



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

For

THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ESKOM KYALAMI-MIDRAND STRENGTHENING PROJECT, COMPRISING A GAS INSULATED SUBSTATION (GIS) AND APPROXIMATELY 13 KM OF 3 X 400KV TRANSMISSION LINES BETWEEN THE LULAMISA SUBSTATION AND PROPOSED KYALAMI SUBSTATION, GAUTENG

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/659

February 2014

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Basic Assessment:	The investigations carried out to identify, predict, evaluate and mitigate the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of proposed developments prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made.
Public Participation Process:	A process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to the proposed development.
Study Area:	The area that will be covered by the Basic Assessment process within which possible study corridors will be investigated.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BID	Background Information Document
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

The proposed project entails the construction of the Eskom Kyalami-Midrand Strengthening Project, which will comprise of a Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Kyalami and 3 X 400kV Transmission lines of approximately 13 kilometres between the existing Lulamisa substation and the proposed GIS..

Eskom has identified the need to strengthen the electricity supply within the Johannesburg North area. This will ensure a reliable electricity supply to existing and future customers. An Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted during 2009, and the transmission line and the substation received Environmental Authorisation in March 2010. The Environmental Authorisation lapsed on 16 March 2013, as all land negotiations were not completed. The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has granted permission to undertake a Basic Assessment Reporting process, instead of a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting process.

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2010: GN544 promulgated under Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"), and published in Government Gazette 33306 on 18 June 2010; a Basic Assessment is required for this project. Therefore, in order to be able to complete the proposed project, an environmental authorisation must be obtained.

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) provides information pertaining to the development of Eskom Kyalami-Midrand Strengthening Project. It outlines processes that will be followed, as well as avenues for all key stakeholders to participate in the process.

The purpose of the BID is to provide background information about the proposed project and give opportunity for Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) to comment on the proposed project. It also provides information on how the Basic Assessment process will be undertaken, and creates a platform for all key stakeholders and I&AP's to be involved in the project.

Public Participation Process

Public participation offers I&AP's the opportunity to learn about the project and to raise issues they are concerned about and to make suggestions for enhancing project benefits. These contributions will be evaluated by the environmental practitioner during the BAR process.

Your Role as an Interested and Affected Party

As a Stakeholder or Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), you are invited to participate in Public Participation meetings to be held in the study area. You can participate in the following manner:

- ❖ Review all project documentation provided to you;
- ❖ Attend meetings;
- ❖ Contact the environmental practitioner if you would like further information on the project;
- ❖ Raise issues that you are concerned about, make suggestions for enhanced project benefits, and
- ❖ Provide the project team with information on issues relevant to and provide the project team with information on issues relevant to the proposed route.

WHO ARE THE I&AP's?

The I&AP's include all people that will be directly or indirectly involved and/ or affected by the proposed project. This includes adjacent landowners/ tenants around the proposed project, homeowner associations, councillors and the relevant authorities. All persons identified/ registered as an I&AP will receive the BID and will have a chance to participate in the process. It is important to register as an I&AP as this will ensure your name appears on a register for future information.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited to conduct the Basic Assessment process for the proposed construction of the Eskom Kyalami-Midrand Strengthening Project. According to the NEMA Regulations, (Act 107 of 1998) as amended, the proposed development is a listed activity and therefore needs an Environmental Authorisation before it can proceed. The development triggers activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Government Notices R 544, R 545 and R 546 (Listing Notice 1, 2 and 3 of June 2010). A Basic Assessment Process will be undertaken for the proposed development.

