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Dear «Title» «Surname»

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

ESKOM'S PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING OF THE EXISTING CLOCOLAN – FICKSBURG 88 KV POWER LINE AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE MARALLANENG SUBSTATION NEAR FICKSBURG, SETSOTO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE

1. INTRODUCTION

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (Eskom) has appointed ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants (ACER) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for obtaining environmental authorisation (EA) for the decommissioning of the existing 88 kV power line from the Clocolan Substation to the Ficksburg Municipal Substation and the construction of the new 2 x 20 MVA Marallaneng 88/11 kV Substation and associated infrastructure near Ficksburg, in the Setsoto Local Municipality, Free State.

Eskom's proposed development as outlined in the project description below, will trigger activities listed in terms of the Listing Notices 1 and 3 of the current EIA Regulations (GNR 983 and 985 of 2014) (as amended) thereby requiring environmental authorisation, following the undertaking of a Basic Assessment (BA) and associated Public Participation Process.



Figure 1 Locality map of Eskom's existing (red) and authorised (blue) 88 kV power lines and the proposed Marallaneng Substation

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Decommissioning of the existing 88 kV power line

Eskom is proposing the complete removal of the existing 88 kV power line, currently running from the Clocolan Substation to the Ficksburg Municipal Substation, and its relocation onto the double circuit structures of the previously authorised new 88 kV power line (Figure 1). The need to remove the existing power line arose during Eskom's servitude negotiations with affected stakeholders and landowners, and will serve to reduce the visual impacts and physical footprint on both natural and agricultural land that would be associated with having two high voltage power lines running to and from the same destination within relative close proximity to each other.

2.2 Construction of the new Marallaneng Substation

The new 2 x 20 MVA Marallaneng 88/11 kV Substation has been proposed on the Ficksburg end of the authorised 88 kV power line to address the demand for electricity in the townships near Ficksburg (Figure 2). The Setsoto Local Municipality has formally requested a new substation in order to provide sufficient capacity to allow the municipality to implement new infrastructure developments, and to provide power to already completed projects and RDP houses.

