



Ck No. 2007/196934/23      VAT No: 4030265740

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**Contact Person :** Judith Alford, **Cell:** 076 876 2672, **Email:** judy@mokgope.co.za

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Dear all,

Thank you for attending the public meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014

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

Judith Alford  
Mokgope Consulting cc  
Cell: 076 876 2672



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**Proposed “Aries-Helios” 765kV Transmission Power line & Substations Upgrade,  
Northern Cape Province  
DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/441**

**Meeting with I&APs held at 14h00 on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Halfweg, Loop 10**

**Attendees:**

Judith	Alford	JA	Mokgope Consulting
Victoria	Somo	VS	Mokgope Consulting
Bruce	Sebolai	BS	Mokgope Consulting
Lerato	Mokgwatheng	LM	Eskom
Wimpie	Henning	WH	Eskom
Linda	Haarhoff	LH	Eskom
J B	Vollgraaff	JV	Landowner
W M	Symington	WS	Agric Noordkaap
H	Lintvelt	HL	Landowner
A.J	Brand	AB	Landowner

Item No	Item Description	Response / Comment
1.	<b>JA:</b> Welcome and Introduction	
2.	<b>JA:</b> Presentation	
3.	<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	<p><b>LM:</b> From the presentation, I would like to point out that the servitude does not exist. Therefore even if the chosen line is close to the existing line, there will be a negotiation process for the 80m servitude.</p> <p><b>LH:</b> In addition to LM’s comments, a 765kV line requires an 80m servitude and a 400kV line requires a 55m servitude. So if the 765kV line is built close to the 400kV line, the servitudes may overlap.</p> <p><b>WS:</b> Ons moet onderskei maak rondom die <b>AB:</b> Die lyne beïnvloed basies drie provinsies so</p>

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	<p>impak studie en die funksioneering van die lyn. Ons wil net vra dat julle net vir ons die alle inligting deurgee.  <i>(We as the farmers need to define the impact studies and functionality of the power line. Does all the relevant information pass through the affected areas?)</i></p>	<p>alle unies sal moet betrokke raak van die verskeie provinsies om sodoende die proses te voorspoedig.  <i>(The lines cross three provinces so each farmer's union in the provinces must get involved in the process. This would also speed up the negotiation process).</i>  <b>LH:</b> Ons gebruik GWK en OKV om te kommunikeer met boere <i>(We have used GWK and OKV to communicate with farmers).</i></p>
	<p><b>WS:</b> Would you prefer to deal with individuals or a representative for a group?</p>	<p><b>LM:</b> We are required to engage with all Interested and Affected Parties, whether its individuals or as a group. But if you take a decision as a group it could also help during the negotiation period. For example, the Eskom negotiator would know that farmers from this particular area have a certain list of principles that need to be followed.</p>
	<p><b>WS:</b> Where would we fit in as individual farmers to receive electricity from these lines?</p>	<p><b>LH:</b> These are very high voltage transmission lines and it's impossible to tap electricity directly from them. Farms may tap electricity from 32kV distribution lines.</p> <p>The whole purpose for this line crossing through the Northern Cape region is to pick up most of the solar farms and wind farms generated electricity. By constructing the 765kV lines would mean Eskom would require to upgrade some substations like Aries and Juno to install transformers. Therefore the plan is to collect most of the renewable generated energy from the solar and wind farms to distribute to Gauteng or KZN Provinces where more load of electricity is needed.</p> <p>The reason why we propose a 765kV and not 132kV or 400kV, is that, for long distances, we need higher voltages to reduce the losses on the network. With the 765kV line we can cover a distance of about 450km and then connect to a substation with a switching station, otherwise we cannot manage the lines or operate on them. For this project, the plan is to connect the line from Perseus to Kronos, which is a distance of about 380km. We would then connect to Aries because there are a lot of Solar developments in that area. From Aries we would connect to Juno.</p>

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		There are one or two substations along the route that we would physically go into and upgrade with a switching station and establish step up and step down transformers. The upgrade would not be done at each and every substation we come across because it would defeat the whole purpose of building the 765kV power line.
	<b>WS:</b> Do you see future development where small scale farmers may provide electricity to Eskom?	<b>LH:</b> If you talk about renewable energy, there are two processes to follow. You can either get one of the big solar farms with the company coming in and they would fall under some sort of a bidding process. The other alternative is for the generation of less than 1 MW, which is specific and farm owners can generate. They need to register their capacity with Eskom and they would follow a route different from the bidding process.
	<b>AB:</b> Eskom het klaar die impak studie gedoen op die lyne. Op grond waarvan gaan die departemnet sy besluit neem watter lyn die beste in guns wees om goedgekeur te word. <i>(On what grounds will the department take its decision)?</i>	<b>LH:</b> Dus nie net ons inligting wat tel alle inligting wat ons van die publiek ontvang en die department sal op grond van die inligting wat verkry word en daarvan die besluit neem. <i>(It is not only our information that the department would refer to. The department would consider the public's information. From there all collected information will be used to facilitate in making a decision).</i>
	<b>WS:</b> Hoeveel impak sal dit maak as alle boere bymekaar kom en met een besluit op voorstel watter lyn die beste wees. <i>(What will the impact be if all farmers take a joint decision to choose a suitable line)?</i>	<b>WH:</b> Dit sal baie help en die taak vergemaaklik en ons verwelkom dit. <i>(It will help us and our negotiation task will be less of a challenge).</i>
	<b>HL:</b> Met baie respek noem ek dat die spesialiste baie onbreek met hul gevoel oor die studies van die lyn. <i>(With all due respect the specialists lack information on the area).</i>	<b>LH:</b> Alle spesialiste het 'n goeie gevoel oor al drie lyne. <i>(All specialists have a good feeling about all three lines).</i>
	Die impak studie wat gedoen was onbreek baie sensitiewe inligting en dus 'n baie groot probleem. <i>(The impact studies withhold sensitive information and it's a big concern).</i>	<b>WH:</b> Julle kommetaar moet na gekyk word en ons notuleer alles wat julle noem. <i>(Your comments will be considered that's reason why we take the minutes).</i>
	<b>AB:</b> Die inligting wat die spesialiste gebruik	<b>WH:</b> Met u hulle inligting wat u deurgee sal daar

