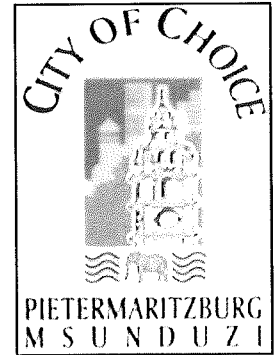


# Msunduzi Municipality

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & CITY ENTERPRISES DEPARTMENT

### Environmental Management Unit

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**Date:** 09 June 2015

**Our Ref:** ENV 233

ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants  
P.O. Box 503  
Mtunzini  
3867

**Attention:** Ms. Charlene Weber

Dear Charlene,

**Draft 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 for your attention;

The Msunduzi Local Municipality, on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010, approved its Strategic Planning and Environmental Management Guidelines in the form of an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) with associated supporting documentation including an Environmental Status Quo Report,

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Management Plan. Please note that environmental factors highlighted in the Msunduzi EMF must be taken into account and addressed during the Environmental Impact Assessment Process for all developments within the Msunduzi Municipal area. In addition, the EMF must be appropriately referenced in the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR).

The EMF has identified the following constraints:

1. High wetland development constraints – Wetland delineation must be done and in terms of Heading 9.2.2 point number 7 on page 49 “Delineate all wetlands on the sub-station site and describe their functionality” an ecosystems services assessment in addition for a functionality assessment must be included.
2. High biodiversity constraints
3. Steep slopes
4. Medium air quality constraints – the area falls within the inversion layer and therefore has temporal air quality constraints. Prior to any development commencing in this zone that may result in air pollutant emissions, a Tier 2 Air Quality Assessment should be undertaken to determine the extent to which the development will affect air quality.

Page vi identifies wildlife which will be impacted requiring possible species re-location. The proposed project may affect some indigenous species which are protected. “The EKZNW database identifies this area as a Priority Area for conservation (R2) because there are no other localities where EKZN Wildlife has been able to identify alternates to try to meet the conservation target for the various feature(s) on the site. The key features listed are various millipede and molluscs species. Wildlife occurring within conservation areas, seasonal streams, dams and drainage lines situated in the north eastern area are not to be disturbed and as such the area must be considered a no go area for development.

The conservation value of this farm and vegetation in terms of its vegetation type and species, in the context of the surrounding region needs to be investigated in terms of the Msunduzi Conservation Plan.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is to be consulted with regards to a Water Use License as “Water will be required for potable use and in the construction of the foundations for the sub-station. This is likely to be obtained from boreholes or the dams on the site, or from a municipal supply” page 30. However, regardless of whether or not water is to be used, or the source from which it is obtained, the written requirements, if any, must be attained from the Department of Water Affairs.

Cultural Heritage Assessments: Should any graves/ artefacts' be found on the site, then AMAFA should be contacted and all works are to cease.

“During construction, storm water run-off from such a large cleared area could potentially contain high levels of sediment, silt, and washed away construction spillages such as oil and diesel, which could contaminate and/or affect surrounding drainage lines and water courses” page 46. A Storm Water Management Plan must be prepared which must address the quality of the storm water discharged from the site and incorporate on-site storm water attenuation measures to ensure the proposed development is flood neutral. This must be submitted to this Unit as well as the Msunduzi Storm water and Drainage Management Unit for comment and approval prior to any site works commencing. In addition an EMPr must be prepared which contains requirements to mitigate any impacts of erosion, sedimentation, siltation and hazardous spills and the disposal thereof. Where no net loss of watercourses, wetlands and riparian areas occur, offsets must be undertaken off site. Rehabilitation of water courses, wetlands, dams and drainage lines in accordance with an approved EMPr.

Comment and approval from the Msunduzi Municipal Electricity Department is required.

Section 2 legal aspects have not included Environment Conservation Act, Act 73 of 1989.

Page 26 with regards to oil storage an Incident Response Plan will be required and an approved waste contractor is to be appointed to dispose of contaminants (soil, water) at a registered hazardous facility. Please ensure that the Incident Response Plan is available for emergency situations which may occur and for which immediate action is required (Section 20 of the National Water Act, Act 26 of 1998). Please ensure that Comment and approval with regards to the storage of hazardous substances on site must be obtained from Msunduzi Municipality's Environmental Health Unit prior to site works commencing.

Page 27 – “Construction of the sub-station is estimated to take three years. This entire time will not necessary consist of the civil works which are traditionally when the main noise, dust and transport impacts occur”; all civil works must be undertaken in accordance with the Noise Abatement Bylaw and traffic control plan. Activities are to be limited to weekdays and set working hours. Weekends and public holidays are to be avoided. Surrounding communities are to be informed of noisy activities 24hours in advance and the duration of the activity must be clearly stipulated.

Page 30 – “The removal of trees and vegetation that will interfere with the operation of the power line”. This must be negotiated and trees removed are to be offset. A landscape plan should address this.

Page 30 – sewerage: construction of suitable on-site toilets and soak-away systems are not an option. Portable chemical toilet facilities must be provided at 1 toilet per 20 workers.

The Msunduzi Municipality’s Environmental Management Unit must be notified of all site visits and audits conducted by the ECO in order for a representative to attend. Therefore please note that the EMPr must be sent to us for comment and approval prior to construction and All ECO reports and audits must be sent to Msunduzi Municipality’s Environmental Management Unit and the Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

An electronic and a hard copy of the Final EIA and EMPr are to be provided for the Msunduzi Municipality’s Environmental Management Unit.

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

**FOR: MANAGER: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UNIT**

