Dear Interested and/or Affected Party

12 September 2007

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 2x400 kV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION POWER LINES FROM ETNA SUBSTATION (near Ennerdale) TO GLOCKNER SUBSTATION (near Rothdene), GAUTENG PROVINCE

- Announcement of the acceptance of Scoping Phase and Approval of Plan of Study for EIA

As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the proposed construction of the new double circuit 2x400kV Transmission power line from Etna to Glockner Substations, Gauteng Province, we would like to inform you that the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) has accepted the Environmental Scoping Report and Plan of Study (PoS) for the Impact Assessment phase for this proposed project on 3rd June 2007.

This EIA Newsletter aims to:

Further facilitate your understanding of the proposed project and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process being followed in the Impact Assessment phase. The first phase of the EIA process (i.e. the Environmental Scoping Study) has been completed, and detailed studies as part of phase two of the process (i.e. the EIA) have commenced. You are most welcome to visit Eskom’s website (www.eskom.co.za/eia) where the final Environmental Scoping Report and other public documents are available. The public participation process has been on-going throughout this process and will continue until the final EIA Report is submitted to DEAT for decision-making.

1. REFRESHER: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

By using the planning processes in place, Eskom has established that there is a need to increase the electricity load to the Vaal/West Rand area and these increases needs to be address as soon as possible. The analysis done by Eskom, shows that since 1995 there has been a marked increase in load demand at Taunus Substation, which primarily supplies Soweto and surrounding areas with electricity. The increase in load build-up, which has already reached a combined peak of almost 1000MW in 2005, has resulted in a significant increase in the amount of power flowing from Lethabo Power Station to Etna Substation, via the Eiger and Brenner Substations.

The analysis indicates that it will be feasible to construct new 2x400kV Transmission power line from which power from Lethabo Power Station could be delivered to Glockner Substation and transferred to Etna Substation.

As previously mentioned, there is an increasing demand for electricity in the Vaal/West Rand area and should additional double circuit 2x400kV Transmission power lines not be constructed within the next few years, it is envisaged that possible voltage collapse on the Transmission network may occur. This could result in power failure for the end user.

It is proposed to construct a new double circuit 2x400kV Transmission power line directly between Etna and Glockner Substations, which is envisaged to be 30km in length. The final length of the proposed double circuit 400kV Transmission power line is dependent on the outcome of the environmental studies and Eskom’s negotiations with the property owners once a preferred Alternative has been identified within the corridor. Etna Substation is situated south east of Lenasia & northeast of Ennerdale, along Road 533 to Sebokeng/Evaton while Glockner Substation is situated northeast of Vereeniging along Road R59 to Alberton.
The Key points regarding the proposed project are as follows:

- The proposed route corridor for the new double circuit 2x400kV Etna-Glockner Transmission power lines will be approximately 30km in length, depending on the final route alignment, and there would at least be three alternative alignments.
- The study area (as indicated on the enclosed map) indicate the boundary for the identification of stakeholders and for specialists to undertake their environmental studies for this proposed new double circuits 2x400kV Transmission power lines.
- Currently it is proposed that the Guyed Suspension type tower will be used. This tower is approximately 50m in height. The total footprint area required for each tower is 80mx50m. Diagrammes of the proposed towers are indicated in Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- The land beneath the overhead lines can be used, as normal, by the landowners. Eskom, however, require that no dwellings or vegetation/crops higher than 4m be established within the servitude.

As previously indicated, Naledzi Environmental Consultants, as independent environmental consultants, has been appointed by Eskom to conduct an EIA for the construction of the newly proposed double circuits 2x400 kV Transmission power line between Etna- and Glockner Substations in the Gauteng Province.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIALIST STUDY</th>
<th>SPECIALIST UNDERTAKING THE STUDY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Impacts</td>
<td>Gerhard Griesel: Strategic Environmental Focus</td>
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<td>Avifauna Impacts (Birds)</td>
<td>Christelle Pauw: Endangered Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td>Archaeological and Heritage Impacts</td>
<td>Stephan Gaigher &amp; Eric Mathoho: Archaeo-Info Northern Province</td>
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<td>Agricultural Potential Impacts</td>
<td>Kingsley Avisi: Africa Geo-Environmental Services</td>
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<td>Ecology Sensitivity Assessment</td>
<td>Koos Steyn: University of Venda</td>
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<td>Geographical Information (GIS)</td>
<td>Rudzani Mudau: Naledzi Environmental Consultants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Impact Assessment (SIA)</td>
<td>Ingrid Snyman: Ingrid Snyman Development Consultants</td>
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2.1 Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

