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Department :
Economic Development, Tourism and
Environmental Affairs
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Enquiries: Reka B-Kalicharan/Samke Mchunu
Reference: Q/2015/32/Mkham
Date: 03 June 2015
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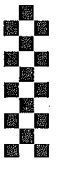
Dear Madam/Sir

RE: Q/2015/32/Mkham: PROPOSED ISUNDU 765/400 KV SUB-STATION AND TURN-IN TRANSMISSION LINES LOCATED WITHIN THE MKHAMBATHIN MUNICIPALITY.

1. 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:
2. The proposed Isundu sub-station 765/400 kV located 29 39' 50.77" S; 30° 30' 48.37" E to the East of Ashburton is a replacement to the Sigma sub-station previously authorised.
3. 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.
4. Currently the farm is used for residential purposes and the owner mows the grass for the sale of hay and wild game species do occur on the property. ACER (Africa) Environmental consultants indicated that proposed sub-station will not directly impact upon these initiatives. Surrounding land uses/property 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 Umngeni water servitudes as well.
5. 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

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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).

6. 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.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss the points raised above, please do not hesitate to contact our offices. This Department awaits the EIAR for review and comment. The delay in responding to you on this matter is regretted.

Yours sincerely



For: Head of Department

Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs