



**Western Cape
Government**

Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning

Directorate: Land Management (Region 2)

REFERENCE: 16/3/1/6/6/E4/4/2248/12

ENQUIRIES: RONDINE ISAACS

DATE: 09 JAN 2013

The Director-General
Department of Environmental Affairs
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

Attention: Ms Mmatlala Rabothata

Tel: (012) 395 1768
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Dear Madam

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 400/132KV HOUHOEK TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION INCLUDING THE BACCHUS-PALMIET LOOP-IN AND LOOP-OUT POWER LINES, THEEWATERSKLOOF MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

1. The draft Scoping Report (Department of Environmental Affairs reference number: 12/12/20/2541) dated November 2012, as received by this Department on 6 December 2012, refers.
2. Having considered the information contained in the aforementioned report, this Department recommends that the Department of Environmental Affairs requests the applicant to do the following in the final Scoping Report and subsequent reports/documents that relate to the application:
 - 2.1 It is noted that the Geotechnical Assessment will be conducted by BKS (Pty) Ltd. According to Regulation 17(a) of Government Notice ("GN") No. R. 543 of 18 June 2012, "*a person compiling a specialist report must be independent*". As such, it is advised that the applicant apply for exemption from appointing an independent specialist in terms of Regulation 17.
 - 2.2 The Department notes the specialist studies/assessments identified to be conducted in the EIA phase. Specialist reports must contain all the information specified in Regulation 32(3) of the EIA Regulations.
 - 2.3 Unless otherwise indicated, a commenting period of at least 21 days must be provided to Interested and Affected Parties, including the relevant State Departments, to comment on any additional information, documentation or reports (including the final Scoping Report) other than the draft Scoping Report.

- 2.4 It is mandatory to investigate and assess the option of not proceeding with the proposed activity, (i.e. the "no-go" option) in addition to other alternatives identified.
3. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.
4. Please note that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department. It is an offence in terms of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") for a person to commence with a listed activity unless the competent authority has granted an environmental authorisation for the undertaking of the activity. A person convicted of an offence in terms of the above is liable for a fine not exceeding R5 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.
5. The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on the information received.

Yours faithfully



MR ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: LAND MANAGEMENT (REGION 2)

CC: (1) Ms B. Griffiths (BKS (Pty) Ltd)

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