The public consultation process for the project will continue and will include focus group meetings with representative organisations, individual discussions as and when requested, a public meeting and a key stakeholder workshop. These meetings are envisaged to take place during August and September 2007. In addition to advertising the public meeting and the availability of the draft EIR in the local newspapers, you as a registered I&AP will be notified in writing of the availability of the draft EIR and the public meeting dates and venues.
The EIA phase will culminate in a draft Environmental Impact Report consisting of the findings of the specialist studies (including mitigation measures), as well as all the comments received during the EIA phase. This draft report will be made available at public places for a 30-day public review period, and it is envisaged that the draft EIR will be available during August/September 2007.

On completion of the review period, I&APs’ comments will be integrated into the final Environmental Impact Report, and submitted to DEAT for review and decision-making.

2.2 **Environmental Authorisation (EA) process**

Following the review period of the final EIR, DEAT will make an official decision regarding the proposed project which is referred to as an Environmental Authorisation (EA). As part of the public consultation process, you, as a registered I&AP, will receive a personalised letter informing you of this EA within seven (7) days after receiving the notification from DEAT. An advertisement will also be placed in the Lowvelder and Corridor Gazette regarding the EA issued by DEAT.

Once a decision has been made by DEAT, an Environmental Authorisation (EA) is issued stipulating whether or not the proposed project may commence and under what conditions. Any appeals against the decision of the EA must be directed in writing to the Minister of Environmental Affairs within 30 days of the issue date of the EA. Based on the grounds of the appeals the EA will either be upheld or overturned.

2.3 **Outline of the EIA process**

**Figure 1: Estimated time frames (EIA phase)**

[Diagram showing time frames]

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- **Specialist Studies**
  - July/August 2007

- **Compilation of draft EIA Report**
  - August/September 2007

- **Public Review Period of draft EIA Report**
  - September/October 2007 (30 days)

- **Finalisation of EIA Report**
  - October 2007

- **Compilation of draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**
  - August/October 2007

- **Submit final EIA Report and draft EMP DEAT**
  - October/November 2007

- **Authority Review Period and Environmental Authorisation (EA)**
  - November 2007 onwards (30 days)

- **Inform I&APs of EA**
  - January/February 2008
3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is one of the cornerstones of effective environmental assessments as it is your comments that add value to the environmental process. We therefore request your active participation in this phase of the EIA as your knowledge of your area will be valuable to the various specialist studies being undertaken.

The Environmental Scoping Study, which commenced in November 2006, provided I&APs with the opportunity to participate in the process and raise issues of concern. In order to raise awareness amongst the public, the proposed project and EIA process were advertised in:

- Meyerton Star 21 November 2006
- Sowetan 22 November 2006
- Vaal Weekly 22 November 2006
- Vaal Vision 24 November 2006
- Lenasia Times 29 November 2006

Furthermore, the consultative process included a Key Stakeholder Workshop, Focus Group Meetings and public meetings that was held as follow:

- 28 November 2006: Focus Group Meeting, Midvaal District Municipality, Meyerton
- 13 February 2007: Focus Group Meeting, City of Johannesburg, Lenasia
- 27 January 2007: Public Meeting, Evaton
- 29 January 2007: Public Meeting, Rothdene
- 30 January 2007: Key Stakeholder Workshop, Midrand
- 30 January 2007: Public Meeting, Ennerdale

The draft Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) was made available for public review from 20 February 2007 to 22 March 2007 at the following public places, and electronically on Eskom's web site (www.eskom.co.za/eia):

- Offices of Naledzi Environmental, Polokwane
- Midvaal Municipal Library, Eufees Single, Meyerton
- Kookrus Clinic, C/o Verwoerd Road & Marthinuz Oosthuizen Street, Kookrus
- Van der Bijl Park Public Library, Klasie Havenga Street, Van der Bijl Park
- Vereeniging Public Library, C/o Leslie & Market Streets, Vereeniging
- Wilberforce Community College Library, Plot No 26, C/o Buffalo & Sekontle Streets, Evaton
- Ennerdale Extension 9 Public Library, C/o Chatz & Louw Streets, Ennerdale
- Lenasia South Public Library, C/o Wellington & Wimbledon Streets, Lenasia South Civic Centre Extension 4

