

**ESKOM MERENSKY-KAMENI-KENNEDY'S VALE 132 KV POWER LINE 3 KM DEVIATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT (DEA REF#: 12/12/20/2552) (NEAS  
REF#: DEA/EIA/0002062/2013)**



**PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:**

- **This Background Information Document (BID) provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), an overview of the proposed project.**
- **The BID invites you, as an I&AP, to participate in the required Public Participation Process.**
- **The BID provides you, as an I&AP with an opportunity to contribute and participate in the Environmental Assessment Process**
- **The BID also provides you, as an I&AP an opportunity to provide the project team with your comments, concerns and objections to the proposed project.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

Project Introduction:

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. (the Applicant - hereafter referred to as Eskom) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS) (Pty) Ltd. as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist in preparing and submitting a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and undertaking the Public Participation Process (PPP), in support of an application for an amendment of an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), for a proposed powerline deviation close to Steelpoort in the Limpopo Province.

It is anticipated that listed activities contained in the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Section 21 (c & i) of National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) and Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Development Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) will be triggered by the proposed development.

Aim of the Background Information Document (BID):

The aim of the BID is to:

- Provide an overview of the Environmental Authorisation Amendment Application process, as well as the public participation processes (PPP), which will be undertaken;
  - The EA process shall be undertaken in terms of Chapter 4 (BA/EIA), Chapter 5 (Amendments) and Chapter 6 (PPP) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA) as amended;
- Allow I&APs the opportunity to obtain a broad understanding of the proposed project and to request or share information; and
- Provide details on how I&AP's can register their interest in and submit comments on the project. It is important to note that only registered I&AP's will receive further communication regarding the project for the duration of the BA process (i.e. invitation to review and comment on the BAR).

### LOCATION, SCALE, AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

The proposed powerline route is located along the R555, approximately 6 km southwest of the town of Steelpoort in the Greater Tubatse Local Municipality within the Sekhukhune District Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa. The proposed powerline deviation will occur on the remaining portion (Re) of the Farm De Goedeverwachting 332, portion 29 of the Farm Kennedy's Vale 361 and portion 28 of the Farm Spitskop 333. Please refer to locality map at the end of this BID.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project includes inter alia the following application processes with associated activities:

- **NEMA GNR 982, Chapter 5, Part 2 Amended Application (following a Basic Assessment Report template) for:**
  - The proposed 3 km deviation of the 132 kV Eskom Merensky-Kameni-Kennedy's Vale Powerline

### LISTED ACTIVITIES APPLICATION:

It is anticipated that the proposed project will require authorisation in terms of a number of pieces of South African environmental legislation, namely:

- The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998);
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA, Act No. 10 of 2004);
- National Water Act (NWA, Act No.36 of 1998); and
- National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA, Act No. 25 of 1999).

Where relevant, these pieces of core legislation stipulate the required studies, reports and legal processes to be conducted and the results thereof submitted to the relevant authorities for approval prior to commencement of the proposed activity. It is anticipated that the following approvals will be required:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment (i.e: Basic Assessment Report – BAR) in terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA regulations; and
- General Authorisation in terms of the National Water Act Section 21 c and i.

