



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3911 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2682

NEAS Reference: DEAT/EIA/5942/2009

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/1566

Enquiries: Ms Portia Mashego

Telephone: 012-310-3249 Fax: 012-320-7539 E-mail: PMashego@environment.gov.za

Ms Mmamoloko Seabe
Eskom Holdings Limited
P.O. Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Fax no: (011) 800 3917

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Seabe

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 387: PROPOSED NGWEDI (MOGWASE) SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION LINES, MOGWASE, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

With reference to the abovementioned application, please be advised that the Department has decided to accept the Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated March 2011 and grant authorisation. The environmental authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

Activity applied for as listed in GN R. 386 (14) is no longer listed in terms of the new EIA Regulations, 2010 and therefore does not require environmental authorisation.

In terms of regulation 10(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 12 (twelve) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 7 of the Regulations, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached document. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should the applicant or any other party wish to appeal any aspect of the decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged by all prospective appellants with the Minister, within 20 days of the date of the EA, by means of one of the following methods:

By facsimile: 012 320 7561;
 By post: Private Bag X447,
 Pretoria, 0001; or
 By hand: 2nd Floor, Fedsure Building, North Tower,
 cnr. Van der Walt and Pretorius Streets,
 Pretoria.

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection, should you intend to submit an appeal.

Please include the Department (*Attention: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation*) in the list of interested and affected parties, notified through your notification letter to interested and affected parties, for record purposes.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:


Mr T Zwane, Senior Legal Administration Officer (Appeals) of this Department at the abovementioned addresses or fax number. Mr Zwane can also be contacted at:

Tel: 012-310-3929

Email: tzwane@environment.gov.za

The authorised activities shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation. Further, please note that the Minister may, on receipt of appeals against the authorisation or conditions thereof suspend the authorisation pending the outcome of the appeals procedure.

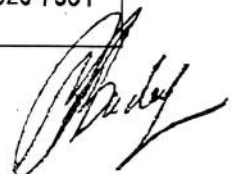
Yours sincerely



Mr Ishaam Abader
Deputy Director-General: Environmental Quality and Protection
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 15/08/2011

CC:	Ms Moses Mahlangu	Margen Industrial Services	Tel: 013 656 1212	Fax: 013 656 2233
	Mr. M Nkosi	North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development	Tel: 014 597 3597	Fax: 014 595 3552
	Mr Boshoff	Rustenburg Local Municipality	Tel: 014 590 3551	Fax: 014 590 3552
	Mr. Khote	Kgetlengrevier Local Municipality	Tel: 014 543 2004	Fax: 014 543 2004
	Mr. Gobakwang Moatshe	Moses Kotane Local Municipality	Tel: 014 555 1300	Fax: 014 555 6368
	Mr T Zwane	Appeals Authority (DEA)	Tel: 012-310-3929	Fax: 012-320-7561



APPEALS PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2010 (THE REGULATIONS) AS PER GN R. 543 OF 2010 TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE APPLICANT AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA)

APPLICANT	INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)
1. Receive EA from the relevant Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA])	1. Receive EA from Applicant/Consultant
2. Within 12 days of date of the EA notify all IAPs of the EA and draw their attention to their right to appeal against the EA in terms of Chapter 7 of the Regulations.	2. N/A
3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA, with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).	3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA, with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).
4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide each registered IAP with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice	4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide the applicant with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice
5. The Applicant must also serve on each IAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection. 	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.
6. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.	6. The appeal must be submitted to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.
7. Any IAP who received a notice of intention to appeal may submit a responding statement to that appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.	7. An Applicant who received notice of intention to may submit a responding statement to the appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.

NOTES:

1. **An appeal against a decision must be lodged with:-**
 - a) the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs if the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
 - b) the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development if the applicant is the Department of Water Affairs and the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;

2. **An appeal lodged with:-**
 - a) the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
 - b) the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;

3. **An appeal must be:-**
 - a) submitted in writing;
 - b) accompanied by:
 - a statement setting out the grounds of appeal;
 - supporting documentation which is referred to in the appeal; and
 - a statement that the appellant has complied with regulation 62 (2) or (3) together with copies of the notices referred to in regulation 62.





environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 37 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006

Mogwase 400/132kV Substation and associated transmission power line turn-ins

Bojanala Platinum District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	12/12/20/1566
NEAS reference number:	DEAT/NEAS/5942/2009
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Eskom Holdings Limited
Location of activity:	NORTH WEST PROVINCE: Ngwedi (Mogwase), Rustenburg, Kgetlengrivier and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006 the Department hereby authorises –

ESKOM HOLDINGS LIMITED

with the following contact details –

Ms Mmamoloko Seabe
Eskom Holdings Limited
P.O. Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Tel: (011) 800 2345

Fax: (011) 800 3917

Cell: 082 801 3911

E-mail: SeabeJM@eskom.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activities"):

