

DEAR ORGAN OF STATE

RE: BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS, MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPALA ZIRCON TEMPORARY BY-PASS 132KV POWERLINE WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING IMPALA ZIRCON 132KV MAIN POWERLINE WITHIN THE UMHLATHUZE MUNICIPALITY IN KWAZULU-NATAL.

Eskom SOC Limited (the applicant) intends for the Maintenance and Refurbishment of the Impala Zircon 132kV Powerline which provides electricity to approximately 6062 customers; however, due to its proximity to the coast, this line is experiencing severe corrosion and deterioration. Therefore, the client is proposing to construct a temporary 6.01 km 132kV Bypass Powerline using Triple Wooden Pole Structures, which will be in use for a period of 3 years to allow for the refurbishment and maintenance of the Main Powerline. The temporary bypass will run parallel to the existing main line, approximately 15m apart from each other and across the uMhlathuze River.

The Temporary and Main Powerline Routes can be accessed along N2 and R34 Road. The coordinates to site are:

Table 1:

PROJECT SCOPE	CO-ORDINATES
Temporary Powerline	Start Point: -28°49'10.68" S 31°57'08.14" E Middle Point: -28°47'49.89" S 31°55'59.54" E End point: -28°46'22.34" S 31°56'27.22" E
Main Powerline	Start Point: -28°50'43.00" S 31°55'49.28" E Middle Point: -28°48'13.80" S 31°56'20.81" E End point: -28°46'05.25" S 31°56'43.18" E

The proposed development requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998). This is due to the activities that will triggered in Listing Notices 1 and 3 under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Therefore, a Basic Assessment process will be followed.

Furthermore, a Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) will be developed for the Refurbishment and Maintenance of the Existing Main Powerline. The MMP will be compiled in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), more specifically to meet the requirements of Section 28 of NEMA, which relates to the duty of care and remediation.

Lastly, a Water Use License Application (WULA) is required as the proposed development triggers Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) and the associated Appeals Regulations, 2017 (as amended).

Table 2 below depicts all the activities that are triggered by the proposed development, as well as the competent authorities responsible for processing the applications:

Table 2:

Application Required	Environmental Authorisation	Maintenance Management Plan	Water Use License
Competent Authority	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Department of Water and Sanitation
Triggered Activities	Government Notice No. 327 of 2017(as amended)	Government Notice No. 324 of 2017(as amended)	National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998)
	Listing Notice 1: Activity 19	Listing Notice 3: Activity 12 & Activity 14	Section 21 (c) & (i)
	Government Notice No. 324 of 2017(as amended)		
	Listing Notice 3: Activity – 12 & Activity – 14		

In terms of Regulation 19(1), 40 to 44 of the EIA Regulations (2014) as amended, and Section 41(1)(a) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act no. 36 of 1998), this letter serves to bring the aforementioned application processes to the attention of the Interested and Affected Parties and to further invite you to participate in the proposed project as well as in the Public Participation Process (PPP) to be undertaken as part of the Basic Assessment (BA), Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) and Water Use License Application (WULA) processes.

An opportunity is provided for **Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), Stakeholders, Landowners, and Organs of State** to formally register as an Interested and Affected Party and to submit written comments on the proposed applications.

Should you wish to submit comments on the Background Information Document appended hereto, Selahle Consultancy & Projects (Pty) Ltd urges that these written comments reach us before or on **Tuesday, 7 April 2026**. Scan the QR code for more information on the abovementioned applications.

Yours Sincerely

Sinnah Mhlongo
Environmental Consultant
Inc. Background Information Document

