



Ck No. 2007/196934/23

Income Tax Registration: 9455120163

**Physical Address**, 49 3rd Avenue, Highlands North, 2192, Postal Address, P.O. Box 2363, Highlands North, 2037.

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Dear all,

Thank you for attending the public meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013

We would like to draw your attention that these minutes were drawn from notes taken from the Public Meeting; please provide corrections / additions if applicable.

We would like to advise that while utmost care was taken to record your comments accurately and faithfully, there may be some discrepancies between what has been written in the minutes that follow and what was actually said. We apologise for this and request that you contact us should you wish to have something changed.

Many thanks for your participation at the meeting, as well as for your understanding regarding the minutes.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Judith Alford", written in a cursive style.

Judith Alford  
Mokgope Consulting cc



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**Proposed “Kronos-Perseus” 765kV Transmission Power line & Substations  
Upgrade, Northern Cape and Free State Provinces  
NEAS Ref: DEA/EIA/0001555/2012  
DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/438**

**Meeting with I&APs held at 17h30 on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at Kruidfontein Farm, Salt Lake**

**Attendees:**

Judith	Alford	JA	Mokgope Consulting
Kgwathetji	Matemane	KM	Mokgope Consulting
Bruce	Sebolai	BS	Mokgope Consulting
Lerato	Mokgwathheng	LM	Eskom
Ken	Dugmore	KD	Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)
BM	Griesel	BMG	I&AP
Deon	Joubert	DJ	I&AP
Barnie	Visser	BV	I&AP
HO	Dugmore	HOD	I&AP
Johannes	Swart	JS	I&AP
Peet	Knoux	PK	I&AP

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Response / Comment</b>
1.	JA: Welcome and Introduction	
2.	JA: Briefed the attendees on the background of the project.	
3.	<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b> <b>All I&amp;APs:</b> Outlining their property boundaries on the map. <b>I&amp;AP<sup>1</sup>:</b> Where do the solar farms fit in this whole project?	<b>LM:</b> The solar farms are going to connect to the distribution infrastructures (i.e. 132 feeder bays and/or 132kV lines indirectly

<sup>1</sup> Please note: An unknown attendee is replaced by “**I&AP**”. We could not identify the exact person who stated the comment.

connecting to the substations (indicating to the 400/132kV substations on the map) The solar farms will not connect to the 765kV.

**LM:** The 765 or 400 kV power line is used to transmit electricity generated from power stations to the Transmission substations. Transformers are used to bring down in an Alternate Current (AC) electrical circuit, the 765 voltage to 400, 275 and 132kV. Then the 275 and 132 kV lines are used to transmit the brought-down electricity to Distribution substations. This voltage is further brought down by transformers in an AC electrical circuit to the acceptable voltage to feed into our houses. It is important also to note that the 765kV lines are preferred to the 400kV if the distance in between of the power station and the National Grid and or Transmission Substations is too long (i.e. distance of +300km).

**JA:** Explains the locality map.

**JA:** Freddie, one of the landowners had wanted to attend the meeting but could not make it. Where is Freddie's farm located on this map?

**LM:** What activities are taking place within Freddie's farm and surrounding farms?

**DJ:** Explains where the alternative power lines would run across their national park (indicating on the map).

**I&AP:** There is a canal that comes from the dam and runs across the orange river. A little bit higher up are irrigation activities over here (indicating on the map), which are closer to the rivers.

**HOD:** What criteria did Eskom use to plan these lines?

**KD:** Identifies Freddie's farm on the map.

**HOD:** Sheep and cattle farming

**LM:** The followings are taken into consideration when planning the line: terrain / topography, agricultural areas with centre-pivots, airfield and/or landing-strips, mining areas, built areas, pristine and protected areas, game farms, etc.. Eskom conducted a flyover and did a Google Earth desktop study to identify the corridors. Some features like crossing through game reserves, pristine vegetation could not be picked-up as these are difficult to

consider above ground. This is the reason why the environmental consultant and the environmental specialists are appointed and we are also here to find out from the interested and affected parties (including landowners) whether it is feasible to cross certain areas considering factors such as vegetation, fauna, wetland, heritage, agriculture activities, etc. to name a few. The information gathered from this exercise will be taken back to Eskom's technical team for deliberations and/or consideration which may result in the shifting or amendments of the route alignments to avoid identified constraints or sensitive areas.

**JA:** Just to add: We'll have to raise this question to the Eskom technical team as they were the ones who chose these routes. Once we've had feedback we'll forward to you.

From an EIA point of view, it is important that we get your opinions and concerns about the proposed routes as you have more knowledge about your land and hence can bring to our attention the areas of concern of which we were not aware of.

**BV:** What process will you use to take our concerns to Eskom?

**JA:** We record your concerns in a Comments and Response Report (CRR) and compile minutes. The CRR and minutes would be attached to the final scoping report for DEA to review, but before submission we'll have to send you the minutes for your review in case there are any comments we have left out to be considered.

**LM:** DEA will look at how we have addressed your concerns

**BV:** We don't have information such as the Grid maps to show where these lines are proposed for linkages to substations. Due to this lack of information, the first proposal that comes to mind is; why doesn't Eskom upgrade the existing lines instead of impacting on our properties?

**LM:** 765kV is the highest voltage line being built in South Africa. But the engineers don't prefer to build the 765kV because of the high risks of losing electricity generated from power stations as compared to 400kV, but it is due to the length of where it's being generated and where it is going to, Eskom has no option but to use 765kV transmission lines.

The upgrade of the existing line will not meet the future load forecast and that is the reason why a new line is required. . This new line will also link the electricity to be generated from the new power stations, which are being built in Lephalale (Medupi) and closer to Balmoral (Kusile).

**JA:** We have compiled a Scoping Report which is available at Douglas Library. It could also be sent to you via email upon your request, so that we can get comments from you.

**BV:** I understand your explanation. The point I want to make is that you've asked us to comment on this project. What I can say is that, I don't have the information of the environmental impact study done to date. So it's difficult for us as landowners to make a proposal.

**KD:** One thing I can say is that in Dealesville there is a huge substation (Perseus substation), with 765kV lines running in and out of that substation.

**HOD:** Where are those lines running from Dealesville (near Perseus substation)? But you are already impacting this environment. Why don't you just put your big line in that area (indicating on the map)?

**LM:** It all depends on power line voltages and to which substation they connect to. Some of the power lines connect to distribution substations ( $\leq 132\text{kV}$ ) and not transmission substations ( $\geq 275\text{kV}$ ).

Transmission substations comprise of 765kV and 400kV feeder bays while distribution substations are comprised of 132kV feeder bays.

**HOD:** But if you go in the south direction, you are in lower production land than where you are proposing.

**KD:** Looking at it from our point (indicating on the map), the green line is crossing tourism game farms. Hence we don't want a big line coming across our farms because you would be impacting and spoiling the tourist destination. When we put the Mokala Park into the picture, I can't see any

good logic to go through a national park! Yes, there are some national parks that have got big lines going through them, that was a case of years ago. Now with regulations put into place, I can't see any sense in putting a line through a pristine area.

**DJ:** Surely DEA would not approve this line if you go across a Schedule 1 National Park.

**LM:** NEMA and NEM:BA do stipulate the requirements of the buffer, what is permissible and not permissible within and around pristine areas such as National Parks, protected areas, *etc.* The tourist and vegetation / flora specialists will investigate, assess and provide recommendations in line with relevant guidelines and legislation to avoid or lessen the impacts.

**JA:** That is why we need the input from specialists. For example, the vegetation specialists also concentrate on identifying such pristine areas like national parks. Hence your national park would have been brought to our attention via the specialist assessments.

**KD:** Therefore the green and pink line<sup>2</sup> from the farmers and Mokala point of view are out of the question. The blue line is the other possibility.

**DJ:** Showing their proposal on the map.

**LM:** I'm going to send this to the planners to bring to their attention. Inputs from specialists would need to be overlaid. Where there is a "red flag", DEA won't approve and there is legislation protecting environmental sensitive areas. Nonetheless, we need to identify the most feasible line to consider because the line is needed as

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<sup>2</sup> Please note: map indicates: green line - Alternative 3; pink line – Alternative 2; and blue line – Alternative 1.

it is of national importance.

**I&AP:** It is complicated because if no one wants the line to go over their property, then where does it go? And we can't keep it hanging in the air.

