



29 June 2015

Ms A Armstrong
Eversheds (on behalf of Rainbow Farms)
aldinearmstrong@eversheds.co.za

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Dear Ms Armstrong,

Rainbow Farms (Pty) Ltd – Correspondence dated 22 June 2015

EIA No: 14/12/16/3/3/2/745

Your Reference: ARMSTRONG/MAT3639

Your correspondence sent on the 22 June 2015 has reference.

Between 2009 and 2012, on behalf of Eskom, ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants undertook the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Venus-Sigma-Hector-(Ariadne) (VSHA) transmission line project, which included the proposed Sigma Sub-station. Authorisation of the proposed VSHA transmission line corridor, which is 2 km wide, was granted in 2012.

During the VSHA EIA process, four transmission line corridor alternatives, each 2 km wide, were investigated, along with various joining sections in between the corridors. The total length of the authorised transmission line is approximately 137 km, whilst the total project area including all the transmission line corridors constituted more than 900 km² in this region of the KZN Midlands. ACER undertook numerous title deed searches, landowner searches, liaison with farmer organisations, municipalities etc. to identify landowners within the various corridors. This constituted a large number of landowners, some of whom participated actively in the EIA process whilst others did not.

During the EIA process, 25 letters were sent out to stakeholders, inviting comment on the project, providing progress updates, advertising the dates of public meetings and the availability of the draft and final Scoping and EIA reports and notifying stakeholders of the Record of Decision and amendments.

The project was also extensively advertised in the following media: Natal Witness, Estcourt and Midland News, Northern Natal Farmer, Galaxy, Greytown Gazette, Sunday Tribune and Ilanga, and also received additional media coverage both in newspapers and on television.

Throughout this process, public meetings were advertised and arranged in Estcourt, Howick, Wartburg and Camperdown. A specialist open-day was also held in Pietermaritzburg on 14 September 2010 where stakeholders were invited to book sessions and interact directly with individual specialists.

Our database records show that throughout the VSHA project process, from mid-2009 to mid-2012, project correspondence was posted to the following two Rainbow Farm offices.

Rainbow Farms
PO Box 26
Hammarsdale
3700

Rainbow Farms
One The Boulevard
Westway Office Park
Westville
3629

The Hammarsdale address is the same address which has now been registered for the Isundu Sub-station EIA by Dr Sanjay Maharaj (see Appendix 1). ACER is unsure if the Westville postal codes have changed since 2009 but the Westville address, confirmed last week, should have been 1 The Boulevard, Westway Office Park, Westville 3635. However, the postal code 3629 is also a Westville postal code and as no correspondence was ever returned from either of these addresses, ACER assumes that the letters were delivered. ACER has email correspondence from S Xaba, at Rainbow's Westville office, which confirms that ACER's correspondence had reached the Westville office. Please see email attached.

Furthermore, a number of stakeholders neighbouring Rainbow's farms at Ashburton, such as Mayibuye Game Reserve and Kingsthorpe Estate (now Wild Aloe Estate) amongst others, were all well aware of the project and made numerous submissions to ACER over the course of the two and a half year project. The final EIR was amended to include a specific alignment requested by Mayibuye Game Reserve, which neighbours on Rainbow's property.

Thus, ACER believes that Rainbow Farms were certainly contacted and made aware of the VSHA project, indirectly through the media and directly through correspondence sent, and were provided ample opportunity to participate in the process, raise concerns and appeal the authorisation.

In terms of the concerns raised in regard to the current Isundu Sub-station project, ACER has noted Evershed's request in the submission dated 9 June 2015, that a focus group meeting with Rainbow and Eversheds be conducted. Due to the technical nature of Rainbow's concerns, ACER believes the most appropriate time for such a focus group meeting is once the various specialists have prepared their draft findings but prior to the draft Environmental Impact Report being distributed for comment.

Thus, ACER will contact Eversheds, Rainbow and Eskom to arrange this meeting later in July 2015.

Please contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards,



ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants
Paul Scherzer

Appendix 1: VSHA Database Screenshot and Isundu Comment Sheet

The screenshot displays a software interface for a VSHA database. The top menu bar includes FILE, HOME, CREATE, EXTERNAL DATA, and DATABASE TOOLS. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for actions like View, Paste, Filter, Sort & Filter, Refresh, Save, Delete, Find, Replace, Go To, Size to Fit, and Switch Windows. The main window shows a record for 'VSHA' with a project name of '400'. The record details include contact information for Rainbow Farms (Pty) Ltd, such as address, telephone, and email. A 'Personal Note' is present, dated 23.07.09. Below the contact details is a table titled 'PUBLIC OPEN DAYS/MEETINGS/CORRESPONDENCE' with columns for POD/MTG, Description, Letter/nvite, Confirm, Attend, Apologies, and Proceedings/Reports. The table lists several correspondence items with checkboxes for each column.

POD/MTG	Description	Letter/nvite	Confirm	Attend	Apologies	Proceedings/Reports
L05	Letter 05 Mkhambathini Proceedings - 21 May	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
L10	Letter 10 KSW Invitations - 22 Sep 09	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L12	Letter 12 Progress Update - 14 Dec 09	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L12	Letter 12 Progress Update - 14 Dec 09	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L14	Letter 14 DSR Availability - 1 Mar 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L16	Letter 16 DSR Extension of Comm Period - 23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L19	Letter 19 FSR & EIA Process Update - 4 Jun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L21	Letter 21 Progress Update - 1 Oct 2010	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Impact Assessment Process
for Environmental Authorisation and Water Use Licence Application**



**PROPOSED
ISUNDU 765/400 KV SUB-STATION AND TURN-IN
TRANSMISSION LINES**
(DEA EIA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/745; 12/12/20/1397/AM2)

Comment Sheet 1

Title	DR
First Name(s)	S. J. J. J.
Surname	W. J. J. J.
Organisation	Rainbow Farms (Pty) Ltd
Position	Divisional Agricultural Planner
Postal Address	Box 26
City	Hammersdale
Postal Code	3700
Tel	031-7852004
Fax	086-6764747
Cell	0824523353
E-mail	s.j.j.j@rft.co.za

Please complete and return to:

ACER (Africa)
Environmental Management Consultants
Public Participation Office
Ms Charlene Weber
P O Box 503, Mtunzini, 3867
Tel: 035 340 2715
Fax: 035 340 2232
E-mail: isundu@acerafrica.co.za

**Deadline for comment:
12 December 2014**

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
YES NO

PLEASE DELETE MY NAME FROM THE
PROJECT MAILING LIST
YES NO

1. Please consider the following issues as part of the Assessment: (Please use extra sheets if needed)

1. Impact of electrical voltage & magnetic fields on breeding birds
2. Aesthetics of the area
3. Impact of security lighting on production
4. Noise impact during construction & operation on breeding birds
5. Spatial development plan for the area

2. My comments on/or suggestions for the public participation and technical processes are as follows:

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