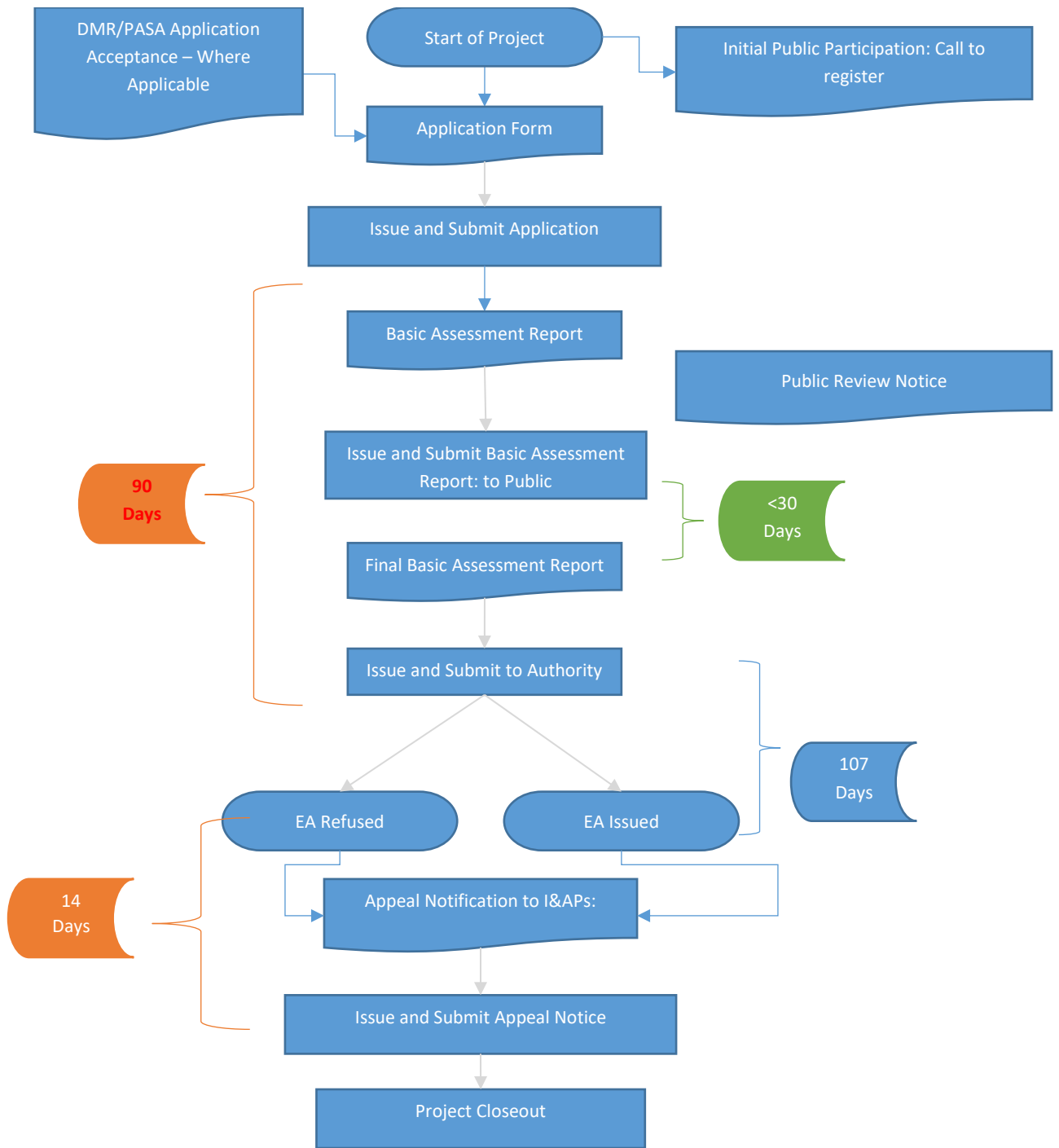
The current approved powerline EA (NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0002062/2013; DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2552) was issued in terms of the 2010 EIA Regulations (GNR544) and the proposed route deviation would trigger the same listed activity (Activity 11) contained in the amended 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR 983).

**A General Authorisation process will be undertaken in terms of the NWA for the water uses that will be triggered (Section 21 (c) and (i)) by the proposed project.**

The applicability of each of these listed activities (or the requirement for any additional listed activities) will be assessed during the initial Authority consultation process.

