Vhubvo Consultancy cc
546, 16th Road, Building No. 2
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Tel: 011 312 2878
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Registration No.: 2010/090598/23
Vat No.: 4960270322

7 April 2026

Dear Stakeholder

PROPOSED DEVIATIONS OF ± 14 KM OF THE PLUTO-MAHIKENG 400KV POWERLINE WITHIN THE JB MARKS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY UNDER DR KENNETH KAUNDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND MAHIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

According to investigations undertaken by the National Transmission Company of South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA), a subsidiary of Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, the North West Province is currently experiencing electricity network constraints within the Watershed Main Transmission Substation (MTS) supply area. To address these constraints, NTCSA is proposing the development of transmission infrastructure between Pluto Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and the proposed Mahikeng MTS.

An Environmental Authorisation (EA) (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1051) was granted for the project in 2019. However, during the detailed design phase, technical constraints were identified within the approved 2 km corridor, resulting in two sections of the powerline being located outside the authorised corridor. These deviations were not previously assessed and therefore require separate Environmental Authorisation.

The proposed works constitute listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) (Government Notice R982). As such, Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to the construction of the deviated sections.

NTCSA has appointed Vhubvo Consultancy CC as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required Basic Assessment process and to apply for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the EIA Regulations.

As part of the Public Participation Process, Vhubvo Consultancy CC has compiled the attached Background Information Document (BID), which includes a locality map of the proposed development.

You are hereby invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) by completing and returning the attached registration form. Registration will ensure that you are kept informed throughout the environmental assessment process and are provided with an opportunity to review and comment on project documentation.
Your participation in the Basic Assessment process is important and will be greatly appreciated.

Regards



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EAP for Vhubvo
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BTW-nr.: 4960270322

22 April 2026

Geagte Belanghebbende

VOORGESTELDE AFWYKINGS VAN ± 14 KM VAN DIE PLUTO-MAHIKENG 400 KV-KRAGLYN BINNE DIE JB MARKS- PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT ONDER DIE DR KENNETH KAUNDA-DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT EN MAHIKENG- PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT BINNE DIE NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA-DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT, NOORDWES-PROVINSIE

Volgens ondersoeke deur die Nasionale Transmissiemaatskappy van Suid-Afrika SOC Bpk (NTCSA), 'n filiaal van Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, ondervind die Noordwes-provinsie tans elektrisiteitsnetwerkbeperkings binne die toevoergebied van die Watershed-hooftransmissiesubstasie (MTS). Om hierdie beperkings aan te spreek, stel NTCSA die ontwikkeling van transmissie-infrastruktuur tussen die Pluto-hooftransmissiesubstasie (MTS) en die voorgestelde Mahikeng-MTS voor.

'n Omgewingsmagtiging (OM) (Verw.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1051) is in 2019 vir die projek toegestaan. Tydens die gedetailleerde ontwerpfase is tegniese beperkings egter binne die goedgekeurde 2 km-korridor geïdentifiseer, wat daartoe gelei het dat twee afdelings van die kraglyn buite die gemagtigde korridor geleë is. Hierdie afwykings is nie voorheen geassesseer nie en vereis dus 'n afsonderlike omgewingsmagtiging.

Die voorgestelde werke bestaan uit gelyste aktiwiteite ingevolge die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuurswet, 1998, en die Regulasies vir Omgewingsimpakassessering (OIA), 2014 (soos gewysig), (Regeringskennisgewing R982). As sodanig moet omgewingsmagtiging verkry word voor die konstruksie van die afwykende afdelings.

NTCSA het Vhubvo Consultancy CC as die onafhanklike omgewingsassesseringspraktisyn (OAP) aangestel om die vereiste basiese assesseringsproses te onderneem en om vir omgewingsmagtiging ingevolge die OIA-regulasies aansoek te doen.

As deel van die openbare deelnameproses het Vhubvo Consultancy CC die aangehegte Agtergrondinligtingsdokument (AID) saamgestel, wat 'n liggingskaart van die voorgestelde ontwikkeling insluit.

U word hiermee genooi om as 'n belangstellende en geraakte party (B&GP) te registreer deur die aangehegte registrasievorm in te vul en terug te stuur. Registrasie sal verseker dat u deur die hele omgewingsassesseringsproses ingelig word en die geleentheid gebied word om die projekdokumentasie te hersien en daarop kommentaar te lewer.

