



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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This document:

- Provides a brief background to the study
- Lists the objectives of and approach to this study
- Invites stakeholders and interested and affected parties to provide input throughout the EIA process

Why does NamPower need to build the power line?

Rehoboth is presently supplied with electricity via a 66kV overhead power line from the Van Eck sub-station via the Bismarck substation. This line also supplies the Otjijase mine, which is currently in full operation as well as the settlements of Blumfelde and Klein Aub.

In addition to the growing power demands of Rehoboth town, the Rehoboth substation has been earmarked as one of the central growth points for the areas surrounding Rehoboth as well as a supply point to lodges and other tourism developments to the west and southwest of Klein Aub.

Substantial upgrading of the electricity supply to Rehoboth is thus required, which can be achieved through the construction of a 132kV line from the Aus sub-station to Rehoboth, a distance of approximately 80 km.

The route of the proposed 132 kV power line from the Aus to the Rehoboth sub-stations is indicated in blue in Figure 1 opposite.



Figure 1: Proposed route of the 132 kV power line from the Aus to the Rehoboth sub-stations

What are the structural and physical requirements of such a line?

The structures to be used on the proposed line include single guyed steel poles, an example of which is given in Figure 2 below.

The required servitude width for such a line is 40 m, and where the line runs parallel to existing lines, the space needed between lines is a minimum of 100 m.



Figure 2: The structure of the proposed 132 kV line

Aims of this Study

NamPower has appointed Enviro Dynamics to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed power line, the aims of which are to:

- Briefly confirm the justification for the power lines;
- Minimise the negative environmental impacts of the power lines and the supporting infrastructure (including construction and operational phases),
- Confirm with a reasonable level of confidence that the route selected is suitable;

- Consult all Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) to ensure that their needs are taken into account; and
- Comply with Namibia's Environmental Assessment Policy.

As part of the EIA process, Enviro Dynamics is tasked with the consultation of all people who are interested in, or likely to be affected by, the proposed power line. As public consultation forms a very important component of the EIA process, I&AP's are encouraged to not only provide feedback with respect to the evaluation of various route options, but are also encouraged to suggest practical measures that can be used to minimise unwanted impacts as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed power line.

Broad issues and potential concerns identified to date include:

- Visual impact and resulting effects on tourism.
- Cumulative impacts as a result of the proposed lines proximity to existing power lines.
- Loss of vegetation and habitat, and resulting loss of biodiversity.
- Bird strikes and electrocution of birds
- General environmental degradation during construction
- Degradation of important archaeological sites
- Health, safety and technical hazards

How you can become involved

You can be part of this EIA by attending a **public meeting on the 08th November 2005 at the L & B Club in Groot Aub at 12h00**. In addition, you can access information about this project by visiting NamPower's website, www.NamPower.com.na or by emailing us at any time during the EIA process. Please bear in mind that the study will end on 09th December 2005¹ so it is important that you become involved as early as possible. Please share this document with anybody else you think would be interested.

For more information, please contact:

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¹ The approximate date when the draft document will be submitted to NamPower. The documents will be available for public scrutiny thereafter.