



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1822

Enquiries: Mr Herman Alberts

Telephone: (012) 399 9371 **E-mail:** HAlberts@environment.gov.za

Ms Justine Wyngaardt
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
PO Box 222
BRACKENFELL
7560

Telephone Number: (021) 980 3112
Email Address: WyngaaJO@eskom.co.za

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Wyngaardt

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE ESKOM 66/132kV DOUBLE CIRCUIT POWERLINE FROM ROMANSRIVIER TO CERES WITHIN THE WITZENBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised 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 as amended (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 fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, and the provisions regarding the submission of appeals as contained in the Regulations.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the 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; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appealsdirector@environment.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia,
Pretoria,
0083; or

MJ

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 as amended, the lodging of an appeal 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.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



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

Date: 25/04/2018

cc:	Ms Amy Hill	SRK Consulting (Pty) Ltd	Email: ahill@srk.co.za
	Ms Adri la Meyer	WC DEADP	Email: Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za
	Mr David Nasson	Witzenberg Municipality	Email: david@witzenberg.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

Eskom 66/132kV Double Circuit Powerline from Romansrivier to Ceres within the Witzenberg Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province

Cape Winelands District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/1822
Last amended:	First Issue
Holder of authorisation:	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
Location of activity:	Remaining Extent of Farm 305; Remaining Extent of Farm 289; Remaining Extent of Farm 291; Portion 4 of Farm 301; Portion 1 of Farm 301; Remaining Extent of Farm 302; Portion 2 of Farm 291; Portion 1 of 294; Remaining Extent of Farm 421; Portion 1 of Farm 288; Remaining extend of Erf 1001; Remaining Extent of Erf 1002; Remaining Extent of Erf 5137; Remaining Extent of Erf 1887; Remaining Extent of Farm 320; Remaining Extent of Farm 1886; Portion 18 of Farm 320; Witzenberg Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province

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.

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 LIMITED

with the following contact details –

Ms Justine Wyngaardt

PO Box 222

BRACKENFELL

7560

Telephone Number: (021) 980 3112

Cell phone Number: (082) 938 3479

E-mail Address: WyngaaJO@eskom.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 983 and 985):

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R 983: Activity 11</u></p> <p><i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity:</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.”</i></p>	<p>The project entails the construction of a 20km 66/132kV double circuit powerline between the Romansrivier and Ceres Substations.</p>
<p><u>GN R983: Activity 12</u></p> <p><i>The development of –</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p>	<p>It is assumed that this activity refers to a cumulative footprint of 100 square metres or more, within 32m of any watercourse on site. Eight pylons, with a (disturbance) footprint of approximately 225m² will be placed within 32m from watercourses on site, with a total footprint of 1800m² within 32m of watercourses on site. Access tracks will also need to be built or upgraded within 32m of watercourses, and five watercourse crossings will also be required for access tracks.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 19</u></p> <p><i>“The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic</i></p> <p><i>(i) metres from a watercourse;.”</i></p>	<p>Five watercourse crossings will be required for access tracks. Construction of these crossings will entail the infilling of more than 10m³ of material at these watercourses. Maintenance of watercourse crossings during operations may also require the clearing of material from watercourses at these structures, triggering this activity.</p>
<p><u>GN R 983: Activity 27</u></p> <p><i>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></p> <p><i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i></p>	<p>Although this activity is excluded during the construction of the project (powerlines and roads are linear infrastructure), more than 1ha of vegetation may be cleared during maintenance activities.</p>

<i>(ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i>	
<p><u>GN R985: Activity 4</u></p> <p><i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13, 5 metres.</i></p> <p><i>In the Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Areas outside urban areas</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation.</i></p>	<p>New access tracks with a width of between 4 and 6m will need to be developed to access the pylons for construction and maintenance. Access track to pylons for construction and maintenance activities will be single lane tracks not exceeding 6m in width.</p>
<p><u>GN R985: Activity 12</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation in the Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>(i) Within an endangered ecosystem</i></p>	<p>The project will require the clearance of approximately 400m² of Breede Alluvium Fynbos which is an endangered vegetation type.</p>
<p><u>GN R985: Activity 14</u></p> <p><i>The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) within 32 metres of a watercourse</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) in a protected area identified in NEMPAA</i></p>	<p>Construction footprints at pylons 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 and 65, as well as the proposed watercourse crossing required to access pylons 64 and 65 will take place within 32m of watercourses within a protected area.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 18:</u></p> <p><i>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres; or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i></p> <p><i>(i) In the Western Cape:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Outside urban areas</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Containing indigenous vegetation</i></p>	<p>Existing unsurfaced roads will be extended by more than 1km to access pylons for construction and maintenance. Access tracks to pylons for construction and maintenance activities will be single lane tracks not exceeding 6m in width.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated December 2017 at:

