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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

ARIES-PAULPUTS-KOKERBOOM 400KV LOOP-IN-LOOP-OUT  
POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION UPGRADE





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# 1 INTRODUCTION

National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA) (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking the required authorisation processes (including the statutory public participation), and to compile and submit the required documentation in support of application for:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA- Act 107 of 1998)- Listed activities:
  - Listing Notice 1: Activities 18, 19, 47, 48
  - Listing Notice 2: Activity 9
  - Listing Notice 3: Activities 4, 12 and 14
- Water Use Licence (WUL) in accordance with the National Water Act (NWA- Act 36 of 1998) - Listed activities:
  - Section 21 (c) and (i).

Additional activities to be applied for may be raised and will be confirmed during the process.

The proposed project is for construction of a new 49km long 400kV loop-in loop-out powerline as well as an expansion of the existing Paulputs substation. The need for the project is based on the Northern Cape Strengthening for Renewable Generation Integration (IRP 2019). To provide future reliability and flexibility in the evacuation of renewable power from Paulputs Substation, an additional 400 kV infeed is proposed via a loop in loop out from the Aries – Kokerboom 400 kV line. The project is part of the group of projects identified for the Northern Cape network strengthening requirements in meeting the IRP 2019 renewables generation integration. The installed generation capacity in the Northern Cape already exceeds the peak load in the province. Generation capacity is expected to increase in the province as a result of bulk renewable energy generation capacity allocation due to favourable sun and wind conditions. Therefore, significant network infrastructure is required to enable the integration and evacuation of power from the renewable energy plants anticipated in the province).

The project falls within the promulgated Strategic Transmission Corridors as per the GN R.113 dated 16 February 2018 and therefore will follow a Basic Assessment Process.

## 2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as..."a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently"<sup>1</sup>. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

During the Environmental Authorisation:



- Verify that their issues have been recorded;
- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs during the call to register period from the 08<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

### 3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.



## 4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, and Windeed searches were conducted to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer to **APPENDIX 1** for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

### 4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)   | • National Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE)   |
| • Department of Mineral Resources and Energy: Northern Cape (Kimberley)                        | • National Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs  |
| • Department of Mineral Resources and Energy: Northern Cape (Springbok)                        | • National Department of Science and Technology  |
| • Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Upper Orange WMA                                    | • National Department of Tourism   |
| • Eskom Soc Ltd  | • National Department of Transport   |
| • Kai !Garib local municipality  | • National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)  |
| • Khâi-ma Local Municipality   | • National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)  |
| • National Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development                         | • National House of Traditional Leaders  |
| • National Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land reform | • National Transmission Company South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA)   |
| • National Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs                       | • Northern Cape Department of Health   |
| • National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment                               | • Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Land Reform, and Rural Development |
| • National Department of Human Settlements   | • Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource Agency  |



- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture
- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
- Northern Cape Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (NC COGHSTA)
- Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism (NCDEDAT)
- Northern Cape Department of Environment & Nature Conservation (DENC)
- Northern Cape Department of Roads & Public Works (NC DR&PW)
- Northern Cape Department of Social Development (NCDSD)
- Northern Cape Department of Sports, Arts and Culture
- Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liasion
- Northern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation
- Northern Cape Economic Development Agency
- Northern Cape Economic Development, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (NCEDA)
- Northern Cape Heritage Resources Authority (NCHRA)
- Northern Cape Protech and Agri Revolution (Pty) Ltd
- Northern Cape Tourism Authority
- Northern Cape Wetland Forum
- Petroleum Agency SA
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- South African National Parks (SANParks)
- Signal distributor for the South African broadcasting sector (Sentech)
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- South African Defence Force (SANDF)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL)
- South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)
- Transnet Freight Rail
- Transnet Pipelines
- Transnet Properties
- ZF Mgcawu district municipality

## 4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners.
- Afgri Agri Services
- African Conservation Trust
- African Farmers Association of South Africa
- AfriForum
- Agri Northern Cape
- Agri South Africa
- Birdlife South Africa
- Botanical Society of South Africa
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Conservation South Africa (CSA)
- Council of Geoscience
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- GroundWork SA



- GUBICO
- National Khoisan Council
- Natural Justice
- Augrabies Falls National Park
- Tara Wildlife SA
- The Green Connection
- Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA)
- World Wide Fund South Africa

## 5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

### 5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025 with an initial call to register. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

#### 5.1.1 FAXES, REGISTERED MAIL AND EMAILS

Notification letters (in English and Afrikaans) were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either faxes, SMSs, registered mail, and/or emails on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2025.

The notification documents included the following information:

- Authorisations required;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties;
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 2** for initial notification and proofs.

#### 5.1.2 NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements (in English and Afrikaans) describing the proposed project and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process were placed in the Gemsbok newspaper with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2025. The Gazette Notice was placed in the North West Provincial Gazette on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2025. The newspaper and Gazette Notice adverts included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 3** for proof of the advert and gazette notice placed.





### 5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Twelve (12) A1 Correx site notices (in English and Afrikaans) were placed at 12 locations around the proposed project study area on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 4** for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

## 6 NOTIFICATION OF I&APS OF BAR AVAILABILITY

Notification (in English and Afrikaans) regarding the availability of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for public review and comment will be provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs. The notifications will be distributed through either email, registered mail, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details are available.

Contact details will be provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

## 7 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities

Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
Initial Call to Register	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, SMSs and/or post.	13 August 2025
	Placement of site notices.	Twelve (12) A1 Correx site notices (in English and Afrikaans) were placed at 12 locations along the proposed project study area.	30 July 2025



Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
	Newspaper advertisement and Gazette Notice.	Advertisements (in English and Afrikaans) describing the proposed project and EA process were placed in the Gemsbok Newspaper.	1 August 2025 (Newspaper)
		The Gazette Notice was placed in the National Gazette	15 August 2025 (Gazette Notice)

## 8 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received:

- I&AP registration.
- Transnet Pipeline: Confirmed that their infrastructure is not affected by the proposed project.
- Sentech: granted approval for the project to proceed with construction subject to some terms and conditions.
- South African Civil Aviation Authority: No objection in terms of the project, however noted that should the project include structures of height, a formal application must be made.

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in **APPENDIX 5**  
**Reference source not found..** Please refer to **APPENDIX 6** for proof of correspondence.

## 9 CONCLUSION

The comments received during the initial call to register were used to inform the compilation of this PPR.



## 10 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: IAP DATABASE

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contact information of the I&APs will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or [popia@eims.co.za](mailto:popia@eims.co.za)

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## APPENDIX 2: INITIAL NOTIFICATION PROOF

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## APPENDIX 3: NEWSPAPER AND GAZETTE NOTICE PROOF



## APPENDIX 4: SITE NOTICE PROOF



## APPENDIX 5: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE



## APPENDIX 6: CORRESPONDENCE DOCUMENT

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