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	<p>het dus ou inligting van tien jaar ek voel dat die studies gedoen word op nuwe inligting van vandag omsoende doeltreffende inligting. <i>(The information that the specialists have used is old information of ten years. It was copy and paste work).</i></p>	<p>weer deur die stad gestudie gedoen word deur spesialiste en dan sal vergelyking gevolg op beide party se bevindinge op die impak <i>(Comments from the public and the specialists' reports will be reviewed by the authority. Information from all sides, including your comments will help in making a decision).</i></p>
	<p><b>WS:</b> Met my ervaring is beter as julle 'n landboukinge gebruik om so studie te doen rondom plase. <i>(It will be better if Eskom makes use of agriculture specialist to provide detailed information concerning the agricultural section).</i></p>	<p><b>WH:</b> Julle deelname is baie belangrik in die verband. <i>(All farmers' participation is important in this regard).</i></p>
	<p>Baie van die studie is gedoen en ou inligting is gebruik <i>(A lot of information in this report was copied from old information. The reason is because various changes have taken place over the years).</i></p>	
	<p><b>JV:</b> Die blou lyn beweeg oor my grond en daar is so om en by 25 kilometer sout water bron beskikbaar. <i>(The blue line crosses over a wetland)</i></p>	<p><b>WH:</b> Dit is die faktore wat saam gekyk rondom die van plantasie en water bronne en dus baie belangrik. <i>(Vegetation and watercourses are important aspects in terms of the EIA process. Mitigation measures need to be recommended to reduce impacts that the development may pose. Also to note is that the blue line width is 2km and will be narrowed when the servitude is established. Therefore wetland and other sensitive areas will be avoided).</i></p>
	<p><b>JV:</b> Word daar nie vooraf bepaal hoeveel water gebruik word of het dit impak nie? <i>(Has Eskom considered how much water will be used for the project)?</i></p>	<p><b>LH:</b> Eskom gebruik nie net enige water nie om sy konstruksie te doen nie. Die water word getoets en dit word teen streng reëls gedoen. Daar word ook aansoek gedoen vir water regte by die departement van waterwese om water te bekom as dit ingevoer. <i>(Eskom uses not just any water for its construction project. The water is tested and consumed under strict rules. We are also required to apply for water use rights from the Department of Water Affairs, should we need to import water. The amount of water to be required will be determined during the compilation of the specific / construction EMPPr).</i></p>

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	<p><b>WS:</b> In the documents please address the security on the farms during construction phase, because there will be a lot of contractors and guys moving around near the farms. So farm security should be addressed. Please provide specific security measures which we need to see so that if there is anything missing we may add in the list.</p>	<p><b>JA:</b> Noted. The security recommendations would be addresses in the EMP.</p>
	<p><b>AB:</b> Is daar werkseleenthede vir die plaaslike gemeenskap? <i>(Is there any employment opportunities available for the community)?</i></p>	<p><b>LH:</b> daar sal geleenthede wees vir besighede en ekonomiese inspuiting. Maar die die werk verreis:hoe gespesiaaleerde. <i>(There will be business opportunities for small business but the construction requires high skills from the contractors and Eskom).</i></p>
	<p><b>WS:</b> Werkloosheid is hoog en die vaardighede van ons gemeenskap is baie laag en hoe word die gemeenskap inag geneem? <i>(Unemployment is very high and the community skills are low. Will they be considered)?</i></p>	<p><b>LH:</b> Die konstruksie vereis baie meer vaardighede en ongelukkig bring die konstruksie sy eie personeel saam. Wat die gemeenskap betref sal daar min vir hul wees by konstruksie. <i>(The construction requires high skills and unfortunately there are limited low skill jobs which would be required from the communities).</i></p>
	<p><b>AB:</b> Ek kan aanvaar dat die mense van buite is wat die werk doen. <i>(From my understanding you will use people from outside to construct the project).</i></p>	<p><b>LH:</b> ja dit is maatskappye wat gerigistreeer wat die werk gaan doen. <i>(Yes, it will be South African companies that are register with Eskom).</i></p>
	<p><b>AB:</b> Daar is huidiglik geen tyd wanneer die projek sal begin nie. <i>(At this stage can you anticipate the date when the construction phase will commence)?</i></p>	<p><b>LH:</b> Op hierdie stadium is die projek is nie in die volgende 10 jaar konstruksie plan. Die Fase 4 is in die 10 jaar plan. Ons is tans besig met Fase 2, daarna Fase 3 en dan Fase 4. Daarom Fase 5 sal eers ná 10 jaar van nou af. Die rede waarom dit neem lank is, want ons het om te gaan deur middel van die OIE-proses, wat kan tot twee jaar, en daarna sal ons die verkryging van grond / onderhandelinge, wat kan tot 5 jaar om te voltooi te voer. Daar kan ook 'n beroep ingedien, wat sal vereis dat voor sy toetrede tot die verkryging / onderhandelingsproses aangespreek moet word <i>(At this stage, the project is not in the following 10 years construction plan. The Phase 4 is within the 10 years plan. Currently we are busy with Phase 2, there after Phase 3 and then Phase 4. Therefore Phase 5 would only start after 10 years from now. The reason why it's taking long is because we have to go through</i></p>