The Proposed construction of the Kyalami-Midrand Strengthening Project, which includes 3 x 400kV transmission lines and a GIS, triggers the following NEMA activities:

Notice	Activity No	Description
GN R 544, 2010 (Listing Notice 1)	11 (xi)	The proposed substation could be located within 32 metres from a watercourse.
GN R 544, 2010 (Listing Notice 1)	23	An area of about 100m x100m (1hectare) is required to construct the proposed substation and Eskom may clear above 10000m ² for the construction of substation.
GN R 545, 2010 (Listing Notice 2)	8	The project will entail 3 x 400kV lines and will be situated both inside and outside of the urban edge
GN R 546, 2010 (Listing Notice 3)	3	The proposed substation, which could include a telecommunication mast, will be located in an area identified as irreplaceable or important sites in the Gauteng C Plan.
GN R 546, 2010 (Listing Notice 3)	4	The project will be located in an area identified as irreplaceable or important sites in the Gauteng C Plan. It is possible that roads, that trigger the activity might be required.
GN R 546, 2010 (Listing Notice 3)	12	The project is located in Egoli Granite Grassland (Gm 10) vegetation type, which is a listed threatened ecosystem and is further classified as endangered.
GN R 546, 2010 (Listing Notice 3)	13	The proposed project is located in an area identified as irreplaceable or important sites in the Gauteng C Plan.

Specialist studies will determine if the development also triggers activities that require a Water Use License as per requirement in the National Water Act (Act No.36 of 1998) under Section 21(c) and (i) Water Uses:

- Section 21(c) impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and
- Section 21 (i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

STUDY AREA

The proposed project is situated in the Kyalami - Midrand area, Gauteng Province. The proposed alignment is along one feasible alternative and a no-go alternative. Various design alternatives will also be considered. **Figure 1** below outlines the Map of the study area.

