

## ESCOM'S UNDERTAKINGS

**Cape Eastern Undertaking.** On representations made by Farmers' Associations and others interested in securing electricity supply, an investigation was made into the possibilities of establishing a new Undertaking for the supply of electricity to the rural communities in the Sundays River Valley and the Gamtoos River Valley. The potential consumers are, for the most part, farmers; but include the Municipality of Kirkwood, residents in the villages of Patensie and Hankey and a few industrial enterprises established in the area.

The Commission, as charged in section 7 of the Act, applied to the Electricity Control Board on 27th June, 1962, for a licence for the proposed new undertaking, to be known as the Cape Eastern Undertaking.

The intentions are that electricity will be purchased for the Undertaking, in bulk, from the Municipality of Port Elizabeth at Zwartkops Power Station and from the hydro-electric power station under construction by the Department of Water Affairs at the dam on the Gamtoos River.

At the request of the Board, discussions took place with the Municipalities of Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage with a view to determining the most suitable boundaries for the areas of supply of the Commission and the two Municipalities; and the Commission's application for a licence was granted by the Board on the 19th February, 1963, subject to amendment of the area of supply to accord with the boundaries agreed upon.

The Commission's report and application in terms of section 7 of the Electricity Act having been laid before Parliament, the Minister on 5th April, 1963, approved the establishment of the new Undertaking.

**Licensed Areas.** The licensed areas of supply of Escom's Undertakings, with the extensions granted by the Board up to 31st March, 1963, and the area of the Cape Eastern Undertaking are shown in colour on the map which appears opposite page 8.

The map incorporates the following extensions which were granted during 1962 and the further enlargement of the Eastern Transvaal Undertaking granted on the 19th February, 1963:—

**Cape Western Undertaking.** The Commission's application dated 8th March, 1962, which sought, *inter alia*, two extensions of the area of supply to include certain farms north of Ceres and an area north of Citrusdal, was granted by the Board on 22nd October, 1962. These additional areas were desired primarily for extensions to Escom's rural reticulation.

**Eastern Transvaal Undertaking.** On 3rd August, 1962, the Commission applied for a further addition to the licensed area of the Eastern Transvaal Undertaking to include an extensive area around Phalaborwa. The principal consumers at this stage are Phosphate Development Corporation (Pty) Limited, who require additional supply for expansion of their activities, and Palabora Mining Company, Limited, for experimental work. It has been agreed in principle that Foskor will, in due course, surrender its licence, and the supplies in this area will be furnished by Escom: although no decision has been taken on the question whether the reticulation of electricity within Phalaborwa Township will be undertaken by Escom or by the local authority.

This application was granted by the Board on 19th February, 1963.

**Natal Southern Undertaking.** Following negotiations with the Municipalities of Eshowe and Empangeni and S.A. Pulp and Paper Industries, Limited, application was made on 14th February, 1963, for extension of the area of supply of the Natal Southern Undertaking to include an area on the Natal coast between the Tugela and the Umduna Rivers.

This application is still before the Board.