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	<p><b>WS:</b> After construction phase it's extremely difficult to get back the environment to its undisturbed nature. Is there any proposed rehabilitation processes in the EMPr?</p>	<p><i>the EIA process, which can take up to two years, and thereafter we would conduct land acquisition / negotiations, which can take up to 5 years to complete. There could also be appeals lodged, which will require to be addressed prior to entering the acquisition / negotiation process).</i></p> <p><b>JA:</b> Yes, the rehabilitation process has to be undertaken particularly towards the completion of construction phase.</p> <p><b>WH:</b> Elke eienaar moet die lyn affteken om te verklaar is die rehabilitasie reg gedoen en hulle hoef ook nie te teken ashulle nie tevrede is nie. (Every owner will sign off a rehabilitation satisfaction form if happy with the rehabilitation procedure. I they are not, they can refuse to sign).</p> <p><b>LM:</b> In addition, DEA does the audits. We need to notify them when we start construction. They have a compliance section at the department that deals with monitoring the environment impacted by construction activities. They come during construction phase to conduct their audits. If they have concerns and find out that Eskom is not in compliance with the environmental authorisation's conditions, they can penalize us and even instruct us stop the construction until we have rectified the impacts. When construction phase is completed, we also have to compile a report to indicate what we have done to rehabilitate the area. The department's compliance section will come to the site again to verify what is contained in the close-out audit report. This inspection is done from tower to tower checking if we have followed the environmental authorisation's and EMPr's conditions.</p> <p><b>LH:</b> Gedurende die onder handel proses kan boere sekere vereistes stel wat hul verwag van eskom tydens die konstruksie. (During the negotiations process the farmers may state certain condition for the construction team to adhere to when they are working within the farmer's property boundaries. These conditions will be included in the specific / construction EMPr).</p>

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	<p><b>WS:</b> Please tell us the process that will follow from here and the timelines. Please send us an email.</p>	<p><b>JA:</b> When I return to the office, the minutes will be compiled and be sent back to you for rectification. I'll also have to compile the Comments and Response Report, which Eskom would also need to respond and review before being sent to you. This would all be done in the month of August and September.</p>
	<p><b>WS:</b> Die probleem is ons voel dat ons nie goed ingelig rondom die verwickelinge. Maar eskom doen hul werk weties en adverteer oral en dus ons plig om inligting te bekom. <i>(We the unions feel that we are not on board but Eskom has done its legal part to advertise the project and its duty to be part of the process).</i></p>	<p><b>WS:</b> Met onderhandelinge praat ons met beide partye die huurder en verhuurder. <i>(With negotiation process, we will consult with both parties, the affected landowners and farmers unions)</i></p>
	<p><b>WS:</b> Korideer beweeg oor water drink plekke hoe beïnvloed dit ons as boere. <i>(If the corridor moves over sensitive areas will you take us into account)?</i></p>	<p><b>WH:</b> Dit hang van die onderhandeling proses af en ons sal alles in ag neem en maak sekere byvoegings en ons beweeg voort van daar af. <i>(During the negotiations process all will be taken into consideration and we will move the line from sensitive areas).</i></p>
	<p><b>WS:</b> When are you expecting Environmental Authorisation?</p>	<p><b>JA:</b> Probably sometime mid next year.</p> <p><b>LM:</b> DEA would need about 105 days for its review before they can grant a decision. So if we submit in October we anticipate their response in April next year because they close office between 15 December and 2 January. The public holidays are also excluded. After their response we need to notify you as it is a legislative requirement and you will be afforded time to lodge an appeal. Should there be appeals; the next stage which is the negotiation process will be delayed. History has shown that resolving these appeals takes about six to 3 years.</p>
4	Meeting closed with AB thanking the Eskom team and the consultants.	