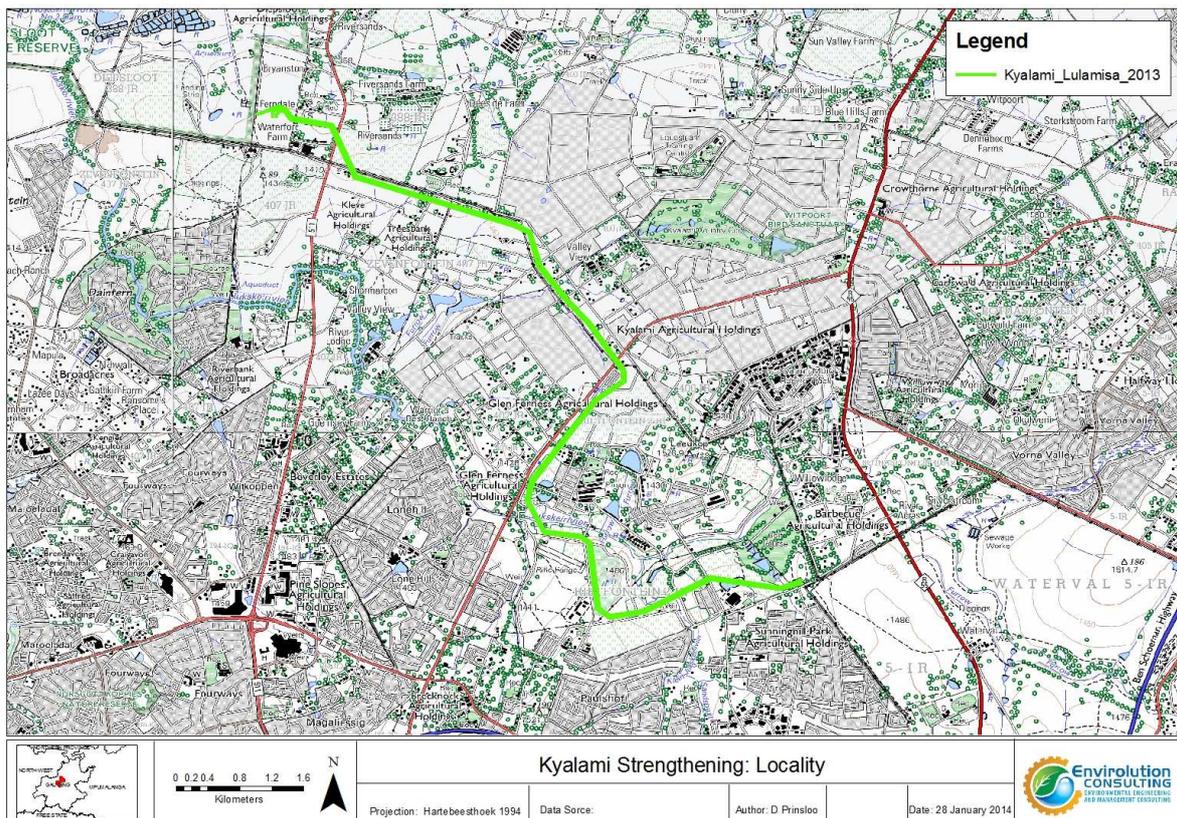


Figure 1: Locality Map

BASIC ASSESSEMENT PROCESS

Summary of the Basic Assessment Process including Public Participation:

Phase 1: Notification to Authorities and I&AP's

The first stage in the process entails submission of a completed application form to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Once a DEA reference number is received, an advertisement will be placed in a local newspaper to notify interested and affected

parties (I&AP's) of the proposed project. I&AP's are required to register their interest on the project register and raise issues of concern.

Phase 2: Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for Public Comment

The Basic Assessment (BA) is undertaken in order to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the proposed project. This includes mitigatory measures to reduce potential negative impacts and maximise positive benefits. The BA will include an overview of the affected environment on which the activity is proposed to take place.

All I&AP's on the project register will be notified in writing of the 30 day comment period for the Draft BA. Copies of the Draft Report and project information will be available at accessible venues.

Specialist information for inclusion in the Draft BAR has been identified as follows:

- Agriculture;
- Ecology;
- Geotechnical;
- Heritage;
- Social; and
- Visual Impact.

Phase 3: Submit Final Basic Assessment Report

The comments received from I&AP's will be included in the Final BAR before it is submitted to the DEA for their decision making.

Phase 4: Notification from DEA about their decision on the Final BAR

This process entails the authorisation or rejection of the proposal. DEA will notify the consultant if the BAR has received Authorisation or not. If an Authorisation is received, this decision will be accompanied by conditions under which a project may proceed. DEA may also request the consultant to submit additional information before granting or refusing Authorisation, should they feel that there is outstanding information that may aid their decision making process.

Phase 5: Notification of Environmental Authorisation and Appeal Period

The final step in the process entails providing written notification to all I&AP's on the project register of the granting of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) and appeal period, including the manner of appeal. Project construction may only commence once approval has been received from the DEA. Basic Assessment flow process is outlined in **Figure 2** below.

