

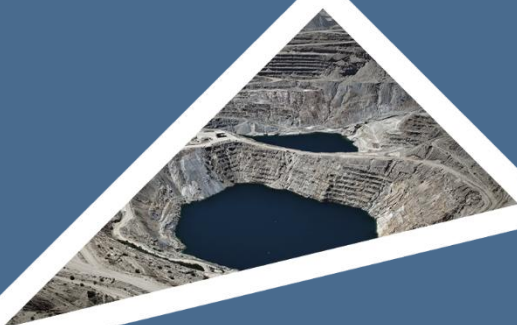


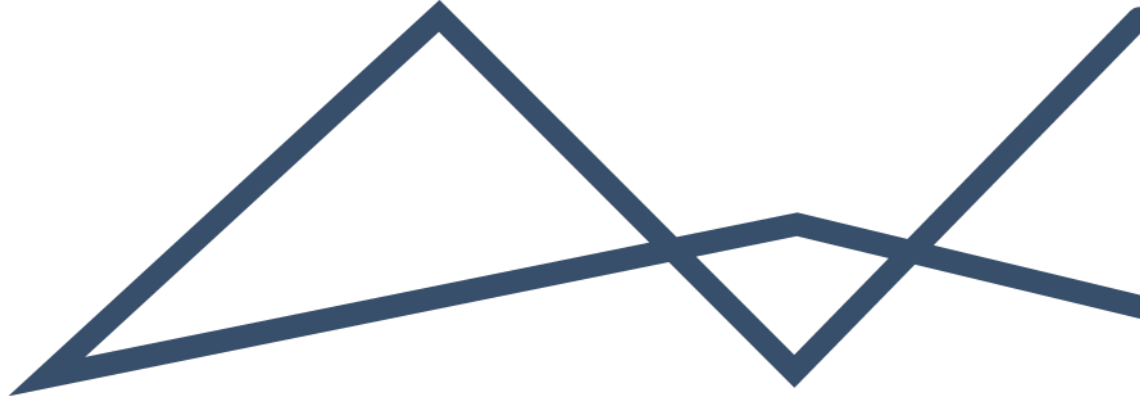
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

TETRA4 POWERLINE PART II AMENDMENT PROJECT



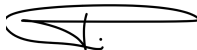


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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Objectives Of The Public Participation.....	1
3	Legal Compliance	2
4	Identification of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)	2
4.1	List of Organs Of State Identified And Notified.....	3
4.2	List of Other Key I&APs Identified and Notified	3
5	Notification of Interested and Affected Parties	4
5.1	Initial Notification of Key I&APs	4
5.1.1	Faxes, Registered Mail and Emails	4
5.1.2	Newspaper Advertisements	4
5.1.3	Site Notice Placement.....	5
5.2	Notification of Interested and Affected Parties of Amendment Report Availability	5
6	Summary of Public Participation Opportunities	5
7	Record of Issues Raised.....	6
8	Conclusion.....	7
9	Appendices.....	8

List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities	5
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Appendices

APPENDIX 1: IAP DATABASE

APPENDIX 2: INITIAL NOTIFICATION PROOF

APPENDIX 3: NEWSPAPER PROOF

APPENDIX 4: SITE NOTICE PROOF

APPENDIX 5: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

APPENDIX 6: CORRESPONDENCE DOCUMENT



ABBREVIATION LIST:

CER:	Centre for Environmental Rights
DFFE:	Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
DMPR:	Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources
DWS:	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA:	Environmental Authorisation
EAP:	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIMS:	Environmental Impact Management Services
EWT:	Endangered Wildlife Trust
FSE:	Federation for a Sustainable Environment
I&APs :	Interested and Affected Parties
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Act
NERSA:	National Energy Regulators of South Africa
CSA:	Conservation South Africa
PPP:	Public Participation Process
SACAA:	South African Civil Aviation Authority
SAHRA:	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SANBI:	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANRAL:	South African National Roads Agency
WESSA:	Wetlands and Environmental Society South Africa



1 INTRODUCTION

Tetra4 (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd (EIMS) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with undertaking an Environmental Authorisation (EA) amendment process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). This process will include the updating of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and incorporation of relevant specialist inputs. You are hereby notified of the Applicant's intent to submit an application to amend the existing EA and are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP).

The existing Environmental Authorisation (Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2754) provides for a 132 kV dual loop-in-loop-out overhead powerline of approximately 5.5 km in length and a 33 kV overhead powerline of approximately 1 km in length. The forthcoming amendment application will seek approval for amendments to the authorised powerline alignments and associated infrastructure layout, informed by the final design process, servitude agreements, and micro-siting requirements. The amendment will also include the update of the EMPr to incorporate site-specific mitigation measures identified during specialist studies and walkdowns, including a heritage walkdown undertaken along the powerline servitude.

