



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia· PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1504

Enquiries: Ms Mathodi Mogorosi

Telephone: 012-399-9388 **E-mail:** mmogorosi@environment.gov.za

Ms Andrea van Gensen
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
P.O. Box 606
KIMBERLEY
8301

Tel No: 053-830-5775

E-mail: vGenseAL@eskom.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms van Gensen

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 982/983: THE ESKOM BOICHOKO SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED 35KM 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE BETWEEN KUMBA AND VAALBOS SUBSTATIONS NEAR POSTMASBURG, WITHIN THE TSANTSABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The environmental authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) 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 2 of Government Notice No. R.993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. An appellant must submit an appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant.

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria, 0001; or
By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia,
Pretoria, 0083

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.

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Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: **Appeals and Legal Review**, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 399 9356

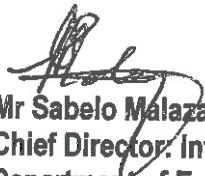
Email: Appealsdirector@environment.gov.za

Please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

For guidance on appeals submitted to the Minister in terms of NEMA and the SEMAs, please find a copy of the guideline on the administration of appeals on the Department's website: (https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations).

Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 23/05/2016

CC:	Ms T Lockwood	Envirolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 086-144-4499	Email: tara@envirolution.co.za
	Mr B Fisher	Department of Environment & Nature Conservation	Tel: 053-807-7420	Email: bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Mr G Mathobela	Tsantsabane Local Municipality	Tel: 053-313-7300	Email: dirtechnical@tsantsabane.gov.za



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014

THE ESKOM BOICHOKO SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED 35KM 132KV OVERHEAD
POWERLINE BETWEEN KUMBA AND VAALBOS SUBSTATIONS NEAR POSTMASBURG, WITHIN
THE TSANTSABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

ZF Mgcawu District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/1504
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LTD
Location of activity:	NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: within Wards 1, 2 & 4 of the Tsantsabane Local Municipality

This environmental 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.

Non-compliance with a condition of this environmental authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

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, 2014 the Department hereby authorises –

ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Ms Andrea van Gensen
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
P.O. Box 606
KIMBERLEY
8301

Tel: 053 830 5775

E-mail: vGenseAL@eskom.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 11:</u></p> <p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</p> <p>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</p>	<p>The 132kV overhead powerline from the existing Kumba Substation into the Boichoko Substation and finally on to the existing Vaalbos Substation will be constructed outside an urban area.</p>
<p><u>GN R 983 Item 19</u></p> <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from-</p> <p>(i) a watercourse</p>	<p>One or more of the pylons associated with the overhead powerline will be situated within a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R 983 Item 27:</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity.</p>	<p>The area required for the construction of the new substation is 1 hectare in extent which may require clearance of vegetation.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated January 2016 at:

Farm Names:

- Strydfontein 614;
- Leeuwfontein 488 RE;
- Leeuwfontein 488/1;
- PloegFontein 487;
- OlynFontein 475/2;
- Soetfontein 606;
- Kalkfontein 474;
- Postmasburg Erf 3753;

M-S

Plaas 492; and
Postmasburg 1

21 Digit SG codes:

C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	8	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	7	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	5	0	0	0	0	2
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	4	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	5	0	0	0	0	3
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Boichoko Substation Alternative A	Latitude	Longitude
	28°19'8.67"S	23°4'52.92"E

Powerline Route Alternative A1	Latitude	Longitude
Start point	28°22'51.73"S	22°57'21.42"E
Middle point	28°21'30.26"S	23°5'3.38"E
End point	28°17'38.56"S	23°8'9.17"E

the location indicated in the locality plan, attached as Annexure 2 of this authorisation.

