

## Mareike Straeuli

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**From:** Lorraine Hebblethwaite <lahebbs@sai.co.za>  
**Sent:** 01 November 2016 09:18 PM  
**To:** Paul Scherzer  
**Cc:** elained4@gmail.com; 'Dieter Heinsohn'; 'Mareike Straeuli'; 'Annah Motalane'; 'Vuyolwethu Dingiswayo'; 'Charlene Weber'; 'Dave Rigby'  
**Subject:** Re: PROPOSED ISUNDU 765/400 KV SUB-STATION AND TURN-IN TRANSMISSION LINESAVAILABILITY OF THE DEIA REPORT AND WULA FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Paul,

Thanks very much for your very prompt and helpful response; I greatly appreciate the fact that you took the time to outline the situation to me in detail.

It's fair to say you have been helpful and informative from the beginning; the notion of our family farm succumbing to the march of progress is deeply distressing, but the reality is that the power grid has to be expanded somewhere.

Thanks again

Kind regards

Lorraine

On 11/1/2016 3:00 PM, Paul Scherzer wrote:

Dear Lorraine

Please see my response to your questions in red below.

Regards  
Paul

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**From:** Lorraine Hebblethwaite [<mailto:lahebbs@sai.co.za>]  
**Sent:** 01 November 2016 10:25  
**To:** [publicparticipation@acerafrica.co.za](mailto:publicparticipation@acerafrica.co.za); Paul Scherzer <[paul@edcs.co.za](mailto:paul@edcs.co.za)>  
**Subject:** Re: PROPOSED ISUNDU 765/400 KV SUB-STATION AND TURN-IN TRANSMISSION LINESAVAILABILITY OF THE DEIA REPORT AND WULA FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Paul,

I trust you are well, and thank you for copying me in as below.

It is of some concern to me that, after many years, I've not received any communication from you client, Eskom, with regard to my property.

Please can you advise me, for the purposes of clarity:

a) It is still proposed that the sub-station should be built on my property; and

Yes, Eskom is still investigating the proposed sub-station on your property. We are still in the environmental authorisation phase though. Thus, until environmental authorisation is granted, Eskom cannot proceed any further with more detailed planning of the sub-station.

b) Whether, in your experience, it is customary for the client to entirely ignore the registered and lawful owner of the property. As you know, this process has been ongoing for several years, and to date I have had no communication from Eskom. It's a bit surprising to me that, while I believe you have kept me informed of the EIA, your client seems to be unaware of my existence or my legal rights as owner. Considering my experiences with Imgeni Water, who commenced works for a pipeline on my property without any communication at all, I'm rather concerned that Eskom might act in a similar vein.

There are a number of questions here. Firstly, you are not being ignored and it is quite normal that you are not having much personal interaction with Eskom negotiators at this stage. These large projects take many years of investigation to obtain all the planning and approvals. Without such approvals, Eskom cannot commence to negotiate with you as the landowner, as they can't negotiate or sign agreements when other approvals are still outstanding. If for example, environmental authorisation were not granted then any negotiations or agreements would have been in vain. Environmental authorisation is an important part of the project investigation process and Eskom appointed ACER to undertake the EIA. Thus, we initially contacted you on behalf of Eskom to obtain permission to proceed with the investigation and then since 2014 the EIA has been underway. That is why you hear from ACER rather than Eskom at the moment.

But please be assured that Eskom is most definitely aware of the fact that you are the landowner and of your legal rights as the landowner. Eskom is only likely to commence negotiations (with any landowners) once environmental authorisation has been obtained. Currently it is anticipated that the Final EIA will be submitted around the end of January 2017, thus, it is likely that any decision from the Department of Environmental Affairs may only occur around mid-2017. If the decision is appealed, as can often occur with large projects, this could take anywhere between six months to a year or longer to resolve. Thus, assuming the site is granted a positive authorisation, it is not possible to predict with any accuracy when Eskom will commence negotiations with you. To give you a comparison, authorisation for the VSHA transmission lines was granted in 2012 (the EIA ran from 2009-2011) and Eskom has still not commenced negotiations with some of the affected landowners as Eskom put transmission line negotiations on hold until the outcome of this Isundu EIA process is known.

