



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

KZN Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

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LAND USE AND SOIL MANAGEMENT

PRIVATE BAG X120

GESINA, PRETORIA

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ATTENTION: MARUBINI M.

TEL: 012 319 7564 / FAX: 012 329 5938

RE: PROPOSED ISUNDU 765/400 KV SUBSTATION AND TURN IN TRANSMISSION LINES, LANGEHOOP 1032 FT, IN ASHBURTON AREA, UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT, KZN _ BID AND EIA

1. GENERAL

The Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs: Macro Planning acknowledges the receipt of the above mentioned application.

The main objective of this application is to request comments on establishment of a sub-station in the above mentioned property. This development is aimed at increasing and strengthening of the electricity transmission network to the KZN Midlands and southern KZN region. The proposed substation will also improve service and quality of power supply for the region. The new substation will bring 675kV and 2X400 kV transmission lines from Venus substation near Escourt.

2. COMMENTS ON LAND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The site inspection to evaluate the significance of agricultural resources that are likely to be impacted upon by this construction was conducted on the 26th November 2014.

During the site inspection the following were noted:

- The proposed project is in Langehoop FT 1032, Portion 23.
- The original farm size is +/- 1784.6 in extent with different portions and only +/-100 hectares will be affected by this proposed development.

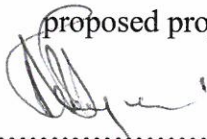
- The proposed site is bounded by few Rainbow farms that are in full operation.
- The property according to KZN Agricultural land Potential Categories Version 1 (2012, Draft) is on land with moderate agricultural potential where significant interventions are required in order to achieve viable and sustainable food production that is regarded as very high potential agricultural land that should be exclusively retained for agricultural use. The land has moderate potential because of shallow soils and grazing carrying capacity of 3.0 ha/ animal unit.
- Consequently semi extensive farming is highly an option on this part of land.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that the proposed substation must be properly constructed in order to alleviate possible soil erosion and good surface water management.
- Natural vegetation clearing must be kept at minimum during site preparation.

4. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Please be advised that the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Land Use Regulatory Component **has no objection** to the activity in principle but awaits further documentation before concluding our comments on the proposed project.



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Nonhlanhla Myeni

FOR THE ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Cc Paul Scherzer, isundu@acerafrica.co.za [ACER (Africa) Environmental Management Consultants]