



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Robertson

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR PROPOSED EMKHIWENI SUBSTATION AND 400KV LINE FROM EMKHIWENI SUBSTATION TO SILIMELA, MPUMLANGA PROVINCE

The application form and draft Scoping Report (SR) dated April 2018, received by this Department on 13 April 2018 refers.

This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

- **Alternatives**

- Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2, (2) (1) (h) (i-xi), of GN R.982 of 2014, as amended.
- Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist as per the requirements of Appendix 2, (2) (1) (h) (x).
- Please provide coordinates of both the preferred power line route alternative as well as proposed other alternatives route in degrees, minutes and seconds from the start of the activity, midpoint and the end point of the activity.

- **Impacts Assessment**

This Department requests the EAP to familiarise themselves with the requirements of Appendix 2 of GNR 982 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and ensure that the final SR submitted to this Department for consideration meets the requirements in terms of identifying, assessing and providing mitigation measures of the impacts on the alternatives and preferred site.

- **Maps**

- **A3 Layout map**

- A detailed site layout must be prepared incorporating all the alternatives (preferred and other proposed alternatives). It must be attached as Appendix 3 of the final Scoping Report (FSR). The site or route plans must indicate the following:

- the property boundaries and numbers of all the properties within 50 metres of the site;
 - the current land use as well as the land use zoning of the site and the properties adjoining the site;
 - the exact position of each listed activity applied for (including alternatives);
 - a legend explaining the content on the map; and
 - a north arrow.

- It has been noted that the proposed substation and power lines were authorized in 2011, however, the Environmental Authorisation (EA) lapsed. Therefore, you are requested to show the approved route and substation location on the map, taking into consideration areas where there will be deviation from the approved route.

- **A3 Sensitivity Map**

- The layout/route plan as indicated above must be overlain with a sensitivity map that indicates all the sensitive areas associated with the site, including, but not limited to:

- watercourses;
 - the 1:100 year flood line (where available or where it is required by Department of Water and Sanitation : DWS);
 - ridges;
 - cultural and historical features;
 - areas with indigenous vegetation (even if it is degraded or infested with alien species);
 - critical biodiversity areas;
 - build up areas; and
 - No-go areas (if any).

- The sensitivity map must not only overlay the sensitivity of the preferred site, however; must also include all the identified alternatives and the existing infrastructure.

- **Public Participation Process**

- Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.
 - Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR, should you be unable to obtain comments, proof of the attempts that were made to obtain comments must be submitted to the Department.
 - The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

- **General Comments**

- You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the amended EIA Regulations, 2014.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of the these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Signed by: Ms Olivia Letlalo

Designation: Control Environmental Officer: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 09/05/2018

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