21 SG Codes:

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

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

Powerline corridor	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	33°27'44.67"S	19°13'13.48"E
Middle point of activity	33°25'7.61"S	19°17'21.26"E
End point of activity	33°21'40.31"S	19°17'42.53"E

- for the proposed construction of the Eskom 66/132kV Double Circuit Powerline from Romansrivier to Ceres within the Witzenberg Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The key infrastructure includes:

- Installation of a 80 MVA 132/66/11kV transformer at the Romansrivier Substation to supply the new 132kV line to Ceres;
- Installation of 132kV and 66kV feeder bays at Romansrivier Substation and a 66kV feeder bay at Ceres Substation;
- Construction of a double circuit distribution powerline (132kV and 66kV) on 68 pylon structures between the Romansrivier and Ceres Substations in the Breede River Valley / Michell's Pass (~20km);
- Construction of new access roads, including bridges and other watercourse crossings;
- Upgrading of various existing (access) roads;
- Stringing and restringing of conductors;
- Periodic and emergency repairs to pylons (during operations);
- Trimming and clearing of vegetation to maintain line clearance and access during operations; and
- Clearing of debris from bridges and other watercourse crossings during operations.

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Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed construction of the Eskom 66/132kV Double Circuit Powerline from Romansrivier to Ceres within the Witzenberg Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province as described above is hereby approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is further 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. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. 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.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. 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

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Application for EA is hereby approved. This EMPr must be implemented and strictly adhered to.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

13. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 20 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.
14. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

18. 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.
 - 18.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 18.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
 - 18.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 18.4. 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

19. 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 at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.

20. 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 at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
21. 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.
22. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit reports 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.

Notification to authorities

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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

28. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where powerlines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g. grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams). 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.
29. Additional areas of high sensitivity along the preferred alignment must also be identified by the avifaunal specialist for the fitment of anti-collision devices. These devices must be according to Eskom's Transmission and Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Guidelines.
30. All pylons to be constructed should make use of "bird friendly" structures, fitted with a bird perch, as per Eskom's Transmission and Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Guidelines.
31. Copies of all permits required for the construction of the proposed infrastructure must be kept on site by the ECO for record keeping purposes and make it available to the Department upon request.
32. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
33. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.
34. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
35. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
36. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
37. All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs. Reclamation activities shall be undertaken according to the EMPr.
38. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.

39. Dust abatement techniques must be used before and during surface clearing, excavation, or blasting activities.
40. All construction vehicles must remain on properly demarcated roads. No construction vehicles should be allowed to drive over the vegetation except where no cleared roads are available. In such cases a single track should be used and multiple paths should not be formed. Where temporary access roads are created, they should be rehabilitated as outlined in the rehabilitation plan after completion of construction.
41. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities should be removed to a safe location by a suitably qualified person.
42. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources must be made.
43. The recommendations of the EAP in the BAR dated December 2017 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to.
44. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
45. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options where appropriate. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).

General

46. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 46.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 46.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 46.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

47. 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: 25/04/2018


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 application form submitted on 18 September 2017.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated December 2017.
- c) The comments received in the BAR dated December 2017 included, *inter alia*: CapeNature and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Western Cape Government.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated December 2017 and the EMPr.
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).
- f) The information contained in the specialist studies submitted as part of the BAR dated December 2017 included, *inter alia*:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Freshwater Ecosystems	Freshwater Consulting cc	August 2017
Botanical Assessment Report	Paulemms Botanical Surveys	September 2017
Baseline Assessment of Mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles	Marius Burger, Trading As Sungazer	September 2017
Bird Impact Assessment Report	Chris Van Rooyen Consulting	August 2017
Heritage Impact Assessment	David Halkett, Trading As Aco Associates Cc	August 2017
Visual Impact Assessment	Srk Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd	August 2017

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 need for the proposed project is to strengthen the electricity grid and ensure supply between the Ceres Substation and the Witzenberg Substation.

- c) The 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.
- e) The BAR dated December 2017 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- f) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated December 2017 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- g) 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 December 2017 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) The information contained in the BAR dated December 2017 is deemed to be 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 process.

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.