U deelname aan die basiese assesseringsproses is belangrik en sal baie waardeer word.

Beste groete



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Moranang a le 22 2026

Motsayakarolo yo o rategang

DIPHAPOGO TSE DI AKANTSWENG TSA DIKM DI LE ± 14 TSA MOGALA WA 400KV WA PLUTO-MAHIKENG MO MMASEPALENG WA SELEGAE WA JB MARKS KA FA TLASE GA MMASEPALA WA SEDIKA WA DR KENNETH KAUNDA LE MMASEPALA WA SELEGAE WA MAHIKENG MO MMASEPALENG WA SEDIKA WA NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA , POROFENSENG YA BOKONE BOPHIRIMA

Go ya ka dipatlisiso tse di dirilweng ke National Transmission Company of South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA), setlhongwana sa Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, Porofense ya Bokone Bophirima e itemogela dikgoreletsi tsa maranyane a motlakase gajaana mo lefelong la tlamelo la Watershed Main Transmission Substation (MTS). Go samagana le dikgoreletsi tseno, NTCSA e akantsha tlhabololo ya mafaratlhatlha a tsamaiso gareng ga Pluto Main Transmission Substation (MTS) le Mahikeng MTS e e akantsweng.

Tumelelo ya Tikologo (EA) (Tsh: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1051) e reboletswe porojeke ka 2019. Le fa go le jalo, ka nako ya kgato e e feletseng ya go tlhama,go ne ga supiwa dikgoreletsi tsa setegeniki mo moseleng o o amogetsweng wa dikm di le 2 , gwa felela go na le dikarolo di le pedi tsa mogala wa motlakase tse di leng kwa ntle ga mosele o o dumeletsweng. Diphapogo tseno di ne di sa sekasekiwe pele mme ka jalo di tlhoka Tumelelo e e farologaneng ya Tikologo.

Ditiro tse di akantsweng di bopa manaane a ditiro a a kwadilweng go ya ka Molao wa 1998 wa Tsamaiso ya Bosetšhaba wa Tikologo le Melawana ya 2014 ya Tshekatsheko ya Diphelelo tsa mo Tikologong (EIA) (jaaka e baakantswe) (Kitsiso ya Puso R982). Ka jalo, Tumelelo ya Tikologo e tshwanetse go bonwa pele go agiwa dikarolo tse di faposwang.

NTCSA e thapile Vhubvo Consultancy CC jaaka Moitseanape yo o Ikemetseng wa Tshekatsheko ya Tikologo (EAP) go dira tiragatso e e tlhokegang ya Tshekatsheko ya Motheo le go dira kopo ya Tumelelo ya Tikologo go ya ka Melawana ya EIA.

Jaaka karolo ya Tiragatso ya go Tsaya karolo ga Setšhaba, Vhubvo Consultancy CC e rulagantse Tokomane e e mametleletsweng ya Tshedimosetso ya Motheo (BID), e e akaretsang mmapa wa lefelo la tlhabololo e e akantsweng.

O lalediwa go ikwadisa jaaka Lekoko le le Kgatlhegang le go Amega (I&AP) ka go tlatsa le go busa foromo e e mametleletsweng. Ikwadiso e tla netefatsa gore o tla nne o itsisiwe ka tiragatso ya tshekatsheko ya tikologo mme o tlamelwa ka tšhono ya go leba seša le go tshwaela ka ditokomane tsa porojeke.
Go tsaya karolo ga gago mo tiragatsong ya Tshekatsheko ya Motheo go botlhokwa mme go tla anaanelwa thata.

Ditebogo



Brenda Makanza
EAP ya Vhubvo
Mog: 011 312 2878
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2026

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSED DEVIATIONS OF ± 14 KM OF THE PLUTO-MAHIKENG 400KV POWERLINE WITHIN THE JB MARKS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY UNDER DR KENNETH KAUNDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND MAHIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

INTRODUCTION

The National Transmission Company of South Africa SOC Ltd (NTCSA), previously known as Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, is responsible for ensuring a reliable and efficient electricity transmission network across South Africa. As part of strengthening the electricity network in the North West Province, NTCSA is proposing the development of transmission infrastructure between Pluto Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and Mahikeng MTS.

An Environmental Authorisation (EA) for this project was granted in 2019. However, during the detailed design phase, certain deviations from the approved powerline corridor were identified. These deviations now require separate environmental assessment and authorisation.

