

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE SECTION 24G APPLICATION
FOR APPROXIMATELY 4.5KM 50KV POWERLINE WITHIN THE
JURISDICTION OF HANTAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

DECEMBER 2021



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1 INTRODUCTION

Nsovo Environmental Consulting (Nsovo) has been appointed by Transnet SOC Ltd. (hereafter referred to as Transnet), as an independent environmental consultant to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Section 24G application process for the deviation of approximately 4.5 km 50kV powerline between Eskom Helios substation and Transnet Helios Traction Feeder substation within the jurisdiction of Hantam Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

On the 15th of March 2020, the President of South Africa announced COVID-19 pandemic as the National State of Disaster, which was followed by country lockdown. Subsequently, on the 5th of June 2020, the Department of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries (DEFF) issued a Directive, which purpose is to curtail the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; alleviate, contain, and minimise the effects of the national state of disaster, in particular, to provide directions to ensure fair licensing processes and public participation process as required by the law.

The Public Participation approach adopted in this plan is in line with the process contemplated in Regulation 39 through 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), and Annexures 2 and 3 of Government Notice No 43412 of 5th of June 2020. The notice requires that the EAP must:

- That all reasonable measures are taken to identify potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs); and
- Participation by potential or registered I&APs facilitated such that they are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the application.

Chapter 6, Regulation 39 through 44 of the EIA Regulations stipulates the minimum requirements for a compliant Public Participation Process (PPP) process. Therefore, Nsovo will consider relevant guidelines applicable to public participation as contemplated in section 24J of the Act and give notice to all potential interested and affected parties throughout the EIA process.

a) Placing an advertisement in at least one of the local Newspaper within or around the proposed site.

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

Public Participation principles hold that those affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the decision-making process. The principles of public participation are to ensure that the PPP:

- Communicates the interests of and meet the process needs of all participants;
- Seek to facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected;
- Involves participants in defining how they participate; and
- Is as inclusive and transparent as possible; it must be conducted in line with the requirements of Regulations.

3 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The public participation approach adopted in this plan is in line with the process contemplated in Regulation 39 through 44 of the EIA Regulations as amended, in terms of NEMA and Annexures 2 and 3 of Government Notice No 43412 of 5th of June 2020. The plan takes into consideration other regulations including PAJA, POPI and COVID-19 that regulates information sharing and record keeping.

When conducting Public Participation Processes and dealing with I&APs, the provisions of the NEMA and the applicable regulations and guidelines remain valid and applicable.

Nsovo and/or its managed operations is required to collect details of I&APs in terms of regulation 42 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, which information shall be limited to:

- i. Name
- ii. Contact details; and
- iii. Address.

Such information constitutes Personal Information as defined in POPIA, as such it will be processed in accordance with the conditions for lawful processing of Personal Information set out in POPIA.

Furthermore, owing to the fact that Personal Information is collected, recorded and stored during the Public Participation Process as required by law, Nsovo and/or its managed operations are obliged to comply with the provisions and requirements of POPIA, by ensuring I&APs are informed of the details pertaining to the collection and lawful processing of their information as highlighted.

3.1. IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The I&APs identified include pre-identified stakeholders (government departments and landowners). Further, an opportunity will be given to the Non-Governmental Organisations and the general public to register as I&APs. The notification and request for comments will be submitted to the land owners along and adjacent the route as well as the following key stakeholders:

- Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Affairs (DEFF);
- Northern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation;
- Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS);
- Northern Cape Department of Transport and Public Works;
- Eskom SOC Limited;
- South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA);
- Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa; and
- Hantam Local Municipality.

3.2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DATABASE

In accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, Section 42 requires that a Register of I&APs be kept by the public participation practitioner. In fulfilment of this requirement, such a register is in place, and the details of I&APs, including their comments, will be updated throughout the project cycle.

3.3. SITE NOTICES

A2 size notices will be fixed at conspicuous locations within and around the proposed project study area, and photographic evidence will be included in the final Report. The identified locations include Eskom Helios MTS, Transnet Substation, Loriesfontein Public Library, along the access road and exiting powerline. The site is approximately 52 km from the nearest town, which is Loriesfontein.

3.4. DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICES TO LANDOWNERS

Notification letters will be hand delivered to landowners/occupiers of the land. The notifications will be informing the land owners of the project as well as affording them an opportunity to comment or raise any issue that they might have.

3.5. PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

An advertisement will be placed in the Volksblad local newspaper to inform I&APs of the proposed project, the Section 24 G Basic Assessment Report's availability, and public meetings.

3.6. PLACEMENT OF THE REPORTS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The availability of the Draft Section 24 G BAR for review and comment at public spaces will be advertised accordingly, and copies will be made available on the Nsovo website (www.nsovo.co.za). Further, copies of the draft report will be submitted to various departments and other stakeholders, as highlighted above and made available at the Louriesfontein and Motherwell Public Library. However, in line with the COVID-19 Regulations and depending on the alert level at the time of engagement other modes of sharing the reports will be explored and this may include sharing the link via SMS, WhatsApp and sharing soft copies (CD, USB, or Email). Should I&APs request hard copies to be couriered they will be sent accordingly.

3.7. PUBLIC MEETINGS

As part of the PPP, public meetings will be conducted and the details will be placed at conspicuous places and advertised in the local papers. Pre-identified affected parties and those already in the registered will be informed of the meeting and report availability via SMS or telephone calls.

4 CONCLUSION

The Public Participation Process will be undertaken to fulfil the requirements of the EIA Regulations of December 2014 as amended, and the requirements of Annexures 2 and 3 of Government Notice No 43412 of 5th of June 2020. In the interest of the I&APs and protection of their Personal Information the organization may consider omitting Personal Information either on request or as standard practice (where practically possible), from the reports and plans made available in the public domain, however it is critical to note that such information will still form part of the submissions to the Competent Authority. The PPP will be transparent and inclusive, it will thus continue throughout the project life cycle.

