



**Western Cape  
Government**

Environmental Affairs and  
Development Planning

Land Management  
(Region 3)

**DEA&DP REF.:** 16/3/1/6/6/D7/9/0089/12  
**DEA REF.:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/613  
**ENQUIRIES:** Mr F. Naudé  
**DATE OF ISSUE:** 07 FEB 2013

The Director General  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Directorate Environmental Impact Assessment  
Private Bag X447  
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0001

**Attention: Mr Tobogo Mapinga**

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Dear Madam

**BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132 KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE FROM THE EXISTING OUTENIQUA SUBSTATION TO THE EXISTING OUDTSHOORN SUBSTATION, WESTERN CAPE**

1. The abovementioned draft Basic Assessment Report ("BAR") dated 5 November 2012 and received by the environmental impact assessment component of the Directorate: Land Management Region 3 (hereinafter referred to as "this Directorate") on 5 November 2012, refers.
2. This letter serves as an acknowledgement of receipt of the abovementioned document by this Department.
3. This Directorate notes the conclusion made by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) in the draft BAR that the negative environmental impacts associated with the proposed preferred route can be mitigated to an acceptable level in accordance with the detailed EMP. Please take note of the following –
  - 3.1. The Heritage Impact Report has reported on the visual intrusion of the proposed powerline on the local cultural / scenic landscape, however, the visual intrusion on the receiving environment from a tourism point of view is not explicitly described in the draft BAR. In this regard please refer to this Department's "Guideline for involving visual & aesthetic specialists in EIA processes, 2005 provides guidance on how this could be assessed and reported on. Furthermore, note that the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework identifies the N12/N9 as a scenic

route with exposure to large numbers of people, especially passing tourist traffic, and should therefore receive special consideration.

4. This Directorate hereby reminds you that the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") specifically states that the principles set out in section 2 apply throughout the Republic to the actions of all organs of state that may significantly affect the environment. The above-mentioned principles must therefore be considered and applied by approving authority in the taking of the decision.

In this regard, please also take cognisance of the requirements of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999).

5. We await the submission of the final BAR for our consideration. This Department reserves the right to revise its initial comments and request further information based on any new or revised information received.

Yours faithfully



**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

Copied to: Ms. R. Stofberg (SiVEST Environmental Division)  
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