NTCSA has appointed Vhubvo Consultancy as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake this process.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) aims to:

- Inform stakeholders and Interested & Affected Parties (I&APs) about the proposed development;
- Explain the nature of the deviations requiring authorisation;
- Outline the environmental assessment process; and
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to register and submit comments.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2019, NTCSA obtained Environmental Authorisation (Ref No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/1051) for:

- A 400kV transmission powerline between Pluto MTS and Mahikeng MTS;
- A 2 km-wide approved corridor for the powerline alignment;
- The Mahikeng Main Transmission Substation; and
- Associated infrastructure (access roads, communication infrastructure, etc.).

The project is required to address electricity network constraints in the Watershed MTS supply area, which currently experiences:

i. Limited substation capacity;
ii. Voltage instability under contingency conditions; and
iii. Constraints on future electricity demand growth.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The overall project includes:

- Establishment of the Mahikeng Main Transmission Substation (MTS);
- Installation of up to 3 × 500 MVA 400/132kV transformers (with 2 installed initially);

- Development of 132kV feeder bays;
- Construction of access roads;
- Installation of communication infrastructure; and
- Construction of an approximately 250 km 400kV transmission powerline.

NATURE OF THE DEVIATION

During detailed engineering design, it was identified that:

i. Two sections of the required 55 m servitude fall outside the approved 2 km corridor;
ii. These sections were not assessed in the original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); and
iii. As a result, they are not covered by the existing Environmental Authorisation.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), these deviations require a separate Environmental Authorisation.

LOCATION

The proposed deviations spans across several farms of the two local municipalities, JB Marks and Mahikeng under the jurisdiction of two District Municipalities; Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema of North West Province. The first deviation which is approximately 14km is 24 km North West of Pluto MTS while the second deviation, 0.45m is approximately from 15 km south east of Mahikeng.

The proposed powerline deviations traverses various land-uses such as residential built-up (farmsteads), agricultural and borders conservation areas. Villages such as Mahikeng, Klerkskraal, Merindol, Rentse and Roodepoort are in close proximity to the proposed deviation. Refer to Table 1, Figure 1 and Annexure I.

Table 1: Location

Province	North West
DEVIATION 1	
Length	± 14 km
District	Dr Kenneth Kaunda
Local Municipality	JB Marks
Ward No(s)	31
Affected Farms	Buchansvale 61 IQ/2, Goedgedacht 27 IQ /1, Klipgat 18 IQ /4, Klipgat 18 IQ /8, Klipgat 18 IQ /9, Nooitgedacht 69 IQ /0, Nooitgedacht 69 IQ /3, Illmasdale 70 IQ /2
No. of Towers	31

Strategic Transmission Corridor	Central and Northern
DEVIATION NO.2	
Length	±45 m
District	Ngaka Modiri Molema
Local Municipality	Mahikeng
Ward No(s)	9
Affected Farm(s)	Bauwel 128 JO/4
Towers	Between span for Tower 110 to 111
Strategic Transmission Corridor	Northern