R. 386:

- Item 1(m) *"The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32 metres from the bank of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including -*
- (i) canals;*
 - (ii) channels;*
 - (iii) bridges;*
 - (iv) dams; and*
 - (v) weirs."*
- Item 7 *"The above ground storage of a dangerous good, including petrol, diesel, liquid petroleum gas or paraffin, in containers with a combined capacity of more than 30 cubic metres but less than 1000 cubic metres at any one location or site".*
- Item 12 *"The transformation or removal of indigenous vegetation of 3 hectares or more or of any size where the transformation or removal would occur within a critically endangered or an endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004)."*
- Item 16 (b) *"The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use where such development does not constitute infill and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare."*

GN R. 387:

- Item 1(l): *"The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the transmission and distribution of above ground electricity with a capacity of 120 kV or more."*
- Item 2: *"Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more."*

-for the proposed construction of the Ngwedi (Mogwase) Substation on the Farm Frischgewaagd 96 JQ and associated transmission power line turn-ins in the vicinity of Sun City, as described in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) dated March 2011. The proposed development falls within the jurisdiction of the Rustenburg, Kgetlengrivier and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities in the North West Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Conditions

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred Site Alternative E on the Farm Frischgewaagd 96 JQ for the proposed Ngwedi (Mogwase) Substation and Route Corridor 1 for the associated transmission power line turn-ins are approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this authorisation, which form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIR dated March 2011 must be adhered to.
6. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further authorisation in terms of the regulations.
7. These activities must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.

8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
9. This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.
10. Relevant legislation that must be complied with by the holder of this authorisation includes, *inter alia*:
 - Archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 60 years are protected by National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). Should any archaeological artefacts be exposed during excavation for the purpose of construction, construction in the vicinity of the finding must be stopped immediately. A registered Heritage Specialist must be called to the site for inspection. Under no circumstances shall any heritage material be destroyed or removed from the site and the relevant heritage resource agency must be informed about the finding. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be disturbed further until the necessary approval has been obtained from the South African Heritage Resources Agency and/or any of their delegated provincial agencies.
 - All provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993).
 - All provisions of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).
 - All provisions of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998).
 - All provisions of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004).
 - Should fill material be required for any purpose, the use of borrow pits must comply with the provisions of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) administered by the Department of Minerals and Energy.
11. The holder of an environmental authorisation has the responsibility to notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.

Notification of authorisation

12. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 12 (twelve) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.

13. The notification referred to must –
 - 13.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 13.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010;
 - 13.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 13.4. give the reasons for the decision.

Management of the activity

14. The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) submitted as part of application for environmental authorisation must be amended and submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIR dated March 2011 must be incorporated as part of the EMP. Once approved, the EMP must be implemented and adhered to.

Monitoring

15. The applicant must appoint a suitably qualified and experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMP.
16. The ECO shall be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity.
17. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
18. The ECO shall keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
19. The ECO shall remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.
20. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Recording and reporting to the Department

21. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department.
22. The holder of the authorisation must submit an environmental audit report upon completion of the construction and rehabilitation activities.
23. The environmental audit report must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the EMP.
24. All compliance monitoring and audit reports must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring*.

Commencement of the activity

25. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
26. An appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998 (as amended), does not suspend an environmental authorisation or exemption, or any provisions or conditions attached thereto, or any directive, unless the Minister, MEC or delegated organ of state directs otherwise.

Notification to authorities

27. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence. This notification period may coincide with the period contemplated in 25 above.

Operation of the activity

28. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity operational phase will commence.

Site closure and decommissioning

29. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.

Specific conditions

30. Areas around fuel tanks must be bunded or contained in an appropriate manner as per the requirements of SABS 089:1999 Part 1.
31. Leakage of fuel must be avoided at all times and if spillage occurs, it must be remedied immediately.
32. Hazardous waste such as bitumen, oils, oily rags, paint tins etc must be disposed of at an approved hazardous waste landfill site.
33. During the construction phase of the development, an effective monitoring system must be put in place to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, installation and storage. The applicant must ensure that precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or stormwater system are in place.
34. The Applicant must ensure that streams, river, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments are protected from erosion, direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.
35. The Applicant must ensure that soil erosion on site is prevented at all times, i.e. pre-, during- and post construction activities. Appropriate erosion mitigation must be implemented to prevent any potential erosion.
36. The Applicant must ensure that the stockpiling of soil or any other materials is not allowed near a watercourse or water body to prevent pollution or impediment to surface runoff.
37. The Applicant must ensure that no harvesting or poaching of any plants and animals and no collection of firewood is tolerated in and around the construction areas.
38. The Applicant must ensure that no construction activities take place within the 1:100 year floodline of any water resource without the Water Use Licence Authorisation (WULA) from the Department of Water Affairs (DWA).
39. Anti-perching devices must be placed on all tower structures along the entire lengths of proposed new lines.

