

PROPOSED ISUNDU 765/400 kV SUB-STATION AND TURN-IN TRANSMISSION LINES
DEA EIA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/745; 12/12/20/1397/3/AM2
Comments and Responses Report 2

Comments have been received from the following stakeholders (alphabetical) during the public review period of the Draft Scoping Report

Name	Organisation
Aldine Armstrong	Eversheds on behalf of Rainbow Farms (Pty) Ltd
André Botha	EWT: Birds of Prey Programme
David Bozas	Mayibuye Estate
Khunjulwa Minentle Baleni	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Reka Bhikraj-Kalicharan	Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
Sonja Brits	Mkhambathini Municipality
Hennie Heyns	Samaria Safaris
Casper Landman	SA National Roads Agency
Patience Matamba	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Nick May	Toprock
Brian Millard	Local Resident
Renelle Karen Pillay	Department of Water and Sanitation
Esmeralda Ramburran	Msunduzi Municipality
Ian Rushworth	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
Lize Shaw	Mondi Group
Annamie Viljoen	uMshwati Agricultural Union

No	Date	Name and Organisation	Comment	Response
1	29 April 2015	Renelle Karen Pillay - Department of Water & Sanitation	Requested a hardcopy of the Draft Scoping Report.	A hard and CD copy was couriered to: ATT: Mr. Sibusiso Mathonsi Department of Water & Sanitation Southern Life Building, 7th Floor, Room 718 88 Field Street Durban 4000
2 a	30 April 2015	Casper Landman - SA National Roads Agency	The N3 National Road in the Camperdown/Pietermaritzburg area will possibly be affected by the corridor being considered for the turn-in transmission lines and it should be noted that SANRAL's policy on transmission lines of this nature is the following: a) No structure shall be erected within 60 metres of the National Road Reserve boundary. b) Similar restrictions on structures are applicable to crossings of National Roads and the minimum height above the roadway is 7.5 metres. c) Once a route has been finalised, application shall be made to the SA National Roads Agency, (SANRAL) Eastern Region for wayleaves on any structures which run parallel to the National Road within the 60 metres and any crossing of the National Road. Encroachment application forms are available from this office once required. Mr. Landman requested a drawing showing the different routes that are being investigated. From that, SANRAL will be able to see whether they are affected or not.	The EAP thanked Mr Landman for his query and attached the map shown in the Draft Scoping Report which is a map of the general project area being considered for this application. The EAP also sent kml files of the 100 ha within which the sub-station will be situated, if authorised. The proposed transmissions lines are likely to stay within the VSHA authorised corridor and connect into the existing Ariadne-Hector line (both maps were also attached). Currently, the EAP does not believe SANRAL properties will be affected as the proposed transmission lines are not envisaged to be going close to the N3 unless something significant comes up in the EIA process and the transmission lines have to go more towards the N3 to connect into the Ariadne-Hector line.
2 b	14 May 2015	Casper Landman - SA National Roads Agency	It is presumed that no final alignment or position for the sub-station has been decided on for this application. It was noted that the previous response still applies. Mr. Landman expressed regret at being unable to attend the public meeting on the 12 th May 2015.	The EAP agreed that no final alignment has been decided for the transmission line. The site for the proposed sub-station is relatively well defined, but neither of these have been approved yet and are still undergoing the EIA process. Road concerns will be noted in the EIR.
2	11 May 2015	Nick May - Toprock	Mr May realises the need to set up new electric units in the region. He is a founding member of the Mpushinin Protected Environmental land Owners Association (MPELA) which is a Government Gazetted, Ezemvelo partnership Biodiversity Naturally Protected "Red Zone". This area is a zoned Nature Region and there are plans afoot to join Mayibuye up to MPELA, creating a huge natural corridor of around 30,000 hectares. African Birds of Prey is situated in the centre between these two important nature areas, only a very short distance from the proposed sub-station, which will lead to the destruction of many of these rare and majestic birds. An environmental study should show that this location is out of the question, especially when there are many other	The EAP thanked Mr May for his comments, and confirmed that these have been forwarded to the various specialists and will be investigated in the EIA. Mr May was requested to provide details and locations of the available land he mentioned that is located on either side of the N3.

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			<p>feasible locations that will have little or no effect on wildlife in the area.</p> <p>The erection of the sub-station raises the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Raptor Centre's value as a breeding location, educational centre and, financially as a tourist destination (which is the major financial source to support research, rescue and breeding programs). <input type="checkbox"/> Visual impact of the transmission lines will negatively impact tourism <input type="checkbox"/> Expected objection from the MPELA consisting of 27 landowners in the region that have "donated" the usage of their land for nature conservation. <input type="checkbox"/> African Birds of Prey was chosen as the world leader in rehabilitation and breeding of the almost extinct Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier, which is an extremely important international project. Concern regarding the following impacts and their effects on members of the avian family were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electro magnetic navigation processes. ▪ Electromagnetic field levels. ▪ Change in the biorhythms of living organisms for as much as 1,400 m from a 765 KV line. ▪ Endangerment of nearly extinct species, and of many other rare and endangered birds of prey that are not on the critical list, but certainly close to it. <p>Mr May queried the distance of the planned sub-station from the Raptor Centre property and urged that one of the alternative locations that were considered be used, preferably where it has no effect on the natural "Red Zone". Mr May noted that there is a large amount of ruined farmland on either side of the N3, in close proximity, where it would have far less of a detrimental effect. Moved a reasonably short distance away from the planned location, there will most probably be little objection, as the practical necessity of electrical upgrades is understood.</p>	
3	12 May 2015	Annamie Viljoen - uMshwati Agricultural Union	Provided updated contact details for the I&AP database.	I&AP database updated.
4	14 May 2015	Khunjulwa Minentle Baleni Directorate: Forestry Regulations and	Requested a hard copy or a CD of the proposed Isundu765/400 kV substation and turn-in transmission lines Draft Scoping Report.	A hard copy and CD of the report were couriered to DAFF offices at 185 Langalibalele Street, Old Mutual Building, Pietermaritzburg, 3200. They were delivered by DHL on Wednesday 29 April 2015, marked for attention: Ms Karen Moodley; and signed for by Thobani.

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		Support Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries		Receipt of the report was confirmed by Ms Karen Moodley (15 May 2015).
5	15 May 2015	Lize Shaw – Mondi Group	Requested a map of the project area.	<p>The EAP thanked Ms Shaw for her query and provided the map shown in the Draft Scoping Report, which is a map of the general project area being considered for this application.</p> <p>The EAP also provided kml files of the 100 ha within which the sub-station will be situated, if authorised. The proposed transmissions lines are likely to stay within the VSHA authorised corridor and connect into the existing Ariadne-Hector line. The DSR and all Appendices are also available on the website www.acerfrica.co.za under 'Current Projects'.</p>
6	18 May 2015	Hennie Heyns - Samaria Safaris	<p>Mr. Heyns, is the sole director of the company, Samaria Safaris, which owns the properties, Farm Vaalkop and Dadelfontein No 885, adjacent to where the proposed Camperdown Sub-station is to be built.</p> <p>Mr Heyns objects to the building of this sub-station at the planned location, in the strongest possible terms. The Local government plans for this area have always been agriculture, residential and tourism, and Eskom's plans are in total contradiction.</p> <p>For the past nine years, they have been busy with development plans of an equestrian housing estate, now amended to an Aero and Wild Life Estate (called Aloe Wildlife Estate), which is now in the final stage of obtaining consent to develop.</p> <p>A sub-station of this size, and the number of power lines coming into the sub-station, would greatly affect the value and success of the development.</p> <p>Whilst Eskom are unable to predict when all these power lines will actually be constructed, the statement may cause the municipality to sterilize this property, pending finalization of the alignment of the servitude. This will obviously cause great financial hardship, and Eskom will be held liable for any losses incurred.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The impacts upon surrounding land-uses and development plans is being investigated.</p> <p>As requested, meeting was arranged between the Eskom negotiator, Ms Madinare Mukhuba, and Mr Heyns on 11 June 2015. Mr Dave Rigby also attended this meeting. The minutes of this meeting are included in Appendix 3.</p>