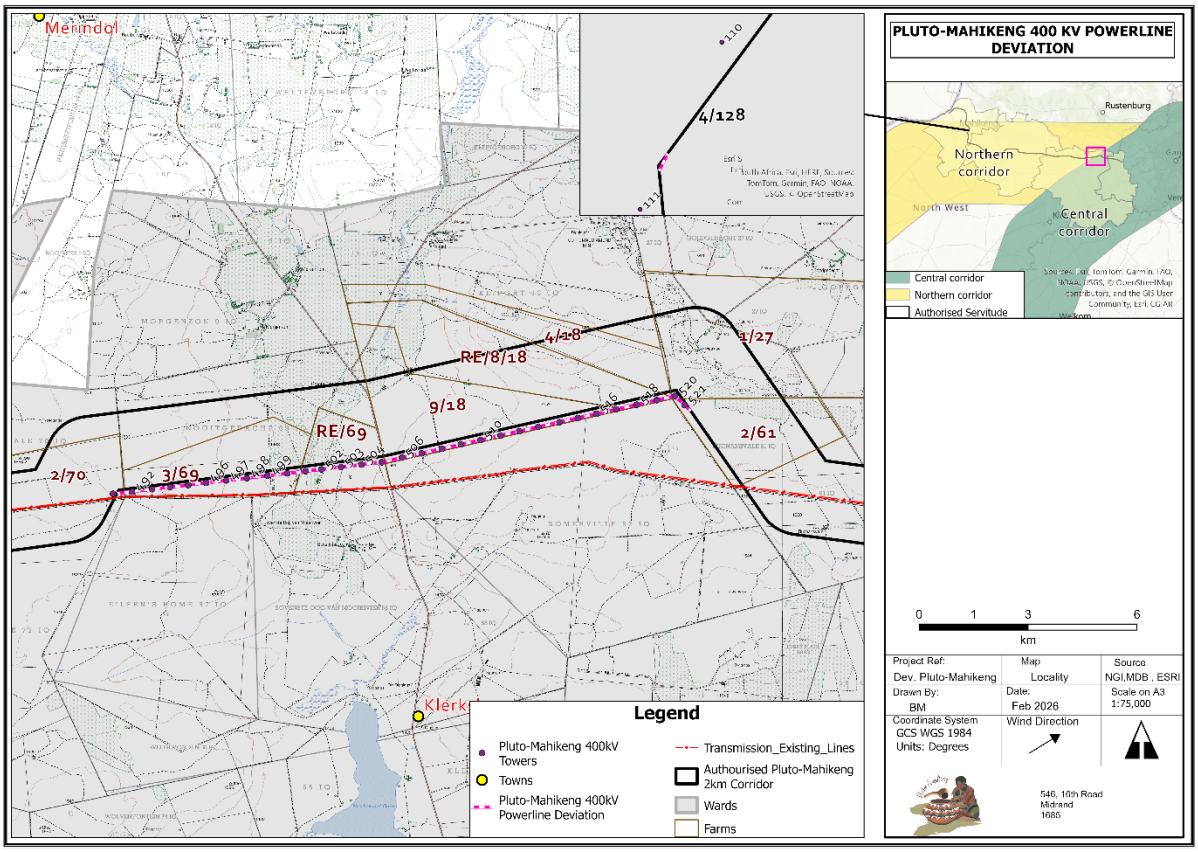


Figure 1: Project Location

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Legal Requirement

This project is subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

The proposed development triggers listed activities in terms of:

- **Listing Notice 1 (GNR 983):** Activities 12 and 19.
- **Listing Notice 2 (GNR 984):** Activity 9.
- **Listing Notice 3 (GNR 985):** Activities 12 and 14.

In terms of the EIA Regulations, activities listed under Listing Notice 2 would typically require a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process. However, this project falls within the Central and Northern Strategic Transmission Corridors, as identified by Government Notice 113 of 16 February 2018.

As a result, and in accordance with the provisions of Government Notice 113 read together with the EIA Regulations, the project will be assessed through a Basic Assessment (BA) process, notwithstanding the triggering of Listing Notice 2 activities.

Competent Authority

An application for Environmental Authorisation will be submitted to the: **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)** who will be responsible for reviewing the application and issuing a decision.

Basic Assessment Process

The Basic Assessment (BA) process will be undertaken in accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). This process includes:

- Submission of an application for Environmental Authorisation.
- Public Participation Process (PPP).
- Compilation of a Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR).
- Public review and commenting on the Draft BAR.
- Submission of a Final BAR to DFFE; and
- Decision-making by DFFE.

Figure 2 illustrates these steps.

