



## J Leslie Smith & Company Inc.

ATTORNEYS, CONVEYANCERS AND NOTARIES PUBLIC

332 Jabu Ndlovu (Loop) Street,  
Pietermaritzburg, 3201

P.O. Box 297, Pietermaritzburg,  
3200 South Africa

Docex 9, Pietermaritzburg

Tel: **+27 (0)33 845 9700**

Fax: **+27 (0)33 845 9720**

Conveyancing: Local **+27 (0)33 845 9781**

Agency/Corresp. **+27 (0)33 845 9740**

Email: [jls@jleslie.co.za](mailto:jls@jleslie.co.za)

Web: [www.jlesliesmith.com](http://www.jlesliesmith.com)

### Branch Offices:

Shop 2, Greendale Shopping Centre,  
Main Street, Howick, 3290

Tel: **+27 (0)33 330 3360**

Shop 29, Village Mall Apartments,  
3 Impathle Drive, Pennington

**Our Ref: Mr. W Smith/tm/16FL1062**

13 December 2016

ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants  
ATTENTION: MR. PAUL SCHERZER / CHARLENE WEBER  
Per E-mail: [isundu@acerafrica.co.za](mailto:isundu@acerafrica.co.za)

Dear Sirs,

**PROPOSED ISUNDU 765/400 KV SUB-STATION AND TURN-IN TRANSMISSION LINES  
DEA EIA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/745**

**OUR CLIENTS: NATAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS (PTY) LTD; NATAL LION PARK CC AND BRIAN BOSWELL**

We refer to your letter dated the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 as well as the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Executive Summary provided to us by our clients reflected above.

Our clients inform us that they have already provided comments as interested and affected parties and confirm that they join issue and support the objections and concerns already raised.

Our instructions are to deal specifically with the existing and planned tourism activities surrounding the site, but most importantly the Natal Zoological Gardens and Natal Lion Park; as well as Mr. Boswell's private collection of exotic birds; which are raised and bred on the same property as the Natal Zoological Gardens registered in the name of Mr. Brian Stanley Boswell.

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report concedes the potential negative impacts on surrounding enterprises, including existing and planned tourism centres. As is reflected in the draft EIA the area is zoned for agriculture and eco-tourism and a large sub-station in the area, along with the planned transmission lines, will certainly have a direct and indirect impact on our clients' enterprises.

Besides the visual deprivation; the concession that the location of the sub-station will alter the development trajectory of the local area towards a more industrialised nature; rather than eco-tourism, will have an impact on our clients' enterprises. This impact will increase significantly once the five (5) planned transmission lines are added; particularly where those lines are likely to cut across or near our clients' properties, including the Natal Lion Park. The concession that the curtailment of future tourism potential of the Mayibuye Game Reserve would be "of medium significance"; without conceding the significance of that impact on our clients' eco-tourism initiatives is noted with concern. Although the sub-station may be largely out of site; the transmission lines certainly will not be.

Proprietor: J Leslie Smith & Company Inc.

Incorporated No. 1997/003455/21

VAT Reg No. 4030102737

**Directors:** James Bernard Austen Smith, Lawrence Walter Abbot Trotter, John Olpherts Christie, Margaret Mary McCullough, Vaughn Neville Daly, Warren Andrew Smith, Catherine Ann Smith, Whyona Sithapersad, Christine Isabel Speirs

**Associate:** Anusha Ganas

**Consultants:** Arthur Patrick Austen Smith, Mary-Anne Callaghan

**Professional Assistants:** Siphon Mthethwa, Fallon Courtney Meyer, Bilal Osman

Our clients instruct us that the wild animals and birds, as well as the breeding parrots at the Natal Zoological Gardens are not that much further from the proposed sub-station than the African Bird of Prey Sanctuary and Raptor Rescue (ABOPS) and that the potential disturbances reflected in the report in relation to ABOPS will apply equally to the Zoo.

While we note the focus on the breeding program for the Bearded Vulture; our client has instructed us to point out that there are valuable, rare and exotic animals and birds located on the Zoo property.

It would accordingly be relevant to include our clients in any tests which are proposed to be conducted in relation to ABOPS and RCL Chickens in relation to dust, noise, lighting and the like; as well as the test blast which is proposed to be conducted.

It is noted that Eskom concedes that it will need to relocate the ABOPS; but no such concession is made in relation to the Zoo and the endangered parrot breeding facility at the Zoo. There appears to be no reason why the impact on the indigenous Bearded Vulture Breeding program should take precedence over the parrot breeding facility or the other animals in the Zoo.

It also appears from the draft EIA that more research and investigations are required in order to assess the impact on the animals and birds at the Zoo.

Failing that, it would appear that the relocation of these animals and birds would also be required in line with the concession that the ABOPS would need to be relocated.

We await your reply hereto.

Yours faithfully,

**WARREN SMITH**  
**J LESLIE SMITH & COMPANY INC**  
**Direct Fax Number: 086 687 3333**  
**E-mail: warrensmith@jleslie.co.za**