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			Mr Heyns requests that Eskom either withdraws the statement or enters into negotiations immediately for any expropriation and/or compensation necessary to avoid any conflict.	
7a	26 May 2015	Brian Millard	<p>A visit and enquiry was made at the Msunduzi Municipal Library to view the Draft Scoping Report for the above proposal.</p> <p>The library was unaware of the report and asked the Information Office at the adjacent City Hall if they had received the Draft Report. It would appear that the Information Office was also not aware of the report.</p>	<p>It was noted that a hard and CD copy was sent to the Msunduzi Local Municipality, and the Camperdown & Cato Ridge Municipal Libraries, not the Msunduzi Municipal Library.</p> <p>An electronic copy of the Draft Scoping Report was sent to Mr Millard. The report is also available on our website www.acerfrica.co.za under 'Current Projects'.</p>
7b	26 May 2015	Brian Millard	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 At the time of commenting on the Isundu Sub-station proposal, a hardcopy of the Draft Scoping Report would appear not to have been received by the Msunduzi Municipality. 2 An electronic copy of the Scoping Report has been studied. 3 A hard copy of the Scoping Report may provide a clear plan of the position of the Isundu Sub-station and Power Lines. 4 It is noted that the proposed sub-station is the first to be built in twenty years. This would indicate a lack of planning by Eskom. 5 There would appear to be a number of environmental aspects requiring consideration. Each of these requires a specialist report resulting in negative and positive aspects. 6 These reports will be considered by the approving authority that will be required to make an objective decision on the proposal. This will not be an easy task. 7 In the light of modern technology and economic developments, this upgrade would appear to be imperative. It is stated on page 59 of the document that "A modern economy cannot grow without the availability of a reliable electricity supply". At present, the country is not blessed with a "reliable supply". 8 It would appear that the proposed Isundu sub-station is situated on a gravel road. No indication is given as to the status of the road, i.e. private, municipal or provincial road. Who will be responsible for the maintenance of this road during construction and the operational stages? 9 It may be advisable or necessary to tar this road as an important access road. 	<p>A hard copy and CD of the report were couriered to Municipal offices by DHL on Wednesday 29 April 2015, and was signed for by Fezeka. Unfortunately the Municipality appeared to have lost the report and could not identify where it had been placed. All documents are also available at www.acerfrica.co.za under Current Projects.</p> <p>The electronic copy is probably better as one can zoom in to the maps.</p> <p>Perhaps in KZN but not in the country.</p> <p>This is part of the EIA phase of the current project.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Everyone is aware of current constraints in the electricity supply sector.</p> <p>The sub-station is situated alongside a tarred district road, the maintenance of which is the responsibility of the province. Maintenance during operation will be a provincial responsibility; potential damage during sub-station construction will need to be investigated.</p> <p>This will be investigated closer to the time.</p>

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			<p>10 The access point to the proposed sub-station, off the gravel road, is not clear or indicated. This could become an important aspect.</p> <p>11 Reference to storm water discharge is made on pages 45, 49 and 64 of the document. The final discharge of storm water from large hardened or concrete surfaces is not clear. Apart from discharging into veld, which could cause erosion, a finite solution is required. Who will be responsible for maintaining the chosen discharge system and outlet point? The discharged water should be usefully used.</p> <p>12 Consideration of the position of the campsite will require careful consideration as electricity and a good water supply will be required.</p>	<p>It is currently proposed to upgrade the internal farm road for access onto the site.</p> <p>Stormwater management is one of the issues being investigated and will be addressed in the final EMP.</p> <p>There will be a construction camp on the 100 ha site. Water and electricity is already available on the site for the farm house. No staff will be on-site permanently during construction, apart from a few security personnel.</p>
8	25 May 2015	Ian Rushworth Manager Ecological Advice, Scientific Services – Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	<p>It is noted that official comments on development applications come from the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Integrated Environmental Management Unit. However, the comments below are provided as an early warning of some issues associated with the Mbewu - Isundu Power Line Project with a view to encourage early consideration of alternatives.</p> <p>The proposed site of the sub-station is in close proximity to the African Birds of Prey Sanctuary and Raptor Rescue. These facilities are an essential part of raptor conservation in the province. In particular, the sanctuary assists Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in the conservation of raptors in KZN by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Providing for education, awareness and recreation opportunity for many thousands of people in the metropolitan areas of Pietermaritzburg and Durban. However, most importantly, the sanctuary provides for education of 10,000 to 12,000 schoolchildren per year, many from rural schools. The hands-on approach to conservation can only be achieved through the physical interaction with birds, including the display flights, and cannot be achieved in a classroom setting. If this type of education were to cease this would have a significant negative impact on the attitudes of people to this threatened group of birds and hence a negative impact on the biodiversity of the province. The proposed development of this nature and scale would almost certainly affect the economic viability of the African Birds of Prey Sanctuary and force its closure. <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, the sanctuary has been approached by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to take non-releasable raptors on "road shows" to schools and farmers days in areas where there is human-wildlife conflict and use of poisons. This is an essential component of 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This is acknowledged.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

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			<p>the KZN Vulture Conservation Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="539 209 1413 655">□ It serves as a site for undertaking research on breeding methods, raptor biology and for testing the impacts of toxic substances on raptors. As more raptor species are threatened so the need for captive breeding is increasing, and this facility not only allows for research on appropriate techniques and approaches, but has been selected to breed the Critically Endangered Bearded Vulture as part of a recovery programme endorsed by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. Electricity production (wind farms in Lesotho and Eastern Cape) and electricity distribution (power lines) are one of the main reasons for the need for a captive breeding programme for Bearded Vultures in the first place, and now the planned infrastructure is threatening that programme. The non-releasable raptors in the sanctuary also provide a unique opportunity to test the effects of various toxic compounds (veterinary drugs, lead, poisons) on birds of prey, thus providing vital information to guide conservation programmes. <li data-bbox="539 663 1413 895">□ The Raptor Rescue component of the sanctuary provides an essential service to conservation in terms of treating, rehabilitation, and ultimately releasing injured raptors back into the wild. Without this service, raptors - and vultures in particular - would be in even more trouble. Again, it is ironic that electrical infrastructure is one of the leading causes of declines in raptor numbers, but this proposed development is threatening the existence of the most important facility for rescue of raptors injured by power line collisions in KZN. <p>In addition, the site and new power lines will have a significant negative effect on the economic viability of the Mayibuye Nature Reserve. This is a very important community-owned and -managed project based on the establishment of a Big 5 Nature Reserve. The site meets the requirements for formal declaration as a nature reserve because of its biodiversity and development processes are at an advanced stage to get the MEC to declare the nature reserve in terms of the NEM: Protected Areas Act; it has political support at the highest levels and is also strongly supported by the Local and District Municipalities, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and NGOs. In our opinion, new power lines traversing the nature reserve would have a significant negative effect on the economic viability of the area, threatening many sustainable jobs, in addition to impacting directly on vegetation types that are under- represented in the protected area network. If the project fails, then the land use will revert to subsistence agriculture and settlement with</p>	<p>Noted with the caveat that there are many other threats to raptors apart from power lines. The centre was developed after the construction of the existing lines. Why is it a concern now, not then?</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>All of these issues are under investigation, via specialist studies, as part of the EIA.</p>

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			<p>associated negative impacts on biodiversity and water production. It is essential that the affected communities be given an opportunity to understand the potential impacts on their livelihoods.</p> <p>Given the issues above it is strongly recommended that alternative sites for the sub-station and alternative alignments of power lines be investigated.</p>	<p>The expansion of existing sub-stations and in the order of 25 new sites have been considered over the past 7 years. Section 4 outlines the process which has been undertaken. I&APs are welcome to suggest sites that they believe are sufficiently large and level enough for investigation by Eskom.</p>
9	26 May 2015	Patience Matamba – Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) appreciated the opportunity given to review and comment on the DSR. <input type="checkbox"/> The department acknowledges that the comments previously issued dated 05/11/2014 for the BID have been incorporated in the DSR and thus still apply. Furthermore, the response to these comments stipulates that "a Vegetation Assessment will be undertaken as part of the suite of specialist studies to be undertaken as part of the EIA. In addition, the EMPr will ensure that a list of locally suitable indigenous plants be included in the EMPr for rehabilitation and landscaping purposes". <input type="checkbox"/> Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the DEIAR which will incorporate the suite of specialist studies. <input type="checkbox"/> This letter does not exempt you from considering other environmental legislation. 	Noted.
10	3 June 2015	Reka Bhikraj-Kallicharan - Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	<p>The Draft Scoping Report (DRS) for the above-mentioned application was received by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (herein referred to as "this Department") on 15 May 2015 for comment. The following comments are provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed Isundu sub-station 765/400 kV located 29 391 50.77" S; 300 30' 48.37" E to the east of Ashburton is a replacement to the Sigma sub-station previously authorised. 2. According to the DSR the construction of the Isundu sub-station will bring positive change on human health, ecological and economic perspectives as stated in the Scoping Report and it will also reduce the level of load-shedding in South Africa. 3. Currently the farm is used for residential purposes, the owner mows the grass for the sale of hay, and wild game species do occur on the property. ACER (Africa) 	Noted.