The following flow diagram displays the BA process that will be followed as part of the amendment application:

**Figure 1: BA Process**



**TYPICAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE ACTIVITIES:**

Potential impacts resulting from the proposed project may include inter alia:

- **Potential environmental pollution;**
- **Visual impacts;**
- **Fire risk;**
- **Impact on terrestrial Avifauna and flora;**
- **Disturbance of watercourses and watercourse habitat;**
- **Impacts on heritage;**
- **Impacts on health and safety;**
- **Noise impacts during construction; and**

- **Social impacts.**

The above-mentioned impacts should not be construed as the only impacts that will be identified during the course of the assessment. Based on public consultation, specialist input and further detailed assessments, additional impacts will likely be identified and assessed.

All potential impacts will be identified and assessed following an impact assessment methodology guided by the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014). The broad approach to the significance rating methodology is to determine the environmental risk (ER) by considering the consequence (C) of each impact (comprising Nature, Extent, Duration, Magnitude, and Reversibility) and relate this to the probability/likelihood (P) of the impact occurring. This determines the environmental risk. In addition, other factors including cumulative impacts, public concern, and potential for irreplaceable loss of resources, are used to determine a prioritisation factor (PF) which is applied to the ER to determine the overall significance (S).

Furthermore, based on the identified impacts and their ratings, mitigation and management measures are recommended for the applicant and these are included in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) towards ensuring that any negative impacts that cannot be avoided are minimised and managed in a manner that is not detrimental to the environment, and positive impacts maximised.

Specialist studies proposed to be undertaken to guide the assessment of the potential impacts, include: **Heritage and Palaeontology, Avifauna and Flora, and Visual**. Any additional specialist studies required by the Competent Authority will be undertaken if necessary and where relevant, previously undertaken specialist studies will be utilised to inform the study.

#### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED:**

Should you feel that you may be interested in or affected by this project, it is essential that you register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in which case you will be kept informed regarding the project and afforded an opportunity to participate in the process. Please note that only registered I&APs will be included in future correspondence regarding the project and associated updates.

I&APs are invited to register via e-mail, telephonically, fax and post and to submit any comments, queries or concerns regarding the project within the stipulated timeframes provided. Comments may be submitted by registered I&APs in any of the following ways:

1. Complete the attached I&AP registration form questionnaire and return it to EIMS via email, fax or letter; and
2. Submit written comments in a format of your choosing to EIMS via email, fax or letter.

It is important to note that the BA process is guided by legally stipulated timeframes and as such, in order to ensure your continued and valuable involvement in the project, we request that your registration requests and any preliminary comments are submitted to EIMS (contact details provided below) by **no later than the 04 March 2019.**

Please note that further to the above, all registered I&APs will also be notified in due course of the availability of the Basic Assessment Report upon which comments will be solicited.

**Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd**

**Contact Person: Lesley-Ann Cornelius**

**EIMS Reference Number: 1274**

**Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123**

**Telephone: (011) 789 7170 / Fax: (011) 787 3059**

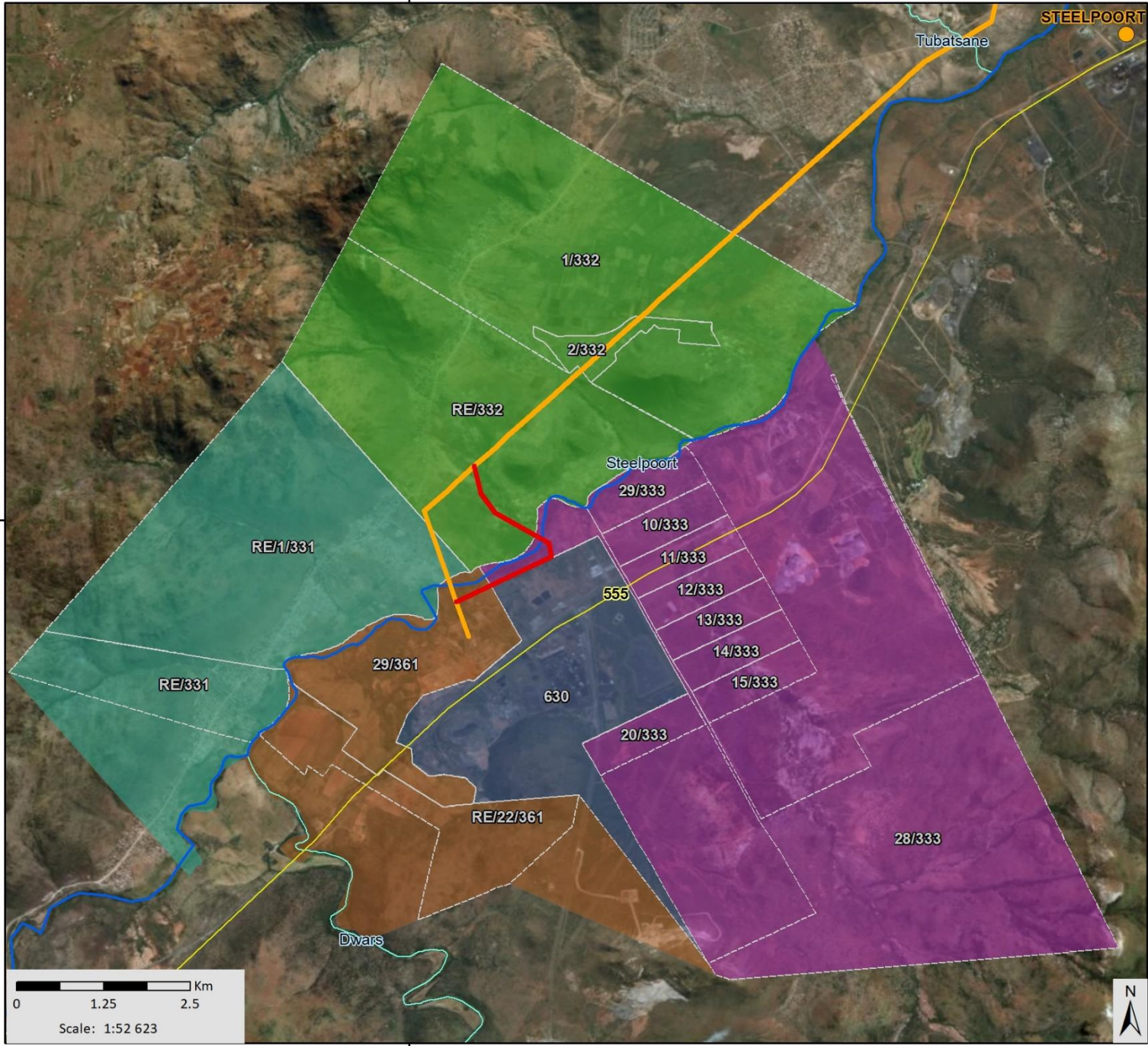
**E-mail: merensky@eims.co.za**

30.1

STEELPOORT

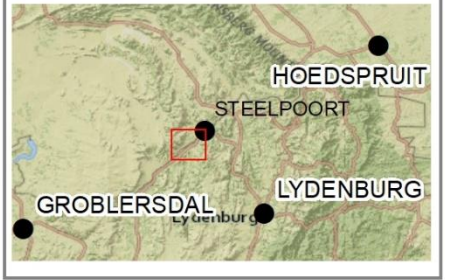
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**ESKOM Merensky EA Ammendment Locality**  
1274 Eskom Merensky EA Amendment

- Legend**
- Steelpoort
  - Proposed Deveation
  - Approved 132 kV Power Line
  - Roads
  - Primary Rivers
  - Secondary Rivers
- Parent Farms**
- 630
  - BOSCHKLOOF 331
  - DE GOEVEERWACHTING 332
  - KENNEDY'S VALE 361
  - SPITSKOP 333
- Affected and Adjacent Farm Portions



**Data Sources:**  
CSG; ESRI  
Coord System: GCS WGS 1984  
Datum: WGS 1984  
Units: Degree  
Ref: Locality

Date: 2018/11/30  
EIMS Ref: 1274  
Compiled: PH  
Reviewed: SvdG  
Approved: LW

