



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1741

Enquiries: Mr Jay-Jay Mpelane

Telephone: (012) 399 9404, **E-mail:** jmpelane@environment.gov.za

Mr Earl Craig Daniels
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
120 Henry Street
BLOEMFONTEIN
9300

Tell number: (051) 404 5759
E-mail: danielec@eskom.co.za

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Daniels

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 982/983: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ESKOM INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE VILJOENSKROON AREA IN THE FREE STATE 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.

Please note that the following activity was included in the amended application form, however, the activity is not approved because it is not triggered in terms of the EIA regulations 2014 as amended.

GN R983, Activity 31:

The decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure for-

- (i) Any development and related operation activity or activities listed in this Notice, Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or Listing Notice 3 of 2014.

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 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.

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

Mr Z Hassam, 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 Road,
Arcadia,
Pretoria; or

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, 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: 25/10/2012

CC:	Mr M Masumba	Moghaka Local Municipality	Tel: 056 343 9400	Email: juliasm@webmail.co.za
	Mr B Smit	Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 012 427 2768	Email: barend.Smit@aurecongroup.com

M.S



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

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

**CONSTRUCTION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ESKOM INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE
VILJOENSKROON AREA WITHIN THE MOQHAKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE
FREE STATE PROVINCE**

FEZILE DABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/1741</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Eskom Holdings SOC Limited</i>
Location of activity:	<i>FREE STATE PROVINCE: Within Ward 23 and 25 in the Viljoenskroon area of Moqhaka Local Municipality</i>

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, 2014.

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

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Earl Craig Daniels

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited

120 Henry Street

BLOEMFONTEIN

9300

Email address: danielec@eskom.co.za

Tell number: (051) 404 5759

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 R983, Activity 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>Construction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.24km 132kV Single Circuit Monopole single Kingbird conductor line from the new Viljoenskroon Municipality Substation to the Reitzburg 132kV line, occurring within a 31m-wide corridor to allow micro-siting of poles. • Viljoenskroon Municipality 132kV substation. • Marseilles 132kV switching station. • Senwesco 1x11/6.6kV 10MVA substation. • 1.969km 132kV single circuit Kingbird mono-structure line from Grootkop 1 line to the proposed Vierfontein 11kV rural substation. • Vierfontein rural 132/11kV substation.
<p><u>GN R983, Activity 27:</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.</p>	<p>Less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation may be cleared for the construction of the Viljoenskroon Municipality 132kV substation, the Marseilles 132 kV switching station, the Senwesco substation and the Vierfontein rural 11kV substation.</p>

-as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 9 June 2017 at:

- Farm name and number, portion number, and 21 Digit SG code:

Farm name and number	Portion number	21 Digit SG code
Groenfontein 313	17	F03600000000031300017.
Groenfontein 313	39,	F03600000000031300039.
Grootrietpan 451	4	F03600000000045100004.
Grootrietpan 451	1	F03600000000045100001.

Grootrietpan 451	2	F03600000000045100002.
Grootrietpan 451	3	F03600000000045100003.
Jagters Spruit 73,	0	F03600000000007300000.
Jagtershoek 362,	0	F03600000000036200000.
Jagtershoek 77,	0	F03600000000007700000.
Jagtershoek 77,	3	F03600000000007700003.
Marseilles 24,	2	F03600000000002400002.
Tevreden 205,	5	F03600000000020500005.
Tevreden 205,	3	F03600000000020500003.
Tevreden 205,	4	F03600000000020500004.
Viljoenskroon Townlands Streets and Squares 411.	0	F03600000000041100000.
Rendezvous 398,	6	F03600000000039800006.
Rendezvous 398,	0	F03600000000039800000.
Lizetta 87,	0	F03600000000008700000.