As mentioned in the Background Information Document that was distributed regarding this proposed project, it was mentioned that public involvement is a two-way communication and consultation process and we kindly summarise your responsibility as well as that of the public participation consultants as:

You, as an I&AP, have a right to participate in this process by requesting further information or by informing the consultant of your concerns regarding the environment and the proposed project. To exercise this right, you are requested to communicate with the public participation office. You are kindly requested to inform others whom you think may be interested and/or affected by the proposed development, and encourage them to register. You can register at any stage of the study, but it is important to register as early as possible. Registration can also take place through a representative e.g. Tribal Authority Leader / Farmers’ Association / Residents’ Association, etc.
In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, our responsibilities for the public consultation process include:

- We must ensure that sufficient information regarding this proposed project is made available to you, either through the BID or providing information as and when requested.
- We must ensure that you have an understanding of the proposed project to be able to comment informatively and to enable you to submit any concern in an informed manner.
- We must ensure that the following actions are taken upon receiving any comments/queries/issues:
  - the contact details provided by you are entered into the project database and that you are sent all further information releases
  - if you send us queries or comments, we respond in writing
  - if you call us, your details and queries/comments are recorded. Should we not be able to answer your question immediately, your call will be returned as soon as possible with a response.

As indicated in Figure 1, the public participation process is an ongoing process. You will be informed through personal correspondence and advertisements of the various stages of the EIA.

Figure 2 provides an outline of the public participation process to be followed during the EIA phase of the project in order to ensure that you and other I&APs and stakeholders are informed as widely as possible.

**Figure 2: Outline of the public participation process to be followed during the EIA phase of the project**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>EIA NEWSLETTER To be distributed to all registered I&amp;APs</td>
<td>September 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS Meetings to be held with groups with similar interest e.g. affected landowners</td>
<td>September - October 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBLIC MEETINGS Meeting to be held with all interested parties – outcome of specialist studies as captured in draft EIR</td>
<td>September/October 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compilation of Comment and Response Report (for inclusion in draft EIR)</td>
<td>November 2006 – October 2007</td>
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<td>AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT EIR Advertisement and personalised letter to registered I&amp;APs regarding the availability of the draft EIR and public places where it can be reviewed</td>
<td>September/October 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inform I&amp;APs of Environmental Authorisation</td>
<td>January/February 2008</td>
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Should you, during this impact assessment phase, require any additional information or wish to submit comments on the specialist studies or the proposed project, you are welcome to forward your inputs to the Public Participation Office at Imaginative Africa:

Nicolene Venter or Rudzani Mudau

✉ PO Box 63925, Erasmusrand, 0165 ★ Phone: (012) 662 1693 / (011) 803 6844
✉ Fax: 088 012 6621693 / (011) 803 7272 ★ E-mail: etna-glockner@naledzi.co.za

We would once again like to request you to either distribute a copy of this EIA Newsletter to any other I&AP that you feel (or know) needs to be informed regarding this proposed project, or to provide us with his/her/their name and contact details and we will ensure that they are fully informed regarding this proposed project.

Imaginative Africa would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to read this EIA Newsletter and we hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards

Nicolene Venter
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANT
Please complete this form and return it on or before Monday, 1 October 2007 to the Public Participation Office below:

Ms Nicolene Venter or Mrs Rudzani Mudau
PO Box 65052 ERASMUSRAND
0165
Tel.: (012) 662 1293 Fax: 088 012 662 1693
E-mail: iafrica@icon.co.za

Mrs Rudzani Mudau
Suite #320, Postnet Library Gardens
Private Bag X9307
POLOKWANE, 0700
Tel.: (015) 296 3988 Fax: (015) 296 4021
E-mail: rudzanim@naledzi.co.za

**EIA NEWSLETTER COMMENT FORM**
SEPTEMBER 2007

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE (Prof/Mr/Mrs)</th>
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<td>Secretary/Director)</td>
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What comments would you like to submit regarding the EIA Newsletter? (Please use additional pages, if required)

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PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) ON THE PROJECT DATABASE:

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<tr>
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IF YOU WISH NOT TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT, AND PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT’S DATABASE, PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS WHO'S CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE:

Yes, please delete my contact details from the project’s database  SIGNATURE:

This assessment is being conducted on behalf of Eskom