



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1056

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PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Robertson

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOOKODI-MAHIKENG 400KV POWERLINE, WITHIN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE.

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated March 2018 and received by the Department on 23 March 2018, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated March 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.

All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the Draft SR, and submitted as part of the Final SR, must be taken into consideration when preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) in respect of the proposed development. Please ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations in the specialist studies are addressed and included in the final EIR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIR:

- a) Wetland delineation (if applicable);

Listed Activities

- b) Activity 30 of GN R.983 (as amended): It has been indicated in the report and application form that the aforementioned activity will be confirmed after the Terrestrial Ecological study has been conducted. Please ensure that the project activity description is amended accordingly in the EIR;

Public Participation Process

- c) Comments on the draft EIR must be obtained from the Biodiversity and Conservation unit of this Department;
- d) Please ensure that copies of original comments received from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the Department with the EIR. Should you be unable to obtain such comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain the comments;
- e) All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the final Scoping Report from I&APs and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity, are to be adequately addressed in the EIR, including comments from this Department, and must be incorporated into the Comments and Response Report;

Specialist Studies

- f) Signed specialist declaration of interest forms, for all specialist studies conducted as part of the proposed development, must be submitted together with the EIR;
- g) Each specialist study must indicate a preferred transmission route alternative;
- h) Where specialist studies are conducted in-house or by a specialist other than a suitably qualified specialist in the relevant field, such specialist reports must be peer reviewed by a suitably qualified external specialist in the relevant field. The terms of reference for the peer review must include:
 - i. A CV clearly showing expertise of the peer reviewer;
 - ii. Acceptability of the terms of reference;
 - iii. Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable;
 - iv. Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence);
 - v. Discuss the suitability of the mitigation measures and recommendations;
 - vi. Identify any shortcomings and mitigation measures to address the shortcomings;
 - vii. Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature;
 - viii. Indicate whether a site-inspection was carried out as part of the peer review; and
 - ix. Indicate whether the article is well-written and easy to understand.

Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- i) The EMPr must include the plans required as management measures, which include (but are not limited to):
 - i. Emergency response;
 - ii. Invasive alien plant management;
 - iii. Dust suppression;
 - iv. Waste management;
 - v. Traffic management; and,
 - vi. Site rehabilitation.
- j) The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements must contain the word "must" instead of "should" or "may";

- k) Recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the reports, including those from specialist studies, must be incorporated as part of the EMPr.

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.

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 different proposed alignments and above ground storage of fuel. 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;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

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 two (2) copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department and at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) 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. Pumeza Skepe-Mgcita
Designation: Deputy Director: CIPS & S24G
Date: 03/05/2018

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