eskom)  
 PROJECT NAME : Randfontein Northern Strategy 132kV Powerline  
 PROJECT NO : J35567  
 TITLE OF DOCUMENT : FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 132 KV POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATIONS FOR THE RANDFONTEIN NORTHERN STRATEGY WITHIN THE WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE  
 ELECTRONIC LOCATION :

	Approved By	Reviewed By	Prepared By
<b>ORIGINAL</b>	NAME <b>Umeshree Naicker</b>	NAME <b>Chevonne Stevens</b>	NAME <b>Zikhona Wana</b>
DATE <b>06 January 2017</b>	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 

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