40. The bird flappers must be installed on the power line for at least 100 metres on each side of the centre line of the river crossings and every road crossing.
41. Any ridgeline must be marked with bird flappers for at least 500 metres on each side of the highest point.
42. Appropriate dust suppression technique must be implemented on all exposed surfaces during periods of high wind. Such measures must include wet suppression, chemical stabilisation use of wind fence covering surfaces with straw chippings and re-vegetation of open areas.
43. All construction operations must only occur during daylight hours, thus from 06H00am-18H00 pm.
44. The applicant must train safety representatives, managers and workers in workplace safety. All applicable safety standards and regulations, including for subcontractors must be enforced.
45. No temporary site camps will be allowed outside the footprint of the development area as the establishment of such structures might trigger a listed activity as defined in the NEMA Regulations, Government Notice 386 and 387 of 2006.
46. The potential fire hazards must be managed by ensuring that no open fire are permitted on site and that the constructors must be aware of the consequences of starting fire on site to avoid damage to the neighbouring farms.
47. Chemical ablution facilities must be available for the use of construction staff at all times during the construction period. These facilities must be removed from the site when the construction phase is completed as well as associated waste to be disposed of at a registered waste site.
48. An integrated waste management approach that is based on waste minimisation must be used and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at waste disposal facility permitted in terms of Section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008).
49. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and the relevant heritage authority notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find (s) to take place.
50. Construction activities must be restricted to daylight hours in order to negate or reduce visual impacts associated with lighting.

General

51. A copy of this authorisation must be kept at the property where the activity will be undertaken. The authorisation must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
52. Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.
53. The holder of the authorisation must notify the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty eight) hours, if any condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance. Non-compliance with a condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the regulations.
54. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the applicant with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 15 AUGUST 2011



Mr Ishaam Abader

**Deputy Director-General: Environmental Quality and Protection
Department of Environmental Affairs**

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Background

The applicant, Eskom Holdings Limited, applied for the following activities:

R. 386:

Item 1(m) *"The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32 metres from the bank of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including-*

- (i) canals;*
- (ii) channels;*
- (iii) bridges;*
- (iv) dams; and*
- (v) weirs."*

Item 7 *"The above ground storage of a dangerous good, including petrol, diesel, liquid petroleum gas or paraffin, in containers with a combined capacity of more than 30 cubic metres but less than 1000 cubic metres at any one location or site."*

Item 12 *"The transformation or removal of indigenous vegetation of 3 hectares or more or of any size where the transformation or removal would occur within a critically endangered or an endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No 10 of 2004)."*

Item 16 (b) *"The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use where such development does not constitute infill and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare."*



R. 387:

Item 1(l) *"The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structure or infrastructure, for the transmission and distribution of above ground electricity with a capacity of 120 kilovolts or more."*

Item 2 *"Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or intended to be 20 hectare or more."*

-for the proposed construction of Ngwedi (Mogwase) Substation on the Farm Frischgewaagd 96 JQ and associated transmission power line turn-ins in the vicinity of Sun City; which falls within the jurisdiction of the Rustenburg, Kgetlengrevier and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities in the North West Province, as described in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) dated March 2011.

The applicant appointed Margen Industrial Services (MIS) to undertake an environmental assessment process in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2006.

2. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The information contained in the EIR dated March 2011;
- b) The comments received from the Rustenburg Local Municipality, the North-West Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development and interested and affected parties as included in the EIR dated March 2011.
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIR dated March 2011 and the draft EMP;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained in the EIR dated March 2011.
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) Details provided of the qualifications of the EAP indicate that the EAP is competent to carry out the environmental impact assessment procedures.
- b) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- c) The EIR dated March 2011 included a description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity.
- d) The EIR dated March 2011 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIR dated March 2011 and the legislation and guidelines that will be considered in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIR dated March 2011 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2006 for public involvement.

4. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) According to the EAP, Corridor 1 follows existing transmission lines (Matimba to Marang 400kV) for some of the route, as well as occurring near the road (Bapong to Ledig Road), which will limit the amount of habitat destruction and would also localise the impact of the visual intrusion.
- b) Existing tracks will be used for access to the distribution line servitude. No new access roads will be constructed.
- c) The majority of impacts on the natural environment associated with the proposed distribution lines in Corridor 1 are considered to be of low significance.

- d) The Social Assessment concluded that none of the negative social impacts identified along Corridor 1 are sufficiently significant to preclude this alignment from a socio-economic perspective.
- e) After mitigation, the overall significance of the visual impact of Corridor 1 is regarded as low.
- f) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIR dated March 2011 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- g) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- h) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- i) All legal and procedural requirements have been met.
- j) The information contained in the EIR dated March 2011 is accurate and credible.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the proposed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted.