

From: Nick May Toprock [<mailto:info@toprocks.net>]

Sent: 11 May 2015 19:52

To: publicparticipation@acerafrica.co.za

Cc: kznraptorrescue@gmail.com

Subject: RE: Reminder: Public Meeting on 12 May for the Proposed Isundu 765/400 kV Sub-Station and Turn-In Transmission Lines (DEA EIA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/745)

Dear Paul

Regarding the sub-station, I, of course realise the need to set up new electric units in the region, but as a founding member of MPELA (Mpushinin Protected Environmental land Owners Association) which is a Government Gazetted, Ezemvelo partnership Biodiversity Naturally Protected "Red Zone", I would urge the committee to use one of the alternative locations that were looked at. Preferably where it has no effect on the natural "Red Zone". There is plenty of ruined farmland on either side of the N3 in the district in close proximity where it would have much less of a detrimental effect.

This area is a zoned Nature Region and there are plans afoot to join Mayibuye up to MPELA, creating 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 Substation, which of course, as anybody who is educated, would know, spells instant destruction and death to many of these rare and majestic birds. Any reasonable environmental study should expose this location as a "out of the question" position without too much research, especially when there are many other feasible locations that will have little or no effect on wildlife in the area. With the erection of the Substation, The Raptor Centre would lose much of its use and value as a breeding location, educational centre and, financially as a tourist destination (which is the major financial supports the research, rescue and breeding programs).

Visibly, very few wildlife tourists/folks visiting a nature centre, want to go into the country and look at a mass of cables and electrical

MPELA consists of 27 Land owners in the region that have "donated" the usage of their land for Nature Conservation. I have no doubt that the majority, if not all, will object to this location.

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. There are only 100 pairs left Worldwide and a handful left in South Africa and makes Rhino look like they are common and breeding like rabbits..right on the top of the critical list! I am sure nobody would like to claim responsibility and have to tell their Grandchildren that they helped one of the major Birds of Prey to become extinct in 10 or 20 years time because the breeding program could not work with electrical cables emanating impulse and of course birds getting caught up in the wires and of course will be directly in the flight path.

With the use of a Gauss meter, you can test the electrical EMF level on the power lines that would be used on such a project. There will most probably be a minimum 10mg (milli gauss) emanation around 20-30 meters from the substation, but usually there is a still a 1mg level even at a distance of 200m away, which, while not felt or is destructive to a human, certainly would be felt as an electromagnetic field by member of the avian family. There is a recorded level of change in the biorythmns of living organisms for as much as 1400m from a 765 KV Power transformer line and most folks will know (I am sure as a Environmental Consultant, you would be aware of this) that birds use Electro Magnetic navigation processes....this is not able to be used near an electrical source such as a power cable. How many meters is the "planned" substation from The Raptor Centre property? If you doubt this information, try laying an unconnected fluorescent tube across two of your power lines and see what happens, or even hold it up for a while underneath the power cable for a while in the dark and you will

see the reaction(quite interesting) . It lights up as if you had plugged it in..and it needs a distinct electromagnetic field in able to do this. I am not guessing.

Moved a reasonably short distance away from then planned location, there will most probably be little objection, as we all realise the practical necessity of electrical upgrades, but this is endangering, not just one almost extinct species, but many other rare and endangered Birds of Prey that are not on the critical list, but certainly close to it.

Yours sincerely

Nick May

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Lower Mpushini Valley Conservancy

MPELA (Mpushini Protected Environment)