

22 October 2012

Dear Stakeholder

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR PARK INTEGRATION PROJECT AND CONCENTRATING SOLAR POWER PLANT

- **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS AND DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT**
- **AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE CONCENTRATING SOLAR POWER PLANT AT UPINGTON**
- **PUBLIC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THESE REPORTS**

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are being conducted for the proposed construction of several 400kV transmission and 132kV distribution lines for the integration of the Concentrating Solar Park (CSP) near Upington into the Eskom network.

An EIA must be conducted according to the National Environmental Management Act, (No 107 of 1998). Regulations (GNR 543 - 546 – Government Gazette No. 33306) were published in June 2010 that this proposed development must adhere to before being submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) for this EIA. The decision-making authority for this project is the DEA while the relevant Northern Cape Department is the commenting authority on this study.

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and the associated Plan of Study for the EIAs were submitted to the competent authority, the DEA who accepted the FSR and Plan of Study for the EIAs in a letter dated 14 June 2012. Specialist studies were conducted as per the Plan of Study for the EIAs.

The findings of these studies have been integrated and a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and an Environmental Management Programme (EMP) have been compiled for each individual EIA. The DEIR and EMP will provide preferred routes for the transmission and distribution lines as per the findings of the specialists. The EMP will detail proposed mitigation measures to ensure that limited harm is done to the environment with regards to the construction and operation of these lines.

The DEA granted environmental authorisation for the construction of a Concentrating Solar Park (CSP) for Eskom west of Upington on 14 September 2007. At the beginning of 2011 during the process to refine the design of the proposed park, Eskom realised that the original authorised design of the park will have to change. Any changes that Eskom would like to affect to the proposed Solar Park will have to be authorised by the DEA and stakeholders must have the opportunity to provide their comments. Eskom would like to enlarge the proposed CSP from 400 ha to 800 ha and the tower height will increase from 220m to about 300m. An application to amend the existing environmental authorisation has been submitted to the DEA.

Public review of draft reports from 8 November 2012 to 7 December 2012

The two Draft Environmental Impact Reports (DEIRs), three Draft Basic Assessment Reports (DBARs) and the Amendment to an existing EIA have been prepared in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations as published in GNR 543 - 546 – Government Gazette No. 33306 of 2010. In accordance with the EIA Regulations (2010), the purpose of the DEIR and DBAR are to verify that issues raised during the process were considered and to assist the competent authority to make an informed decision.

The DEIRs, DBARs and Amendment will be available for public review from 8 November 2012 to 7 December 2012. Thereafter, the reports will be updated and submitted to the DEA. The DEA will, in consultation with the commenting authorities, consider the findings and recommendations and either grant environmental authorisation or not.

These reports will be available at the public places listed in the table below. The report is also available for download from the Eskom and Zitholele websites (www.eskom.co.za/eia and www.zitholele.co.za/eskom-solar).

PUBLIC PLACE	CONTACT	CONTACT TEL	ADDRESS
Kathu Public Library	Ms Theodora Tsalao	(053) 723 2261	Civic Centre, Cnr Frikkie Meyer & Hendrik Van Eck, Kathu
Olifantshoek Public Library	Ms Ellen Visser	(053) 331 0002	Lanham Street, Olifantshoek
Upington Public Library	Ms Inga Engelbrecht	(053) 338 7157	Mutual Street, Upington
Kenhardt Public Library	Ms Geene Einam	(053) 651 6508	Park Street, Kenhardt
Kakamas Public Library	Ms Manda Yough	(054) 431 6303	Voortrekker Street, Kakamas
Keimoes Public Library	Ms Yvonne Booysen	(054) 461 6406	Main Street, Keimoes

You can comment on the reports in any of the following ways:

- By completing the comment sheet that is available with these reports.
- By writing a letter.
- By email or telephone to the public participation office.
- By attending the public meeting (see below).

Comments on these reports must be submitted by **7 December 2012**

Public meetings to review the draft reports

The purpose of the **public meetings** will be to ensure that interested and affected parties understand the project scope and the proposed specialist studies, and to provide an opportunity for interested and affected to comment and raise issues on these reports. It is important that you register for a public meeting in advance - please use the enclosed form and return it by 9 November 2012 should you wish to attend. This will allow us to make the necessary arrangements for the meetings. The public meetings will be held as follows:

DATE	TIME	AREA	VENUE AND ADDRESS
Monday, 19 November 2012	09:00	Kathu	Namakwari Lodge, 1 Frikkie Meyer Road, Kathu
Monday, 19 November 2012	15:00	Olifantshoek	Rooiwal Boereverenigingsaal, Malley, northwest of Olifantshoek
Tuesday, 20 November 2012	10:00	Kenhardt	Kai !Garib Municipality, Park Street, Kenhardt
Tuesday, 20 November 2012	18:00	Upington	Protea Hotel Upington, 24 Schröder Street, Upington
Wednesday, 21 November 2012	08:30	Upington	Protea Hotel Upington, 24 Schröder Street, Upington
Wednesday, 21 November 2012	14:00	Kakamas	Kakamas Library Hall, 28 Voortrekker Street, Kakamas

Kindly send your reply to Andre Joubert at the Public Participation Office on fax number 086-676-9950 or e-mail to Andrej@zitholele.co.za. You are also welcome to contact Zitholele Consulting on (011) 207-2077.

Yours sincerely



Andre Joubert - Public Participation Office