

7 September 2017

Mr. TC Ndela  
Municipal Manager  
Mkhambathini Municipality

[BritzS@mkhambathini.gov.za](mailto:BritzS@mkhambathini.gov.za)

cc:

Ms. Elaine Donaldson  
[elained4@gmail.com](mailto:elained4@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Ndela,

**PROPOSED ISUNDU 765/400 KV SUB-STATION AND TURN-IN TRANSMISSION LINES  
DEA EIA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/745  
YOUR REFERENCE: 19/7/2/50**

Your letter of 20 December 2016 has reference. This response uses the same numbering as per your letter.

- 1a. The zoning and municipal plans are recognised in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However, if national electrical transmission lines and sub-stations were only constructed on land zoned for industrial use, it would be impossible for Eskom to meet the power demands of the country.
- 1b. The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR) does recognise and note that there is an unsettled land claim over the whole area.
- 1c. Localised positive and negative impacts on employment have been considered. However, it should also be noted that many of the developments proposed are yet to be constructed. Biophysical impacts have been considered in detail.
- 1d. Visual impacts have been considered and mitigation measures proposed.
2. The incompatibility of the sub-station with the current land-use framework has already been commented upon.
3. The Municipality has never officially forwarded the coordinates for these 'potential sites' for consideration. Nevertheless, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) did investigate the Cato Ridge industrial area and no suitable open areas of the required size or gradient were identified. Once again, as previously explained, this sub-station is not being sited near Cato Ridge to supply the Dry Port or local Cato Ridge industry. It is a part of a KZN strengthening programme to improve the entire electrical supply and network to KZN. Thus, a criterion such as available space for the sub-station and future transmission lines is an important consideration, which make siting the sub-station in already allocated industrial sites nearby an existing national highway difficult.

ACER has now finalised the EIAR for submission to the Authorities. The full suite of reports is available on ACER's web site, [www.acer africa.co.za](http://www.acer africa.co.za) under the "Current Projects" link. Also, CD copies can be requested from ACER at the above contact details or from [mareike.straeuli@acer africa.co.za](mailto:mareike.straeuli@acer africa.co.za).

Please note that stakeholders who wish to submit further comments on the Final EIAR must submit these directly to the Department of Environmental Affairs:

Ms. Olivia Letlalo  
Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)  
Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001 | 012 399 8815  
Email: [oletlalo@environment.gov.za](mailto:oletlalo@environment.gov.za)  
Cc: [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za)

Copies of submissions to the Department should also be sent to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner:

ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants, PO Box 503, Mtunzini, 3867. Fax: 035 340 2232. Email: [isundu@acerafrica.co.za](mailto:isundu@acerafrica.co.za).

In the meantime, the Department of Water and Sanitation has issued a General Authorisation for the Isundu Sub-station Project in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), under the General Authorisation number 509, dated the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016, as published in Government Gazette 40229. The General Authorisation can be found in Appendix 1 - EIA Application and Authority Correspondence of the report.

On behalf of the Project Team, we should like to thank the Municipality for their participation and input during this Scoping and EIA process, and look forward to your continued participation.

Yours sincerely,



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