- for the construction of the Boichoko Substation and the associated 132kV overhead powerline from the Kumba Substation into the Boichoko Substation and then on to the Vaalbos Substation located near Postmasburg, within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality in Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The development will entail the following infrastructure:

- A 35km 132kV double circuit distribution powerline; and
- 132kV Boichoko distribution substation on an area of 100m x 100m.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. Route Alternative A1 for the 132kV overhead powerline from the Kumba Substation into the Boichoko Substation and then on to the Vaalbos Substation, and the Site Alternative A for the construction of the Boichoko Substation, located near Postmasburg, within Tsantsabane Local Municipality, are approved as per the geographic coordinates above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this environmental 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. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this environmental 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 environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of the environmental authorisation with the competent authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of five (05) years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation. 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. Construction must be completed within 5 years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
 - 11.1. specify the date on which the environmental authorisation was issued;
 - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 11.4. provide the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
12. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
 - 12.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
 - 12.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
 - 12.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014.

Commencement of the activity

13. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR is not approved and must be amended and submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to. The approved EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development. The EMPr must be amended to include:
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- 14.1. The requirements and conditions of this environmental authorisation;
 - 14.2. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist reports as included in the final BAR dated January 2016; and
 - 14.3. A final development layout plan (with micro-siting of the power line route and pylon structures) and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final development layout plan.
15. The final development layout plan to be included in the EMPr must indicate the following:
- 15.1. The final delineation of the centreline of the power line within the approved corridor;
 - 15.2. The specific position of the pylon structures and foundation footprints;
 - 15.3. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - 15.4. All sensitive features e.g. wetlands, pans and drainage channels that will be affected by the power line; and
 - 15.5. All “no-go” and buffer areas.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

16. The EMPr (once approved) must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 23 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
17. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
18. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
19. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.982. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
20. The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The holder must notify the Department of its intention to amend the EMPr at least 60 days prior to submitting such amendments to the EMPr to the

Department for approval. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R. 982.

Monitoring

21. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an 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 environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
 - 21.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 21.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 21.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 21.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

22. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
23. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
24. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982.
25. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.

26. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and 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 approved EMPr.
27. 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 the development.

Notification to authorities

28. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. 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, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

29. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

30. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must 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

Conditions for Non-operational aspects

31. No activities, which require a water use authorisation, will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
 32. A qualified wetland specialist or ecologist must be commissioned to perform a final walk through of the alignment to identify all sensitive features including wetlands, drainage lines and all other watercourses that may be affected by the construction of the power line. This must inform the
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- determination of the final delineation of the centreline within the assessed corridor as well as optimal pylon positions, as well as the final development layout plan that is to be submitted to the Department for approval as per conditions 14 and 15 above.
33. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where the power line may cross avifaunal corridors, as recommended by the avifaunal specialist. The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged.
 34. Liaison with land owners/farm managers must be done prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan agricultural activities.
 35. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of any indigenous protected and endangered plant and animal species if required.
 36. Ablution facilities must be placed outside of the 1:100 year floodline of a watercourse.
 37. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants occurring within a ten (10) kilometre radius of the development site must be utilised.
 38. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
 39. Construction must include design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
 40. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate.
 41. Any solid waste, which will not be recycled, must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008). No waste material may be left on site after construction.
 42. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during construction, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.

General

43. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 43.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 43.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 43.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
44. 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 holder of the authorisation or his/her 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 holder of the authorisation 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: 23/05/2016



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. 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 BAR dated January 2016;
- b) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated January 2016;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated January 2016 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR;
- e) The findings of the site visit conducted on 21 April 2016; and
- f) 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).

2. 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) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The project need was sufficiently addressed. The purpose of the power line and substation is to strengthen electricity supply to the mines and to increase supply for the residential areas within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality. The upgrade of electricity distribution within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality region will ensure that the mines remain active and continue to contribute to economic growth in the region. The provision of electricity is anticipated to promote local economic development and investment in the area. Provision of electricity is critical for economic development, related employment and sustainable development in South Africa.
- c) The BAR dated January 2016 identified all relevant environmental legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated January 2016.

- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated January 2016 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 for public involvement.

3. Findings

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

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated January 2016 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) According to the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner, the information contained in the BAR dated December 2015 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities 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 authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

Annexure 2: Locality Plan