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			<p>Environmental Consultants indicated that the proposed sub-station will not directly impact upon these initiatives. Surrounding land use/properties are the African Bird of Prey Sanctuary and Raptor Rescue; the Natal Zoological Gardens and Natal Lion Park; Rainbow Farms; the Mayibuye Game Estate and the proposed Wild Aloe Estate; the N3 highway and the existing Lion Park road with a Transnet pipeline and Umgeni water servitudes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The concerns raised by African Bird Prey Sanctuary and Raptor Rescue, Natal Zoological Gardens and Natal Lion Park, Rainbow Farms, Mayibuye Game Estate and proposed Wild Aloe Estate in respect of potential interference from transmission lines and loss of tracking signals, bird breeding and electromagnetic fields must be adequately assessed for in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). 5. This Department supports the undertaking of several specialist studies as detailed in section 9 of the DSR, viz. plan of study for impact assessment. Different independent professional specialists will be appointed to address aspects on a specific field as they are outlined in the Scoping Report. When compiling reports for this application for environmental authorisation, please ensure public participation with Mkhambathini Municipality; assess alternative locations; and provide a fully detailed and complete Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) (which indicates the actual remediation activities which will be binding on the application) and the EIAR with recommendations. <p>This Department awaits the EIAR for review and comment.</p>	<p>Clarification of this comment is necessary. The farm upon which the sub-station will be placed will be directly affected. The surrounding developments may not be directly affected by the sub-station, but will be indirectly affected by the associated transmission lines. These direct, indirect and cumulative impacts are being investigated.</p>
11	4 June 2015	Sonja Brits – Mkhambathini Municipality	<p>Cited a resolution taken at a meeting of the full Council held on Thursday, 28 May 2015, which requests the consultants who have lodged an application for the construction of the Isundu 765/400 KV sub-station and turn-in transmission lines in the Lion Park area to address the 6 issues raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address the incompatibility of this proposal with the municipal SDF and adopted Rural Planning Policy particularly as this development would necessitate a submission in terms of the KZN PDA and SPLUMA. 2. Detail the route through this municipality on a larger plan with the additional lines and servitudes being proposed into the future. 3. Address the visual aspects of this potential 60 ha structure that is being proposed in an agriculture and tourist area. 	<p>This is known and is an example of non-integrated planning between the national, provincial and local spheres of government. This does not invalidate Eskom's application.</p> <p>This is currently unknown.</p> <p>This is being investigated.</p>

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			<p>4. Elaborate on the problems with the approved site near Wartburg, and investigate the potential sites previously identified in the Cato Ridge/Harrison Flats area which will be in close proximity to the Dry Port which meets your identified criteria of siting sub-stations as close proximity to the Dry Port which meets your identified criteria of siting sub-stations as close to the demand centres as possible.</p> <p>5. Disclose the fact fate of structures existing within the servitudes.</p> <p>6. Prepare specialist reports in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The noise impact. ▪ Visual impact. ▪ Electromagnetic fields. 	<p>Earthworks at the Wartburg site are prohibitively expensive. Sigma 6 and 7 were previously investigated; Sigma 7 was found to be too small and the transmission lines routes into Sigma 6 were found to be unfeasible. This infrastructure is needed to supply the key demand centres of the whole of KZN, not a specific local municipality, area or project such as Cato Ridge or the Dry Port. The general regional location of the various sub-stations required between Mpumalanga and KZN's North and South Coast areas are also dependent on various technical transmission factors.</p> <p>These are being investigated,</p>
12	4 June 2015	David Bozas - Mayibuye Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The Mayibuye Game Reserve is opposed to the proposed Eskom plans. It poses a massive negative impact on the luxury game reserve housing estate currently under development; both visually and environmentally not to mention the economic impact it will have which could be catastrophic. □ With regards to environment the proposed site sits right on an area which is home to the critically endangered Oribi and also right in the middle of the proposed expansion area for a greater 25,000 ha game reserve. □ The African Bird of Prey Sanctuary is also on this property and this proposed project could close the centre down. This facility is of critical importance to the scientific research and protection of our large raptors. 	These issues are being investigated as part of the EIA.
13	9 June 2015	Esmeralda Ramburran - Msunduzi Municipality	<p>The Msunduzi Local Municipality, on the 10th 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).</p> <p>The EMF has identified the following constraints:</p> <p>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</p>	<p>This is an EIA process not a BA process. The Msunduzi EMF will be referenced where relevant.</p> <p>This is being undertaken as part of the EIA.</p>

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			<p>sub-station site and describe their functionality” an ecosystems services assessment in addition for a functionality assessment must be included.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Comment and approval from the Msunduzi Municipal Electricity Department is required –</p> <p>The full comment from Msunduzi is provided in Appendix 3 of this Final Scoping Report.</p>	<p>This is being investigated as part of the EIA.</p> <p>The site was selected because it is relatively flat (a key consideration excluding the many other sites investigated).</p> <p>Dust could be a problem during construction but not operations. This is being investigated as part of the EIA.</p> <p>The local municipality has no approval rights over state owned companies. Nevertheless, Eskom will work in the spirit and intention of co-operative governance and work with the Local Municipality Departments where relevant.</p>
14	9 June 2015	Aldine Armstrong - Eversheds on behalf of Rainbow Farms (Pty) Ltd	Eversheds provided a detailed objection to the application for the proposed Isundu 765/400KV Sub-station and turn-in transmission lines near Cato Ridge, KwaZulu-Natal. This is provided in Appendix 3 of the Final Scoping Report.	These objections are noted and the issues are under investigation as part of the EIA.
15	20 May 2015	André Botha – Endangered Wildlife Trust	As manager of the Bird of Prey Programme of the EWT, I would like to express my concern regarding the impact of the proposed sub-station on raptors. In particular, the captive breeding programme of the Bearded Vulture. The Bearded Vulture Task Force is a sub-programme which was established to implement the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) of the Bearded Vulture, gazetted by the SA Government in May 2014. The Bearded Vulture is a critically endangered species with only around 100 breeding pairs in the wild. The population is small and isolated and has low genetic diversity. One of the objectives of the programme is to address the low number and low diversity, is to implement a captive breeding programme. The task force has chosen the Africa Birds of Prey Sanctuary as the preferred institution for the implementation of the breeding programme based on their expertise and location in the province. The Sanctuary has the only captive Bearded Vulture in Southern Africa. To this end a large amount of resources have already been invested to initiate this programme, such as the construction of breeding cages. This long term programme will be jeopardised by the size and proximity of the proposed development in terms of the impacts on the health and well-being of breeding adults and chick development. Birds are known to be highly sensitive to electro-magnetic fields, therefore the proposed sub-station proposes a substantial risk. I have	These objections are noted and these issues are under investigation as part of the EIA.

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			serious concerns about the location of the proposed development and the impact it will have on the conservation of endangered and critically endangered raptors in KZN.	
16	12 June 2015	Brian Millard	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notices were recently received regarding public meetings and the availability of a Draft Basic Assessment Document at the Pietermaritzburg Msunduzi Municipal Offices regarding a proposed ESKOM substation east of Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg. 2. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, difficulty was experienced in locating a hard copy of the Draft Document. The Municipality appeared to have spent considerable time attempting to locate copies of the document. 3. It is important that these public documents be sent to the correct department within large organisations. 4. It is suggested that when documents are delivered to organisations for public review that ACER confirm with the responsible organisation that the documents have been received and that they can be viewed at the advertised office. 5. In the case of mislaid documents, it may be prudent to extend the period for which comments can be submitted. This may avoid unnecessary delays that arise if the public has not had access to public documents. 6. Although electronic copies of documents are available, it may still be necessary to access a hard copy. This can occur when referring to plans, drawings or routes. These are probably clearer in a hard copy. 7. I am forwarding to you under separate cover a list of Msunduzi Municipality Departments with contact details. Included are the contact details of the Municipality's Environmental Management Department that handles and considers Environmental Impact Assessments, Basic Assessment Reports etc. The names and contact details of the people in the environmental management department were previously submitted to ACER on 20/5/2015. 8. To date a copy of the minutes of the public meetings held at Ashburton Library on 3/1/2014 and at Van's Hotel on 12/5/2015 have not been received. It would be appreciated if copies of these minutes would please be forwarded to me. 	<p>As already stated, the report was received by the Municipality and unfortunately they mislaid it. It should also be noted that the proposed substation is not within the Msunduzi Local Municipality, although the VSHA transmission lines do go through their area.</p> <p>ACER contacted Mr Millard to thank him for his comments and to confirm specifically what his particular interest in the Isundu Sub-station is. He said that he was just trying to remain informed and had seen somewhere a mention of it being in Hayfields. ACER confirmed that the project was not in Hayfields but rather in Ashburton and that Hayfields residents would not really be affected. Nevertheless, he still wished to remain involved to keep up to date on what is being planned in the area.</p> <p>ACER offered to forward him a hard copy of the report or larger maps or kml files if he felt the electronic copies of the report were insufficient. He said this was not necessary at the moment. ACER's offer remains valid if necessary for the remainder of the project.</p> <p>Copies of the minutes were forwarded to him as per his request.</p>