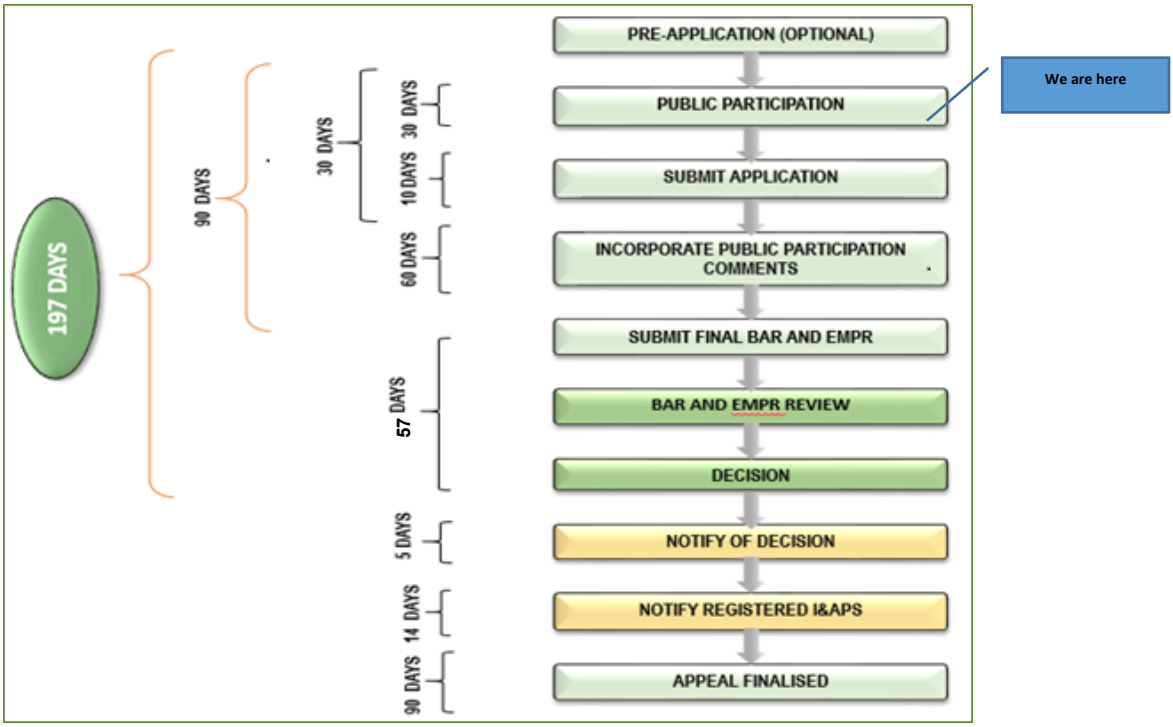


Figure 2: Basic Assessment Process

Timeframes

In line with Government Notice 113 (16 February 2018), projects located within Strategic Transmission Corridors benefit from streamlined decision-making timeframes. Accordingly:

- The timeframe for the competent authority to reach a decision is reduced from **107 days to 57 days**.
- This aims to facilitate the timely development of critical electricity infrastructure while maintaining environmental oversight.

OTHER PERMITS

The authorisations/permit that may be required for the development are discussed in the Table below. However, these permits will be applied for after the walkdown of the authorised and deviated powerline is completed.

Table 2: Required Permits

Legislation	Permit/ Authorisations/ Approval
National Water Act, 1998	Water Use Licence (WUL) / General Authorisation (GA)
National Heritage Resources Act, 1999	Heritage Permit
National Forests Act, 1998 National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004	Protected Trees Permit Threatened Or Protected Species (TOPS) permit
Civil Aviation Act 13 of 2009 Civil Aviation Regulations	Obstacle Approval

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The proposed project may result in a range of environmental and social impacts. At this stage, these impacts are preliminary and will be assessed in detail as part of the Basic Assessment process.

Potential impacts include:

- Impacts on biodiversity, including the possible loss of Species of Conservation Concern.
- Impacts on soil quality and agricultural potential.
- Soil erosion and land degradation.
- Impacts on surface water and groundwater resources.
- Nuisance impacts such as noise and dust during construction.
- Generation of waste during construction and operation.
- Visual impacts affecting the surrounding landscape.
- Impacts on cultural and heritage resources; and
- Socio-economic impacts on surrounding communities.

It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive. A comprehensive assessment of all potential environmental and social impacts will be undertaken and presented in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and supporting specialist studies.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

To ensure that all potential impacts; both positive and negative are properly identified and assessed, several specialist studies are being undertaken as part of the environmental assessment process. These studies are also based on the recommendation from the Screening Tool Report generated from the DFFE website.

These studies will also recommend mitigation measures to minimise negative impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the project. The following specialist studies are currently being conducted:

- Agricultural Impact Assessment.
- Avifaunal (bird) Impact Assessment.
- Archaeological Impact Assessment.
- Aquatic Biodiversity (Freshwater) Assessment.
- Civil Aviation Site Sensitivity Verification.
- Paleontological Impact Assessment.
- Social Impact Assessment.
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment (including plants and animals); and
- Visual / Landscape Impact Assessment.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

A Public Participation Process (PPP) is a part of the Basic Assessment Process. The PPP will provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with a platform to voice any matters or issues relating to the proposed project. The following activities will be undertaken as part of the PPP:

(i) Stakeholder Database Update

The existing stakeholder database will be updated to include all relevant Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), including landowners, communities, government authorities, and other key stakeholders.

(ii) Site Notices

Site notices will be placed at visible and accessible locations within and around the project area to inform the public of the proposed development and invite participation.

(iii) Distribution of BID and Notification Letters

This Background Information Document (BID), together with notification letters, will be distributed via email and/or hand delivery to:

- Adjacent landowners and occupiers.
- Ward Councilors.
- Relevant government departments and municipalities.
- Registered I&APs.

(iv) Newspaper Advertisements

Notices will be placed in local newspapers to inform a wider audience of the project and to invite registration and comment, including notification of the availability of the draft Basic Assessment Report.

(v) Public and Focus Group Meetings (if required)

Where deemed necessary, public meetings and/or focus group discussions will be held with registered stakeholders and I&APs to facilitate further engagement and address specific concerns.

(vi) Review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report

Registered I&APs will be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Basic Assessment Report for 30 days.

(vii) Notification of Decision

All registered I&APs will be notified of the decision issued by the DFFE, including whether Environmental Authorisation has been granted or refused, as well as information on the appeal process.

How can you be involved

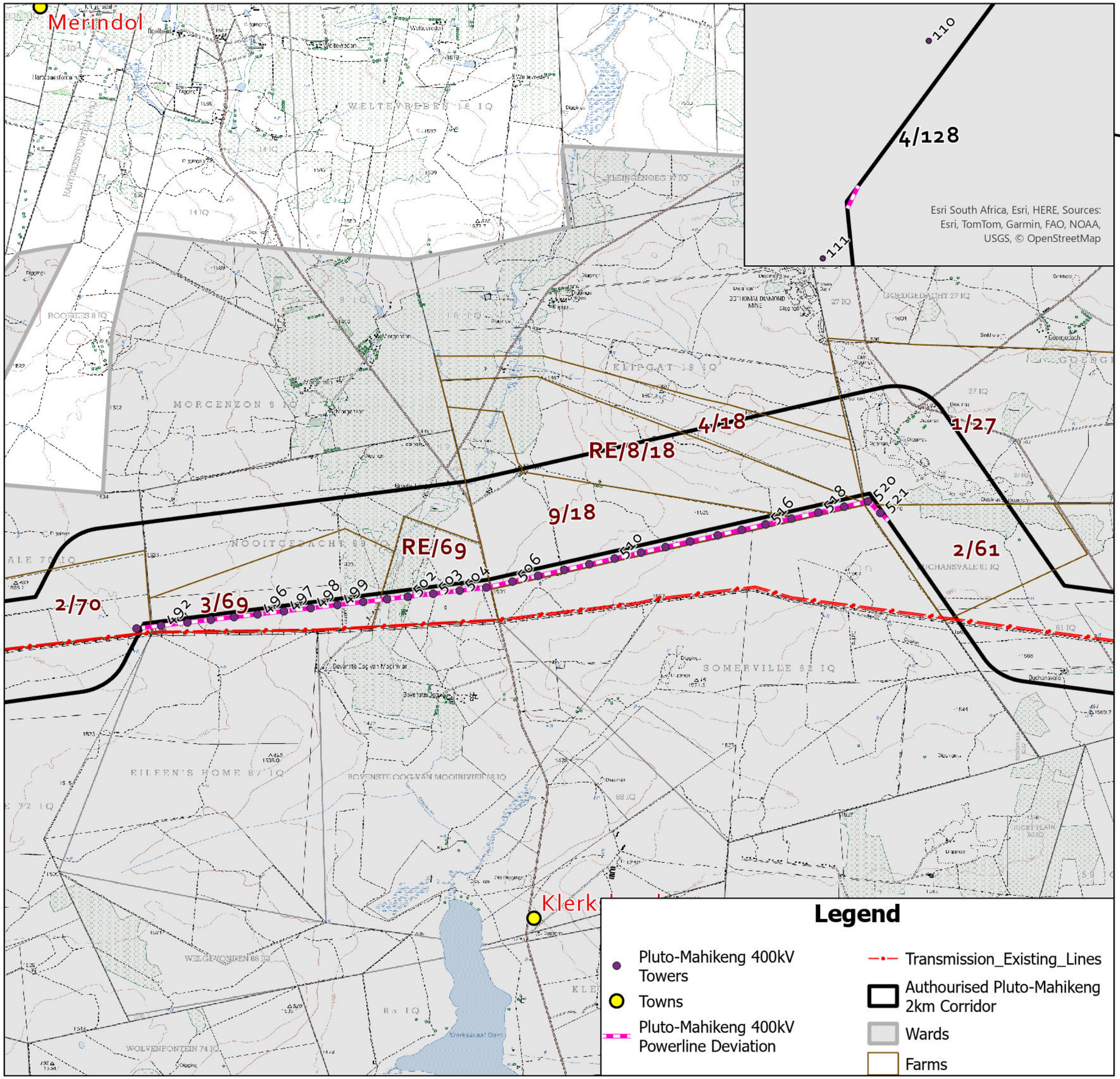
To be registered as an Interested and Affected Party, please complete and return the registration form, Annexure II. This will ensure that you can raise your concerns and receive further information (documents) about the project.

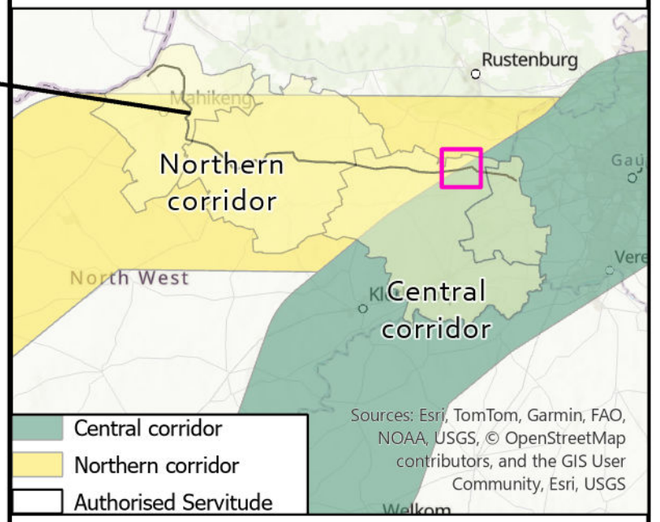
All issues raised will be addressed and incorporated into the Basic Assessment Report. **Please be aware that any information supplied by I&APs becomes public knowledge unless requested to remain confidential.**

For enquiries, please get in touch with **Vhubvo Consultancy cc,** Brenda Makanza/ Rabelani Makhale, P.O. Box 7068, Midrand, 1685, Email: ppp@vhubvo.co.za / brenda@vhubvo.co.za

ANNEXURE I: LOCALITY MAP

PLUTO-MAHIKENG 400 KV POWERLINE DEVIATION





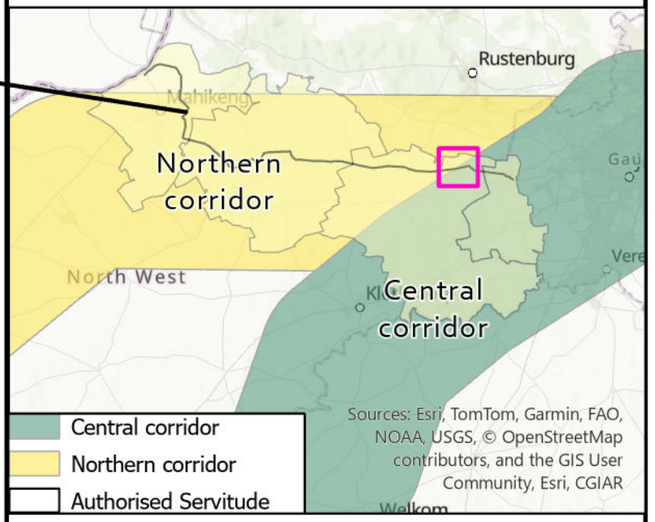
0 1 3 6

km

Project Ref: Dev. Pluto-Mahikeng	Map Locality	Source NGI,MDB , ESRI
Drawn By: BM	Date: Feb 2026	Scale on A3 1:75,000
Coordinate System GCS WGS 1984 Units: Degrees	Wind Direction	

546, 16th Road
Midrand
1685

PLUTO-MAHIKENG 400 KV POWERLINE DEVIATION



Legend

- Towns
- Pluto-Mahikeng 400kV Powerline Deviation
- Transmission_Existing_Lines
- Authourised Pluto-Mahikeng 2km Corridor
- Farms

0 1 3 6

km

Project Ref:	Map	Source
Dev. Pluto-Mahikeng	Locality	NGI,MDB , ESRI
Drawn By: BM	Date: Feb 2026	Scale on A3 1:75,000
Coordinate System GCS WGS 1984 Units: Degrees	Wind Direction	

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