I cannot comment on your experiences with the Umgeni Water pipeline, who were needing a servitude across your farm. However, I can confidently assure you that Eskom will not commence construction of this project until all authorisations are in place and the relevant property has been purchased.

It might be helpful if you would be kind enough to let me know the details of the key Eskom personnel who are involved in this project, in order that I might address them directly? I think it might be prudent for me to contact Eskom directly, as they have not manifested any intention of communicating with me in this regard.

I have copied Annah Motalane and Vuyo Dingswayo from Eskom on this email. They are responsible for the EIA and land negotiations, respectively.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Lorraine

On 10/31/2016 2:34 PM, ACER - Public Participation wrote:

Dear Ms. Lorraine Hebblethwaite,

**PROPOSED ISUNDU 765/400 KV SUB-STATION AND TURN-IN TRANSMISSION LINES**

**DEA EIA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/745**

**AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AND WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report**

The Impact Assessment phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the above project is nearing completion. A Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAR) has been prepared in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2010, published in Government Notice R543 of 18 June 2010, under Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAR) is available for review and comment by members of the public for a 40 calendar day period from **31 October 2016 to 15 December 2016**.

**Water Use License Application**

Eskom is required to obtain a Water Use License for the proposed Isundu Sub-station (in terms of section 40(4) of the National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)). A Water Use License Application (WULA) was been prepared for water uses that will occur on the proposed Isundu Sub-Station site. The public is invited to review the WULA and provide comments. The public review period is 60 working days (from **31 October 2016 to 15 February 2017**).

**Location of Reports**

Please find herewith an Executive Summary of the DEIAR and a Comment Sheet. **The full version of the DEIAR and WULA (hard copy and CD) will be available at the following public libraries:**

Venue	Street	Contact Person and Number
Camperdown Public Library	18 Old Main Road Camperdown 3720	Mrs. Samke Duma 031 785 9337
Cato Ridge Public Library	Cnr. Doornrug & Old George Road Cato Ridge 3680	Mr. Isaac Nxela 031 782 1632
Msunduzi Municipal / Bessie Head Library	260 Church Street Pietermaritzburg 3201	Ms. Kammy Naidoo 033 392 2634

Please submit your comments in writing to the Public Participation Office:

Paul Scherzer or Charlene Weber  
ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants  
P O Box 503, Mtunzini, 3867 |Tel: 035 340 2715 |Fax: 035 340 2232  
[isundu@acerafrica.co.za](mailto:isundu@acerafrica.co.za)

A public meeting has been scheduled for 16 November 2016 at Vans Hotel, Cato Ridge, from 17:30 to 19:30.

**Please Note:**

1. The DEIAR is also available on ACER's website: [www.acerafrica.co.za](http://www.acerafrica.co.za) under 'Current Projects' under the link Eskom: Isundu 765/400 kV Sub-Station and Turn-In Transmission Lines.
2. **The public comment period for the DEIAR is 40 calendar days, commencing on 31 October 2016 and ending on 15 December 2016.**
3. **The public comment period for the WULA is 60 working days, commencing on 31 October 2016 and ending on 15 February 2017.**
4. Organs of state such as municipalities and government departments have received full versions of the DEIAR.
5. Comments received on the DEIAR will be used to produce the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which will be available for public comment for a period of 21 calendar days prior to submission to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for consideration. A letter will be sent to all Registered Interested and Affected Parties informing them of the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report as well as DEA's decision on the Application for Environmental Authorisation.

On behalf of the Project Team, I should like to thank everyone who has already participated during this EIA process.

Yours sincerely,

**ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants**  
Mr. Paul Scherzer  
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

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