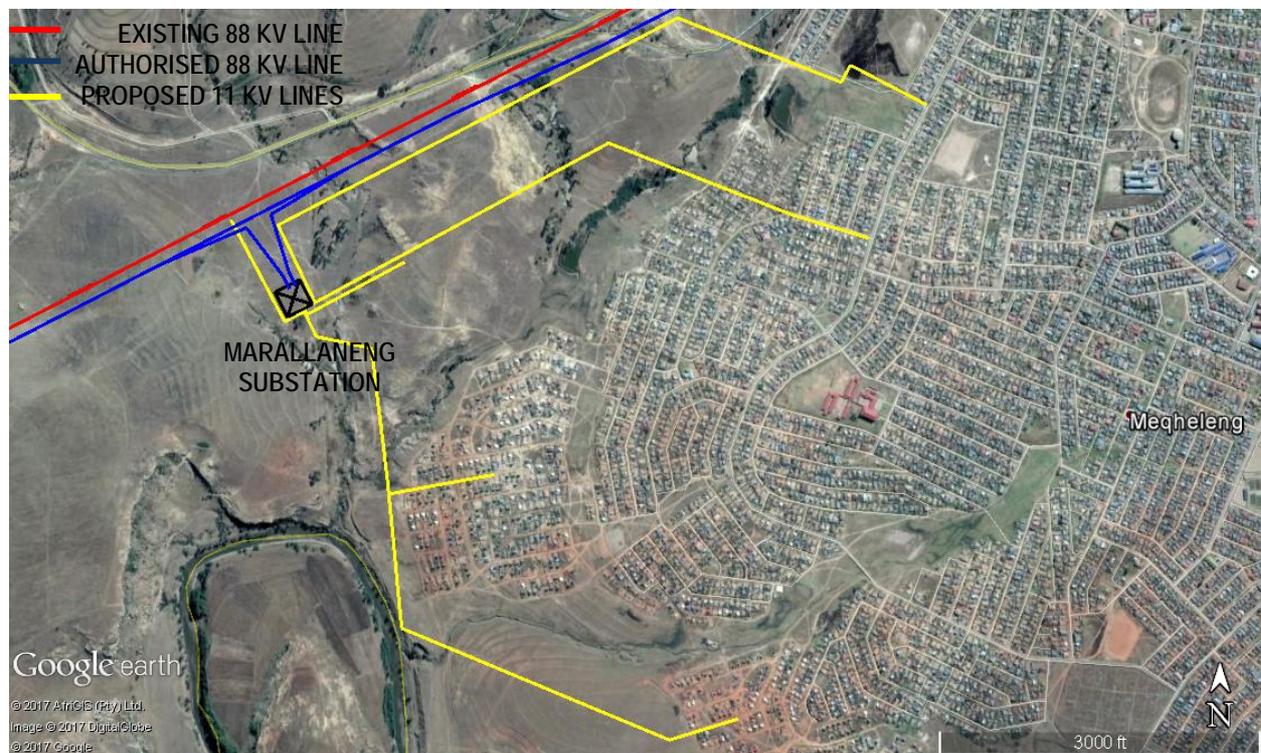


Figure 2 Proposed Marallaneng Substation and associated infrastructure

ESKOM'S PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING OF AN EXISTING 88 KV POWER LINE AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW MARALLANENG SUBSTATION
APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

3. CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The current Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 published in Government Notices R 982, 983, 984 and 985 of 4 December 2014 (as amended) will apply to this project. Eskom's proposed development will trigger the following activities in terms of Listing Notices 1 and 3 (GNR 983 and 985) of the current EIA regulations:

Table 1 Listed activities for which environmental authorisation is required.

Listing Notice and Activity	Description of Activity	Reason triggered
GNR 983 - Activity 11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity: (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts...	The proposed Marallaneng Substation falls outside of the Ficksburg urban edge and will have a capacity of more than 33 kV but less than 275 kV.
GNR 983 - Activity 12	The development of: (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 m ² or more; where such development occurs: (a) within a watercourse. (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse...	Certain infrastructure associated with the already authorised 88 kV power line including the loop in/out lines and medium voltage (MV) lines leaving the Marallaneng Substation will not be able to entirely avoid identified wetlands and watercourses surrounding the Substation, thereby cumulatively resulting in a footprint of more than 100 m ² .
GNR 983 - Activity 19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m ³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 m ³ from a watercourse.	Certain infrastructure associated with the already authorised 88 kV power line including the loop in/out lines and medium voltage (MV) lines leaving the Marallaneng Substation will not be able to entirely avoid identified wetlands surrounding the Substation.
GNR 983 - Activity 31	The decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure for: (i) any development and related operation activity or activities listed in this Notice, Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or Listing Notice 3 of 2014...	The development of the existing 88 kV power line would trigger activities listed under Listing Notices 1 and 3, and therefore the decommissioning of such infrastructure will trigger activity 31 of Listing Notice 1.
GNR 985 - Activity 12	The clearance of an area of 300 m ² or more of indigenous vegetation: (v) within areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 m from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.	The cumulative clearance of indigenous vegetation within and within 100 m from the edge of watercourses or wetlands required for the construction of the substation and associated infrastructure may exceed 300 m ² .

**ESKOM'S PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING OF AN EXISTING 88 KV POWER LINE AND
CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW MARALLANENG SUBSTATION**
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Based on the activities triggered, ACER will therefore, on behalf of Eskom will be undertaking a Basic Assessment (BA) process which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), for consideration and decision-making.

The proposed development will also require authorisation from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), for water uses in terms of Section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998)(NWA). The relevant water use registration or application process, in terms of the NWA, will be undertaken in consultation with DWS.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you, as a potential Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) to participate in the environmental authorisation process. If you would like to register as an I&AP please complete and return the attached Comment Sheet to the ACER Public Participation Office before 10 November 2017.

Please contact the ACER Public Participation Office to obtain further information:

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Your participation is valued and will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



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