No additional listed activities are anticipated to be triggered, and no amendment to a Water Use Licence is required.

The authorised Tetra4 Powerline Project is located within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province. The 132 kV powerline traverses the farms Mond van Doornrivier 38 (RE), Kalkoenkrans 225 (RE, Portions 1 and 2), and Alex Glen Ross 562 (RE, Portions, 3, 4, 5, 8), generally running parallel to the R30. The 33 kV powerline is located on Palmietkuil 328 (6), and the site is situated approximately 11 km from Virginia at its nearest point. The centre point of the site is 28° 8'41.31"S; 26°44'8.66"E..

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: *"The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement"*. This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as..."*a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted independently*"¹. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The Public Participation Process (PPP) is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

During the Environmental Authorisation:

- Verify that their issues have been recorded;
- Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
- Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary



authorisation required for the project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs during the call to register period from the 24th of July 2026 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

3 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval; namely, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998).

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Act will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirements for public participation referenced in the Act. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

4 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area, and Windeed searches were conducted to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.



Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer to **APPENDIX 1** for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

4.1 LIST OF ORGANS OF STATE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- Eskom Soc
- Free State Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
- Free State Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
- Free State Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport
- Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- Free State Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources
- Free State Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
- Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure
- Free State Department of Water and Sanitation
- Free State Development Corporation
- Free State Heritage Resources Authority
- Lejweleputswa District Municipality
- Matjhabeng Local Municipality
- National Department Of Agriculture (NDA)
- National Department Of Land Reform And Rural Development (DLRRD)
- National Department Of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)
- National Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR)
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
- National House of Traditional Leaders
- National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA)
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL)
- Square Kilometre Array (SKA)
- Traditional Leaders of Southern Africa
- Transnet Soc Ltd

4.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners.
- Afgri Agri Services
- African Conservation Trust
- Afriforum
- Agri South Africa
- Birdlife SA
- Botanical Society



- Conservation South Africa (CSA)
- Earth Life Africa
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Free State Wetland Forum
- Lejweleputswa Development Agency
- Matjhabeng Ratepayers Association
- Piscis Energy
- Red Rocket Energy
- Subsolar Energy
- Vrystaat Landbou/ Free State Agriculture

5 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

5.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF KEY I&APS

The PPP commenced on the 24th July 2026 with an initial call to register notification. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

5.1.1 FAXES, REGISTERED MAIL AND EMAILS

Notification letters (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either faxes, SMSs, registered mail, and/or emails on the 30th of July 2026.

The notification documents included the following information:

- Authorisations required;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties;
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 2** for initial notification and proofs.

5.1.2 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) describing the proposed project and Environmental Authorisation (EA) Part 2 Amendment process were placed in the Vista Newspaper with circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 23rd of July 2026. The newspaper adverts included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 3** for proof of the advert and gazette notice placed.



5.1.3 SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Five (5) A1 Correx site notices (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) were placed at 5 locations around the proposed project study area on the 24th of July 2026. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to **APPENDIX 4** for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

5.2 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF AMENDMENT REPORT AVAILABILITY

Notification (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) regarding the availability of the Amendment Report for public review and comment will be provided to pre-identified and registered I&APs. The notifications will be distributed through either email, fax, and/or SMS, where contact details are available.

Contact details will be provided to I&APs should they require assistance accessing the information or require copies of the reports.

6 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 1: Summary of Public Participation Opportunities

Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
Initial Call to Register	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, and/or SMSs.	30 July 2026



Action	Description	Publication/Place	Date
	Placement of site notices.	Five (5) A1 Correx site notices (in English, Afrikaans, and Setswana) were placed at 5 locations along the proposed project study area.	24 July 2026
	Newspaper advertisement.	Advertisements (in English, Afrikaans, and Sesotho) describing the proposed project and part 2 amendment process were placed in the Vista Newspaper.	23 July 2026
Availability of Amendment Report for public review	Placement of hard copy Scoping Report.	One (1) hard copy of the report will be placed at a suitable location where members of the public could access the report.	TBA
	Placement of Scoping Report electronic copy.	An electronic copy of the report will be placed on the EIMS website. A data free service will be made available to anyone who has limitations with respect to data downloads.	TBA

7 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

Comments on the proposed project were solicited from pre-identified and registered I&APs and key stakeholders. To date, the following comments have been received:



- I&AP registration
- The DFFE Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate assigned case officers.
- The Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs confirmed that they are the Competent Authority for this application.

All comments and/or queries received to date are included in this report and presented in **APPENDIX 5**. Please refer to **APPENDIX 6** for proof of correspondence.

8 CONCLUSION

The comments received during the initial call to register and Scoping Report Review period were used to inform the compilation of this PPR. All correspondence received to date is included in this PPR and will be submitted to the Competent Authority the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.



9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: IAP DATABASE



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