

Msunduzi Municipality

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & CITY ENTERPRISES DEPARTMENT Environmental Management Unit

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Date: 28 July 2015

Our Ref: ENV 233

ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants

P.O. Box 503

Mtunzini

3867

Attention: Ms. Charlene Weber

Dear Charlene,

Final Scoping Report for the Proposed Isundu 765/400 kV sub-station and turn-in transmission lines DEA EIA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/745, Pietermaritzburg, Msunduzi Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.

The following comments are submitted for your information and attention;

1. The EIA report needs to be evaluated against the following policies/reports:

- Msunduzi Municipality's Environmental Management Framework (EMF)

- Msunduzi Municipality's Integrated Environmental Management Policy
- Msunduzi Municipality's Environmental Status Quo Report
- Msunduzi Municipality's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Msunduzi Municipality's Spatial Development Framework (SDF)

2. On Page vii 'Plan of Study for Impact Assessment' the following specialist studies;

- A Hydrological Study – the 1:50 year and 1:100 year floodlines need to be shown for all sites affected by watercourses.

3. The Ecological Assessment (vegetation, wetland and fauna assessments) terms of reference should include follow up site visits and assessments during summer in order to assess the occurrence of bulbs that would have been dormant during the time the draft assessment was done. Further, summer months are when invertebrates are most active.

4. The EIA report must take into account **Offsets and Mitigation** particularly for environmentally sensitive sites and watercourses to compensate for the loss of open space, grasslands, wetlands and/or social space. Potential offset sites should be listed and interrogated as well as what offset ratios will be used such as the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) or Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife offset guidelines.

5. This Unit requests electronic and hard copies of all Draft and Final reports.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you have any further queries.

FOR: MANAGER: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UNIT