

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Background Information Document

BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LUIPERDSHOEK 33 KV POWER LINE PROJECT TO BE LOCATED NORTH OF THE TOWN OF POFADDER IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

(DEA Ref No.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/782)



January 2013



WHAT DOES THIS DOCUMENT TELL YOU?

This document aims to provide you, as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), with information regarding the Environmental Authorisation process being undertaken for the proposed Luiperdshoek 11 kV power line project. Any person, company, authority or other entity that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity is invited to register as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP). This includes, but is not limited to landowners, tenants, municipal and provincial authorities, interest groups, Non-Government Organisations and conservation groups.

This document details how you can become involved in the project, receive information, and raise any issues of concern or interest regarding the proposed project. The sharing of information forms the basis of the Public Participation Process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Input from I&APs ensures that all potential environmental issues are considered within the context of the proposed Luiperdshoek 11 kV power line project.

STUDY AREA

The study area is situated to the north-west of the town of Pofadder (25 km to the south) and falls within the jurisdiction of the Khâi-Ma Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. (Refer to *Appendix A: Project Locality Map*)

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is situated between the R358 (an un-surfaced road which connects Pofadder to the Onseepkans Border Post) and the Orange River to the west which forms the RSA-Namibia International Border. The study site is largely vacant except for a narrow strip of land along the Orange River which is used to cultivate fruit. The majority of the site is utilised for the communal grazing of livestock (goats).

The topography of the site is varied; the eastern part of the site is relatively flat sloping down to a gentle valley bottom in which the Coboop ephemeral drainage line runs. To the west of the Coboop Farmstead the topography changes dramatically becoming very rugged and mountainous. The proposed line route alternates from around 500 – 540 m a.m.s.l. on the higher-lying eastern flat area down to 330 m a.m.s.l. along the Orange River.

Three major vegetation types occur in the study area, differentiated by topography and landscape setting; on the flat eastern plains the Eastern Gariep Plains Desert vegetation type occurs, while the rugged terrain contains the Eastern Gariep Rocky Desert vegetation type. A narrow strip along the Orange River contains the Lower Gariep Alluvial Vegetation type.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project entails the construction of a new 13.7 km 33 kV line that will be operated at 11 kV power line in the Luiperdshoek area to supply previously disadvantaged farmers electricity to their pumps for irrigation as well as electricity to workshops and labourers houses. A pole

mounted transformer with a metering kiosk will also be installed.

It should be noted that due to the constraints imposed by the highly rugged and mountainous terrain that only one route is technically able to be developed through the mountainous area – along the access route down to the communal farming project that follows the Coboop River. As such no alignment alternatives have been provided, but power line design (tower type) alternatives will be considered.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT

A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified. As part of the Basic Assessment Report, these potential impacts will be assessed through the following specialist studies:

SPECIALIST FIELD	ORGANISATION
Surface Water (Aquatic) Assessment and WULA	ROYAL HASKONINGDHV Environmental Sector
Avifaunal Assessment	ROYAL HASKONINGDHV Environmental Sector
Biodiversity Assessment	Clayton Cook
Heritage Assessment	Jonathan Kaplan

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

A Basic Assessment Report (BAR) is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and associated Regulations (GNR 543 – 546 of 2010) there are a number of listed activities which may not commence without environmental authorisation from the competent authority. Listed activities triggered by the proposed power line are detailed in Table 2 below:

The activities triggered are listed in Table 2:

LISTING NOTICE	ACTIVITIES	Description of listed activity
Listing Notice 1 GN. R544	10	Construction of 33 kV line that will be operated at 11 kV
Listing Notice 1 GN. R544	11	The development will be within the Orange River flood line which will trigger a WULA
Listing Notice 1 GN. R544	18	The development will be within the Orange River flood line which therefore triggers a WULA

In terms of the EIA Regulations, as per Section 24(5) of the NEMA, authorisation is required from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for these Listed Activities.

Water Use License Application (WULA)

The proposed development will result in the need for undertaking two water use activities as identified in Section 21 of the NWA:

- Section 21 (c) – impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and
- Section 21 (i) – altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

The potentially affected water resource receiving environment is the Orange River mainstream and tributaries. The proposed development site is situated in the Lower Orange River Water Management Area (WMA), within quaternary catchment D81F which is classed as falling outside of the General Authorisation (GA) areas for water use licensing and requires the compliance processing of a Water Use license Authorisation (WULA).

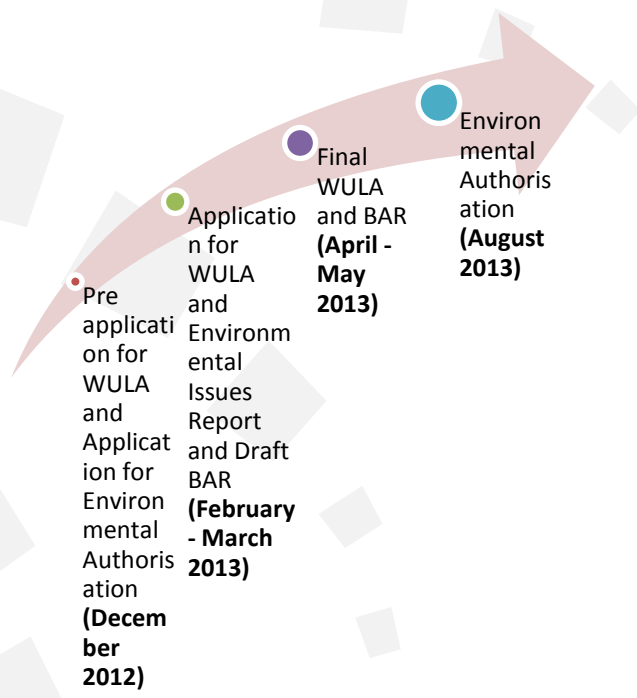


Figure 1: Project timeline

ROYAL HASKONINGDHV AS AN INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited Western Region has appointed Royal HaskoningDHV (previously SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants), as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the required environmental authorisations for the proposed power line and substation project.

PROJECT PHASES

The project will consist of three major phases as illustrated in Figure 1:

- 1) **Phase 1: Application for Environmental Authorisation;**
- 2) **Phase 2: Draft Basic Assessment Report; and**
- 3) **Phase 3: Final Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).**

These three phases will culminate in the approval or rejection of the project i.e. positive or negative Environmental Authorisation.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

If you consider yourself an I&AP for the proposed project, we encourage you to make use of the opportunities created by the Public Participation Process to become involved and raise any issues or concerns which affect and/or interest you.

By completing and submitting the accompanying registration form, we will ensure that you are registered as an I&AP for the project, and that your concerns or queries regarding the project will be noted. We will also ensure that you are provided with future information pertaining to the project as well as the availability of the draft and final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for review purposes.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Please direct all comments, queries or issues to: Ntseketsi Lerotholi or Paul da Cruz

Royal HaskoningDHV

P.O. Box 867

Gallo Manor

2052

☎: 011 798 6000

📠: 011 798 6010

✉: Ntseketsi.Lerotholi@rhdhv.com

Paul.dacruz@rhdhv.com

APPENDIX A: PROJECT LOCALITY MAP

