

**Eastern Transvaal: Lowveld and Phalaborwa areas.** Brief references have been made in earlier reports to Escom's plans for the supply of electricity in the Lowveld area.

Marathon Distribution Station has been sited to serve the areas around Nelspruit, White River and Barberton. A 66 kV line is being built from Marathon to Noordkaap, thence to Louws Creek and Malelane, at which point it will be tied into the 132 kV line from Marathon to Komatipoort. Supplies to two small gold mines, an asbestos mine and other consumers in the Noordkaap area are to be taken over from Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines, Limited, and a bulk supply is to be given to Barberton Municipality. Escom will also take over certain 22 kV and 11 kV circuits and equipment which will be incorporated in rural reticulation schemes in the Kaap River valley and in the vicinity of Nelspruit and White River.

Discussions have been held with the Municipalities of Nelspruit and White River; but no decision on the future supplies to these two Municipalities has yet been reached.

Another 66 kV line will be built northwards from Marathon to Kiepersol, and will become a tie-line and a means of providing additional supply into the 22 kV network which is being extended from Sabie Gorge hydro-electric station to Kiepersol.

The 275 kV transmission line is being extended north from Marathon to Acornhoek, where another major distribution station will be established. The prospects for a large rural scheme in the Blyde River Valley are considered to be good.

From Acornhoek a transmission line is being built at 132 kV to Phalaborwa. The initial consumer at Phalaborwa will be Fosfaat-ontginningskorporasie (Edms.) Beperk ("Foskor"), which has a licence to supply within certain farms: but it has been agreed that if Escom is able to make satisfactory arrangements for the supplies to other consumers in the area, the Foskor licence will be surrendered. The possibility of a large supply to Palabora Mining Company, Limited, is being discussed.

Construction is well advanced on the first stages of the 275 kV transmission system, that is, the line from Leeuwkloof *via* Marathon to Acornhoek (which will be operated initially at 132 kV) and the 132 kV extension to Phalaborwa, together with the distribution station and substations which are required for the first stage; and it is expected that supply will be available in the Lowveld area and at Phalaborwa in the second half of 1963.