AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE PROPOSED 220 kV POWERLINE FROM THE AUAS TO THE KHOMAS SUB-STATIONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Background

Some of you were consulted previously regarding a proposed power line to be erected by NamPower south of the Auas Mountains from the Auas substation to the west of Windhoek (to Khomas Substation). The route investigated at the time, shown on the locality map in this document as the "old route", was found unacceptable mainly because it is in conflict with civil aviation standards that apply near the Eros Airport. A new route is now proposed, and stakeholders are again invited to share their thoughts and views about the project.

Why does NamPower need to build the power line?

Presently, three 220kV lines run from the Auas sub-station to the Van Eck sub-station. The Van Eck sub-station, which lies adjacent to the Van Eck Power Station is of critical strategic importance to the NamPower Transmission network as the northern and southern NamPower networks are joined at this point.

Operational problems with the power lines feeding the Van Eck sub-station or problems with the sub-station itself would prove extremely detrimental, particularly to the City of Windhoek, as this sub-station represents the sole point of electricity supply to the city. Building a power line to the south of the Auas mountain range to tie up the electricity supply network to the Khomas sub station to the west of the city, will reduce these risks considerably.

In addition, the 220 kV line running from the Van Eck sub-station to Walvis Bay is vulnerable to power outages, due in part to the radical nature of the Namibian climate. This poses serious risks, particularly to "round-the-clock" industries in Walvis Bay. The proposed power line will ensure a ring-feed network, thereby reducing the risks of such power outages.

The newly proposed route of the proposed 220 kV overhead power line from the Auas to the Khomas sub-stations is indicated as the "new route" in Figure 1 below.

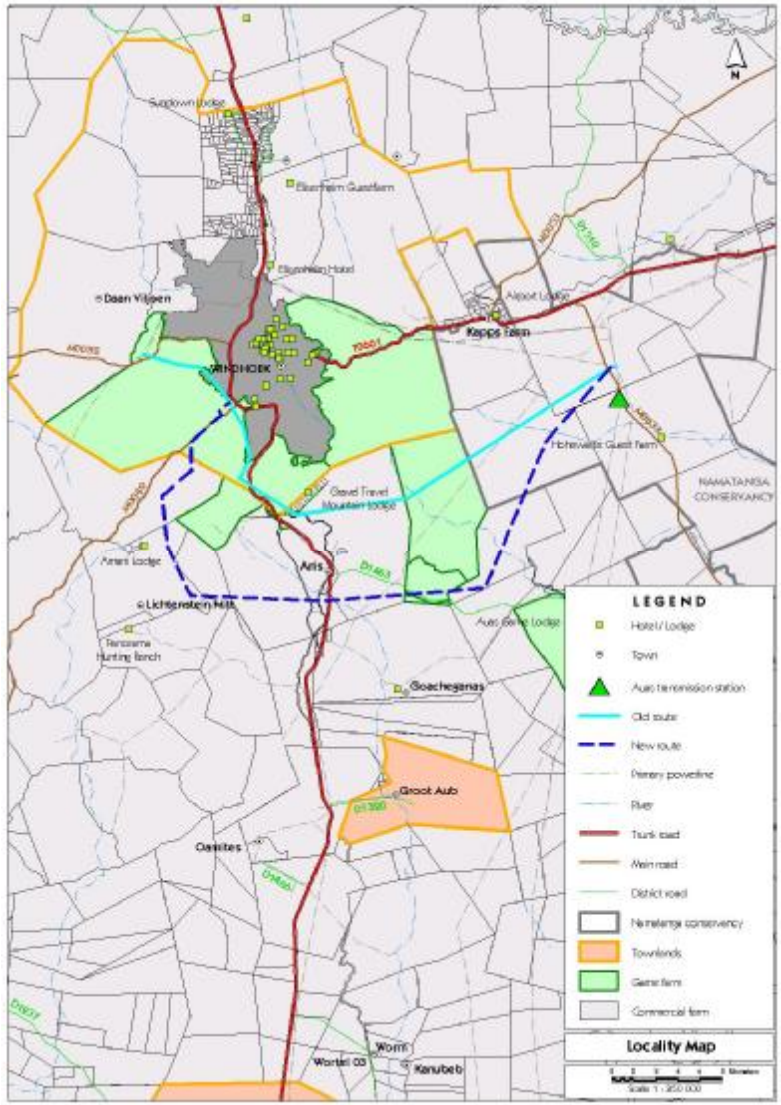

Figure 1: Proposed route of the 220 kV power line from the Auas to the Khomas sub-stations

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

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

The spacing between these towers will be 350 to 400m, and the required servitude width for such a line is 55m.

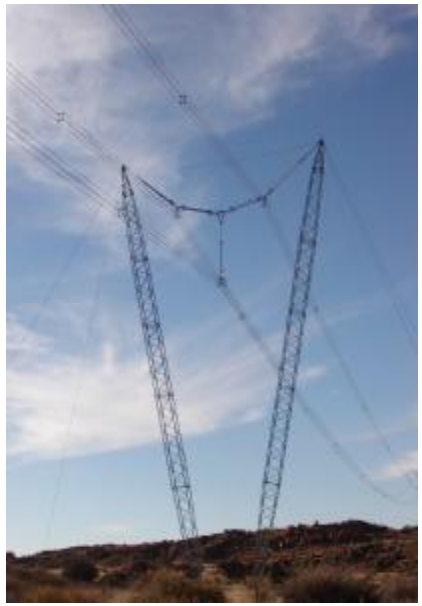

Figure 2:The structure of the proposed 220 kV line

Aims of this Study

NamPower has appointed Enviro Dynamics to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for 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 will consult with all people who are interested in, or likely to be affected by, the proposed power line. You are encouraged to share their thoughts about the project and 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.
- 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 15 February 2007 at the Harmony Seminar Centre at 18h00*. 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 share this document with anybody else you think would be interested.

For more information, please contact:

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