

**NAMPOWER EIA – AUAS TRANSMISSION STATION TO REHOBOTH
SUBSTATION
PUBLIC MEETING GROOT AUB, 08 NOVEMBER 2005, 12h00
GROUP 1**

Agenda:

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| 1. Welcome and Introduction | Ms Stephanie van Zyl: Enviro Dynamics |
| 2. Technical Background | Mr Gert Fourie and Mr. Pal Straus, NamPower |
| 3. Questions for clarification | |
| 4. EIA and EMP Procedures | Ms Stephanie van Zyl: Enviro Dynamics |
| 5. Questions for clarification | |
| 6. Identification of Issues | |
| 7. Closure | |

Attendees:

Consultant Team:

Stephanie van Zyl – Enviro Dynamics
Mike Everett – Namibia Resource Consultants
Christelle Tromp – Namibia Resource Consultants

NamPower:

Pal Straus
Gert Fourie

Interested and Affected Parties:

As per the attached attendance list.

The meeting was conducted in Afrikaans as preferred by the attendees.

1. Welcome and Introduction Ms Stephanie van Zyl: Enviro Dynamics

Ms. van Zyl welcomed everybody present. She introduced the Consultants team and the representatives from NamPower. She explained that the purpose for the public consultation meeting is to inform the public of the proposed new powerline from the Auas transmission station to the Rehoboth substation and to give everybody the



opportunity to ask questions and raise their concerns. The aim for the EIA is to ensure that as little possible damage is caused to the environment (including people) with the erection of the proposed line.

2. Technical Background

Mr Gert Fourie: NamPower

Mr. Fourie showed NamPower's power supply network of Namibia. He then showed the 66 kV line that is currently providing power to Aris, Leutwein, Groot Aub, Oamites, Rehoboth, Oanob and Klein Aub. This line has reached its capacity.

He stated the reasons why NamPower needs to build this 132kV line, as follows:

- The 66kV system is stretched with very long lines;
- It is supplied from only one source (Van Eck);
- There is a growing power demand to Sossusvlei and the western areas;
- Rehoboth has been identified as a central growth point and needs upgraded power supply;
- Power supply constraints are experienced due to the weak 66 kV system;
- The power is of poor quality;
- An upgrade through the 132kV line would ensure security of supply.

He explained that the project would be implemented in the following way:

- A 132kV line must be constructed from Auas Transmission Station to Rehoboth Substation;
- The length of this line would be approximately 88km;
- The structure would be single guided steel poles;
- The Substation at Rehoboth will have to be expanded to include 132kV equipment and transformer;
- It will also imply small changes at other substations.

Mr. Fourie then showed photographs of the structures and what one will see. The single steel structures are 23m high with a servitude of 40 m. Poles need to be approximately 300m apart.



Timing of the project is scheduled for construction to commence during the first half of 2006. It was made clear that one cannot tap power from this line running across your farm.

3. Questions for clarification to Mr. Fourie:

Q Mr. Humphry McKay: How far from the pole will the anchor cords be anchored?

A: 25m

Q Mr. Humphry McKay: What is the impact on animals moving under the powerline?

A: No impact

Q Mr. Fredrian Bock: What will happen to existing houses or structures that are in the way of the new powerline?

A: The EIA and NamPower takes all aspects into consideration when allocating the route. The line will be routed to avoid buildings, kraals or water posts.

Mr. Pal Straus:

Mr. Straus explained the compensation that farmers would receive, should the powerline traverse a farm. A formula is used whereby the distance over the farm in kilometres is multiplied by the servitude width of 40 metres to determine how many hectares will be required. The area is then compensated at the rate of current land value.

Questions to Mr. Pal Straus:

Q Mr. Humphry McKay: Will NamPower compensate for damage due to fires caused by the powerline?

A: If it can be proven that damage was caused by the powerline or by negligence of NamPower, then NamPower will pay for the damage. But NamPower cannot pay for fires caused by lightning or damages caused by "acts of God".

4. EIA and EMP Procedures Ms Stephanie van Zyl: Enviro Dynamics

Ms. van Zyl explained the Process that will be followed in conducting the EIA and EMP. She confirmed the justification of the power lines as explained by Mr. Fourie.



The next step is to consult with interested and affected parties and stakeholders, which was done through public meetings. She requested people to assist in spreading the message of the power line and the team's contact details to those possibly not reached. A bird specialist, a botanist and an archaeologist is currently gathering field and desk data for selecting the best possible route. Enviro Dynamics and NRC will then combine the specialist studies with the concerns of Interested and Affected Parties and use all the data to evaluate the proposed route. They will then meet with NamPower to decide the final route. The EMP is composed to minimise the negative environmental impacts of construction and operational phases. This process is followed to comply with Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy.

5. Questions for clarification:

Q Mr. Humphry McKay: Would the line be shifted if something valuable is discovered on a farm?

A Mr. Gert Fourie: Yes, NamPower would consider moving a line. An example is where a line near Rosh Pinah was moved due to the construction of a new road.

Q Mr. Gert van Wyk: Are the lines that go over the poles sealed or not? The reason why I am asking is because in our family a child played with a piece of wire under power lines and was shocked.

A Gert Fourie: They are not sealed, but the towers are 23 m high and it would not be possible for anybody to touch it.

Q Mr. Gert van Wyk: Will the lines have "lightning conductors"?

A Mr. Pal Straus: Yes, there is a "conductor" over the three phases to prevent lightning from striking the power boxes. The chance that the single steel pole, which will be used for this line, will be struck by lightning is much less than in the case of the bigger structures.

Q Stephanie van Zyl: Were you satisfied with the construction process when the previous 400 kV powerline was built?

A: The contractors should be more careful to prevent leaving areas where erosion can take place.



Q Gert van Wyk: Can farm owners receive electricity from this line if it crosses your farm?

A: No

Q Frederick Bock: Is compensation also relevant in the case of communal areas where the land belongs to more than one owner?

A: NamPower negotiates with the owner with the largest portion of land and he/she is then responsible to compensate other owners accordingly.

Mr Gaoëb explained that in the case of Groot Aub, the Regional Council will decide on how the compensation will be distributed. It was requested that the money be used for a community project to the benefit of the whole community.

Mr. Strauss pointed out that if the line crosses Government land, NamPower would not have to pay compensation, since NamPower is partly Government owned. Compensation would only be considered in cases where people are affected through loss of cultivated land, structures, and other improvements on the land. Government is normally not very flexible in terms of the method of compensation. Therefore requests such as contributing to a community project are not likely to be considered.

Q Stephanie van Zyl: When will construction start?

A: NamPower will only get final confirmation by the end of March. It thus seems as if construction would not be possible before end of April or beginning of May 2006.

6. Identification of Issues:

- Stay away from houses and kraals
- Repair rivers after construction to prevent erosion
- Compensation money should be used for community projects

7. Closure

Ms Stephanie van Zyl: Enviro Dynamics

Ms. van Zyl thanked everybody who made the effort to come to the meeting and for their input. She invited everybody to contact either Enviro Dynamics, NRC or NamPower if there are any other questions and/or complaints.





AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE PROPOSED 132 KV
POWERLINE FROM THE AUS TO THE REHOBOTH SUB-STATIONS

CONSULTATION MEETING: L & B Club in Groot Aub
08th November 2005 at 12h00

ATTENDANCE LIST

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Goliath van Wyk	Teacher	(062) 542-032		P.O. Box 96317 Windhoek	
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