Viljoenskroon to Reitzburg 132 kV line	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	27°10'57.62"S	26°56'22.18"E
Middle point of activity	27°8'10.53"S	26°54'38.56"E
End point of activity	27°5'38.06"S	26°52'14.85"E
New Vierfontein power line	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	27° 6'11.54"S	26°46'21.45"E
Middle point of activity	27° 5'50.58"S	26°46'46.52"E
End point of activity	27° 5'31.59"S	26°46'31.14"E
Marseilles Switching Station	Latitude	Longitude
Centre coordinates	27° 5'38.06"S	26° 52'14.85"E
Vierfontein Substation	Latitude	Longitude
Centre coordinates	27° 5'33.35"S	26° 46'31.15"E

- for the construction and strengthening of the Eskom infrastructure in the Viljoenskroon and Vierfontein areas within Ward 23 and 25 of the Moqhaka Local Municipality in the Free State Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The associated activities and infrastructure includes the following:

a) Viljoenskroon Municipality Substation:

- Decommission 1.64km 88kV T-off line that is aligned from the 88kV Vierfontein-Viljoenskroon Municipality Substation power line to Senwesco Substation.
- Construct a 17.24km 132kV single circuit monopole single Kingbird conductor line on the eastern side from the new Viljoenskroon Municipality Substation along the tar road until it reaches the Reitzburg 132kV line.
- Construct a new 132kV switching station at a proposed location, and name it Marseilles Switching Station.
- Construct a ±4.6km 11kV twin Hare line from the new Viljoenskroon Municipality Substation to the new Senwesco Substation.
- Construct a new Viljoenskroon 132kV substation next to the existing Viljoenskroon Municipality substation. This line will require a 31m wide corridor approval (15.5m from the centreline of the power line to both sides).
- Construct a new 1x11/6.6kV 10MVA Senwesco substation next to the existing Senwesco substation.
- Disconnect the Vierfontein-Viljoenskroon 88kV Line from the 88/11kV Vierfontein Rural Substation, and decommission the existing 88/11kV Vierfontein Substation.
- Connect the Vierfontein-Viljoenskroon Kingbird line to the new 132kV Viljoenskroon Municipality Substation.
- Decommission the existing 88/11kV Viljoenskroon Municipality Substation.

b) Vierfontein Substation:

- Construct a new 1.969km 132kV single circuit single Kingbird mono-structure line from the 132kV Grootkop 1 power line, which is near the existing Vierfontein Rural Substation, to the newly constructed 132kV Vierfontein Rural Substation.
- Demolish 4km 132kV Panther line from Megro 49 towards the new Marseilles Switching Station.
- Construct a new Vierfontein rural 132/11kV Substation next to existing substation.
- Connect the Vierfontein-Viljoenskroon Kingbird line to the new 132kV Vierfontein Substation.

- Decommission the existing 5.96km Vierfontein-Jersey 88kV power line.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed construction and strengthening of the Eskom infrastructure in the Viljoenskroon and Vierfontein areas within Ward 23 and 25 of the Moqhaka Local Municipality in the Free State Province **is approved** as per the geographic coordinates cited at the table reflected in page 4 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 must 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 (5) 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 and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. 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 draft Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Application for EA must be amended and submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. The EMPr must include a Heritage Monitoring Plan (as part of the EMPr) including all recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) as well as Provincial Heritage Resources Authority: Free State. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.
13. The EMPr must also include a layout plan of the final pylon positions.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

14. The EMPr 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.
15. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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

19. 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.
 - 19.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 19.2. 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.
 - 19.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.

- 19.4. 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

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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

26. 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

27. 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

28. 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

29. The applicant must ensure that all construction activities including clearing of access route are designed not to disturb the identified burial grounds.
30. The construction team must be informed about the value and the importance of the cultural heritage resources in general so as to ensure that they do not damage.
31. A 30m buffer zone must be implemented around the identified cultural heritage resources to avoid any anticipated damage.
32. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal.
33. Any solid waste 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).
34. Waste, which is not authorised for disposal on site as part of the approved development, must be dealt with according to relevant legislation or the Department's policies and practices.

General

35. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 35.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 35.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 35.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
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36. 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: 25/10/2017



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 9 June 2017.
- b) The comments received from Department of Water and Sanitation, Provincial Heritage Resources Authority: Free State, SAHRA, Moqhaka Local Municipality, DEA, and DESTEA: Free State province and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated 9 June 2017.
- c) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR; and
- d) 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 need for the proposed project stems from the provision of additional electricity to support the continuation of reliable electricity in the region.
- c) The BAR dated 9 June 2017 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated 9 June 2017 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 9 June 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 9 June 2017 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. However, the EMPr still need to be amended as mentioned on page 7 above.

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.