



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1063

Enquiries: Thando Booï

Telephone: 012-399 9387 E-mail: TBooi@environment.gov.za

Kristy Robertson
Nemai Consulting
P.O. Box 1673
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 781 1730
Email Address: kristyr@nemai.co.za

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Roberts

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED EMKHIWENI SUBSTATION AND 400KV LINE FROM EMKHIWENI SUBSTATION TO SILIMELA, MPUMALANGA AND LIMPOPO PROVINCES

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2018 and received by the Department on 25 May 2018 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2018 and is satisfied that the said documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1) (a) of the EIA regulations, 2014 as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following additional information is required and must be incorporated in the EIAr:

- **Project description**

The Department has noted that the footprint of the substation is stated to be 1km x 1km i.e. *"The proposed Emkhiweni Substation would have a 1km x 1km footprint"*. Please confirm the footprint of the substation and ensure that the footprint is in hectares.

The Department has noted under the scope of work that you may construct access roads and stormwater infrastructure, therefore, you are required to indicate in the draft EIAr if the activities related to aforesaid infrastructure are triggered or not. If triggered, please provide the details in terms of length and width (relevant details).

- **Activities applied for (section 6 of the application form-activities to be authorised)**

The total area to be cleared for activity 27 of GN R983 to be triggered must be included in the project activity description column.

The Department has noted that under activity 28 of GN R983, you have described the development as it falls outside the urban area, however, the sub-activities point out that the site falls inside and outside. Therefore, please ensure that the relevant sub-activity is applied for and submitted with the amended application form when submitting the draft EIAr.

Also ensure that the activity number and its sub-activities applied for are correctly quoted as per the EIA Regulation 2014, as amended.

- **Scope of assessment and content of the Environmental Impact Assessment**

The EIAr must comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

- **Land use zoning**

It has been noted that the land proposed for the construction of a substation is currently zoned for agriculture, therefore, you are required to provide the zoning certificate to allow the change of land use from agriculture to industrial.

- **Layout, regional and Locality as well as sensitivity Maps**

All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible. The layout map must indicate the following:

- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, streams, protected areas etc. that will be affected by the development and its associated infrastructure;
- Buffer areas;
- All "no-go" areas.

A sensitivity layout plan overlaid by the sensitive features and the buffer zones i.e. wetland, conservation areas, rivers and also the existing infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed development must be submitted as part of the report for analysis of the effect of the proposed project on the environment. Please ensure all features are clearly indicated on the legend of the sensitivity layout plan.

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR illustrate the route alternative and site alternative. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

- **Public Participation Process (PPP)**

All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the draft SR and submitted as part of the final SR must be taken into consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAr) in respect of the proposed development.

You are also required to address all issues raised by Organs of State and I&APs prior to the submission of the EIAr to the Department. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the

EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

The EAP must, in order to give effect to Regulation 8, give registered I&APs access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report in writing within 30 days before submitting the final EIAr to the Department. The EIAr must also include comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended and the PPP must be in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations.

- **General comments**

Please note that the Department will undertake a site inspection upon receipt of the draft EIAr for comment.

You are hereby reminded that should the EIAr fail to comply with the requirements of this acceptance letter, the project will be refused in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 published under Government Notice R982 in Government Gazette No. 38282 dated 04 December 2014, as amended ('the EIA Regulations, 2014'), with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999.

You are requested to submit one (02) copy of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department and at least three electronic copies (CD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

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

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Olivia Letlalo

Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 09/07/2018

CC:	Annah Kawadza	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Tel:(011) 800 4057	Email: Kawadza@eskom.co.za
	Ms Aluwani Khorombi	Limpopo(LDEDET)	Tel:(015) 293 8300	Email: KhorombiA@ledet.gov.za
	VR Shongwe	Mpumalanga (DARDLEA)	Tel:(013) 766 6074	Email:mathebulazc@mpg.gov.za/ AkoojeeAA@mpg.gov.za
	B Khenisa	Steve Tshwete Local Municipality	Tel:(013) 249 7000	Email:mmoffice@stlm.gov.za
	T Mthombeni	Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality	Tel: (013) 262 3056	Email:tmthombeni@emllm.gov.za
	Mr C Badenhorst	Ephraim Mogale Municipality	Tel:(013) 261 8480	Email:cbadenhorst@emogalelm.gov.za