**KD:** With regards to our blue line proposal, at Hopetown where it crosses the river, there are some irrigation activities. There is very little irrigation at that point at Hopetown area (indicating on the map).

**JA:** This is the first phase of the EIA process, and we are glad we got this information at this stage. We are going to have another meeting in the EIA phase and we would have the findings from the specialist studies available.

**DJ:** I am just a little bit concerned. If it wasn't for Ken alerting us about the new power line, we would not have known about this project.

**I&AP:** I still propose as an alternative that the line comes this way to Copperton (indicating on the map).

**HOD:** Where are you going to produce all this power that needs to be supplied?

**HOD:** There is nothing coming this way (pointing on the map).

**HOD:** I think the planning is also fairly poor particularly if you can plan three routes and two of them go over a national park.

**BV:** Okay, if we put the suggestions forward: (1) avoid the national park, (2) look at the existing power lines that go down to Cape town.

Why do we talk about Kronos at all? Limpopo and Mpumalanga is up in the

**JA:** In this EIA process, we have to identify affected landowners. We used WinDeed and some of the addresses are not recorded. We also checked with the deeds offices and some addresses are not updated. The project was also advertised on local newspapers.

**LM:** The alternative you've proposed is already being assessed for proposed Cape Strengthening Phase 4 project.

**LM:** The electricity might come from power stations situated in Limpopo and Mpumalanga or it might come from the proposed Nuclear power stations which are being proposed in the Cape Region (Oyster Bay, Pearly Beach and Duynfontein).

**LM:** We'll pass on the question to the planner to answer your question and we will have the planner in our next meeting to explain in detail the need for this project.

**LM:** The EIA process is investigating a way to get the electricity generated to the national grids

North, the Eastern Cape is where we look at the potential nuclear plant and Koeberg in Cape Town. So why do we come to the western side of the country?

**HOD:** It is the lowest populated and the least requirement for irrigation for power.

**BV:** Just send our suggestions to whoever in Eskom will provide clarity on the need for these lines. The country is populated more to the east and it is not on the western side of the country.

**KD:** What is the implication (space required) and compensation?

**KD:** Where do we go from here?

**KD:** What is the deadline to receive these responded comments?

**PK:** (Indicating on the map) The people around this area were not informed. I am the only one that was informed. So these people need to be notified of the project as well.

**JA:** Your points have been noted and would be passed on for response by the relevant people.

**LM:** The studies are going to be conducted within the 2km corridor. A 2km is being assessed and proposed for approval to position 80km width of the line. The 2km corridor allows the flexibility to position the line anywhere within the approved corridor. The position of the servitude is finalized during negotiation process by landowner / land manager and Eskom's negotiator. without reverting. In the next meetings the negotiator will be available to explain the negotiation process in detail.

**JA:** From this meeting, I have noted down your comments, which will be responded by Eskom or the consultants, depending on which question is relevant for who to answer. Then I'll resend the comments and response report back to you. These minutes will be included in the Final Scoping Report which will then be submitted to DEA for consideration.

**JA:** The commenting period ends on the last week of June. There after I need to compile the Comments and Response Report which would be attached to the final Scoping report that needs to be submitted to DEA by end of July or in early August. The draft minutes would be sent to you by 20<sup>th</sup> June for your review and corrections.

**JA:** Do you know any of them and contact details?

**LM:** Requested attendees to suggest venues for next meetings to ensure

**HOD:** You as Eskom and the consultants need to sort that out. Surely you need to contact these people along the way and make sure that you have central venues that you can tell me what's going on. You should have identified the landowners before the scoping process.

**JA:** The project was advertised on local newspapers. We sent out BIDs to all the landowners identified and whose addresses were available. We used GIS to identify the properties affected by the proposed alternative routes within the 2km corridor. We used WinDeed as well to search for their addresses. We have a list of approximately 800 landowners whose addresses were found for the entire project from Western Cape to Free State. The I&APs register is attached to the Scoping report.

**KD:** Well, it's possible that people have not responded and it's possible that some people are not interested.

**JA:** Even if they have not responded to the first document sent to them, we shall continue sending notifications to all the I&APs in our database up until the appeal process.

4. Meeting declared closed.