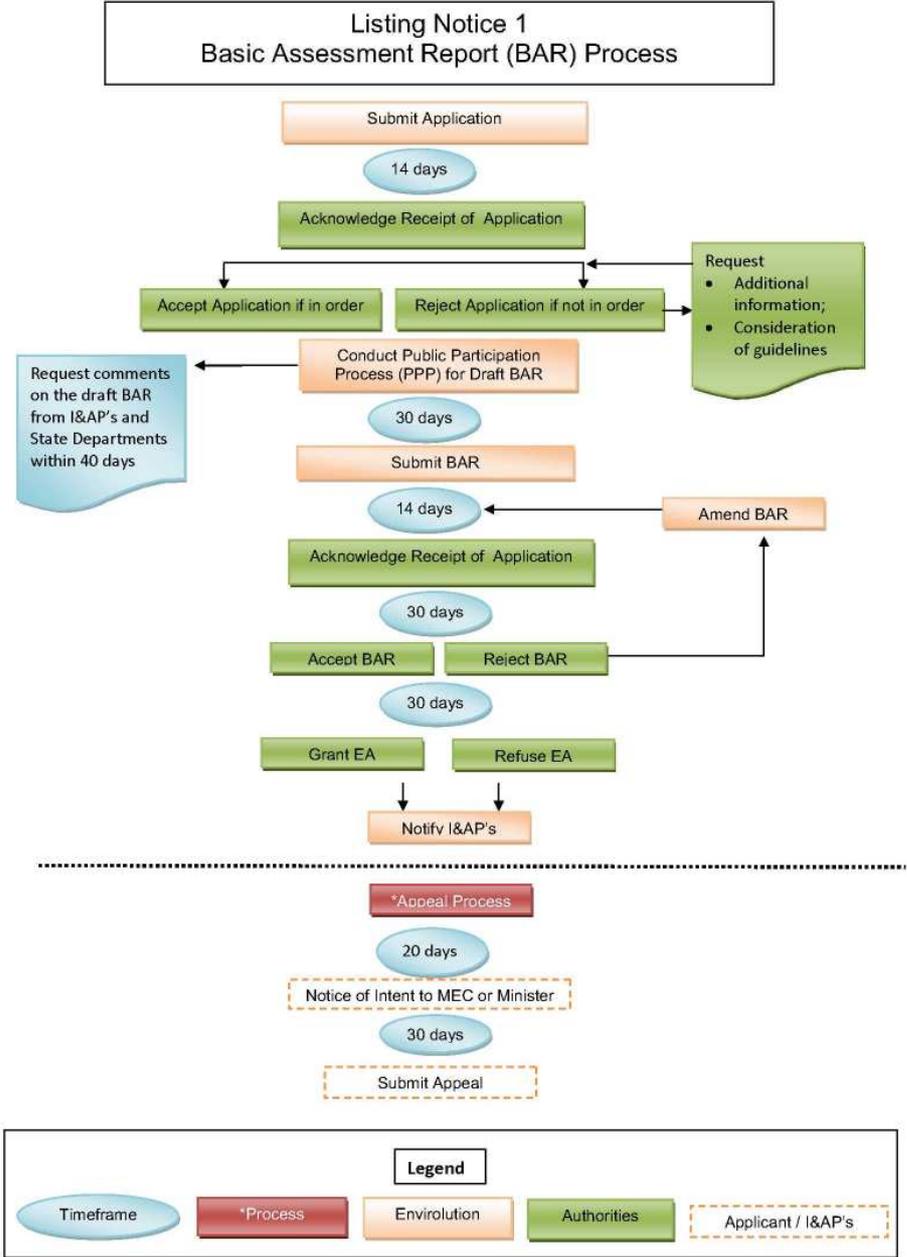


Figure 2: Basic Assessment Process Flow

WHO SHOULD REGISTER

All people who will be directly or indirectly involved and/ or affected by the proposed construction the Eskom Kyalami – Midrand Strengthening Project.

If you would like to register as an I&AP you can:

- Complete the attached comment form and fax/ email or mail it to Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd;
- directly contact Envirolution Consulting;
- send comments via fax/ email; or
- by attending the public meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

Company:	Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd
Contact Person:	Dirk Prinsloo
Tel:	0861 44 44 99
Fax:	0861 62 62 22
Cell :	071 396 5787
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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ESKOM KYALAMI-MIDRAND STRENGTHENING PROJECT, COMPRISING A GAS INSULATED SUBSTATION (GIS) AND APPROXIMATELY 13 KM OF 3 X 400KV TRANSMISSION LINES BETWEEN THE LULAMISA SUBSTATION AND PROPOSED KYALAMI SUBSTATION, GAUTENG.

Title:
Name:
Surname:
Organisation:
Postal or Residential Address:
.....
Post Code:
Tel number:
Fax number:
Mobile number:
E-mail address:

The following issues must be addressed in the Basic Assessment Report (Please attach separate sheet, if necessary)

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.....
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.....
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Please add the following neighbours/interested or affected parties to your mailing List (please provide contact details):

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

Please complete & return to **Enviolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd** by no later than **31st March 2014**

Attention: Dirk Prinsloo
Fax: 0861 62 62 22
Email: dirk@enviolution.co.za
Post: PO Box 1898 Sunninghill, 2157

Please feel free to **phone** us on 0861 44 44 99 should you not have access to a fax or e-mail facility.

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