



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA ·0001· Environment House ·473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2968
Enquiries: Ms Bathandwa Ncube
Telephone: 012 399 9368 E-mail: BNcube@dfpe.gov.za

Ms Namhla Dondi
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
PO Box 222
BRACKENFELL
7560

Telephone Number : 021 980 3112
Cellphone Number : 082 938 3479
Email Address : DondiVN@eskom.co.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Dondi

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE ESKOM CERES – WITZENBERG 132KV POWERLINE AND SHORT TIE-IN TO THE PROPOSED PRINCE ALFRED HAMLET SUBSTATION, WITHIN THE WITZENBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN 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, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulates that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

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: appeals@dffe.gov.za

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

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 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.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@dffe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully


Dr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 01/07/2024

cc:	Ms Kelly Armstrong	SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd	Email: karmstrong@srk.co.za
	Mr David Nasson	Witzenberg Local Municipality	Email: david@witzenberg.gov.za
	Ms Adri la Meyer	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)	Email: Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

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

The Eskom Ceres – Witzenberg 132kV Powerline and Short Tie-in to the proposed Prince Alfred Hamlet Substation, within the Witzenberg Local Municipality, Western Cape Province

Cape Winelands District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2968
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
Location of activity:	Erf 528; Erf 1002; Erf 1489; Erf 513; Erf 1; Farm 2/323; Farm 1/316; Erf 1884; Erf 4963; Erf 207; Farm 1/323; Farm 316; Erf 5018; Erf 8027; Farm 35/371; Farm 14/371; Farm 371; Farm 1/375; Farm RE/376; Farm 375; Farm 2/375; Farm 374; Farm 423; Farm 1/374; Farm 97/372; Farm 21/323; Farm 323; Witzenberg Local Municipality; 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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED

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

with the following contact details –

Ms Namhla Dondi
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
PO Box 222

BRACKENFELL
7560

Telephone Number: 021 980 3112
Cellphone Number: 082 938 3479
Email Address: DondiVN@eskom.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11:</u></p> <p><i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i> <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 17km single circuit 132kV powerline between the Ceres and Witzenberg Substations and a short tie-in to the proposed Prince Alfred Hamlet Substation.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>“The development of-</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square meters or more; where such development occurs-</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse”</i></p>	<p>The total development footprint of all of the pylons located within 32m of a watercourse will exceed 100m².</p> <p>27 pylons (4-5, 6-8, 13, 16-19, 24-26, 29-32, 34, 41, 43, 45, 50, 51, 56-58, 60, 89) with a development footprint of approximately 55m² each will be placed within 32 m from watercourses, resulting in a total footprint of ~ 1 485m² within 32m of watercourses. No pylons are located within a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>“The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation,</i></p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <p><i>i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</i></p> <p><i>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in the bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><i>iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning;</i></p>	<p>The project will require the clearance of more than 300m² of indigenous vegetation on land that is zoned for conservation, within a critically endangered ecosystem and in a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) during the construction phase.</p>

<p>v. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.”</p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 14:</u> “The development of- (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs- (c) If no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; i. Western Cape i. Outside urban areas: (aa) A protected area identified in NEM:PAA; (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.”</p>	<p>Six pylons (24–26, 29, 50-51) will be located within 32 m of watercourses, located outside urban areas and within protected areas identified in NEM:PAA, viz. the Ceres Mountain Fynbos Nature Reserve and the Koue Bokkeveld Mountain Catchment Area. Pylons with a combined footprint exceeding 10 m² will also be located within CBAs.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated April 2024 at:

21 Digit SG Code:

Farm Description	21 Digit Surveyor General Code																												
Erf 528	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erf 1002	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erf 1498	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	9	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erf 5137	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erf 1	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm 2/323	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Farm 1/316	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Erf 1884	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erf 4963	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	9	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erf 207	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Farm 1/323	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	1
Farm 316	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	0
Erf 5018	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0
Erf 8027	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	0
Farm 35/371	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	0	0	3	5
Farm 14/371	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Farm 371	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm 1/375	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	1
Farm RE/376	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm 375	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm 2/375	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	2
Farm 374	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm 423	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm 1/374	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
Farm 97/372	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	2	0	0	0	0	9	7
Farm 21/323	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
Farm 323	C	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

Coordinates:

Eskom Ceres-Witzenberg 132kV Powerline	Latitude	Longitude
Start (Ceres Substation)	33° 21' 39.97" S	19° 17' 42.41" E
Start (New Prince Alfred Hamlet Substation)	33° 16' 38.79" S	19° 19' 12.72" E
End (Witzenberg Substation)	33° 13' 42.9" S	19° 19' 5.82" E

- for the development of the Eskom Ceres – Witzenberg 132kV Powerline and Short Tie-in to the proposed Prince Alfred Hamlet Substation, within the Witzenberg Local Municipality, Western Cape, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Key components include the following:

- Installation of a single circuit distribution powerline (132 kV) on 92 pylons from Ceres Substation, tying into the proposed Prince Alfred Hamlet Substation and terminating at the Witzenberg Substation (~17km);
- Construction of the new Prince Alfred Hamlet Substation; and
- Installation of new 132 kV feeder bays at the Witzenberg Substation.

Technical details of the proposed project:

Project Component	Dimension / Footprint
Length of the powerline	~ 17 km
Area of the servitude	170 ha 32 m wide
Clearance height of the powerline	6.3 m
Area occupied by substation	~ 0.552 ha
Capacity of the substation	132 kV/11 kV
Capacity of powerline	Single circuit powerline (132 kV)
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	1.47 ha (92 Pylons and Substation)
Line evacuation capacity	132 kV Kingbird line templated at 70°C and rated for 176MVA
Structure heights	Steel monopoles (~14 to ~16 m) and braced double steel poles (~20.m)

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of the Eskom Ceres – Witzenberg 132kV Powerline and Short Tie-in to the proposed Prince Alfred Hamlet Substation, within the Witzenberg Local Municipality, Western Cape, is hereby approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the tables 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 ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If the 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 five (05) 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 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. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity must 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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended 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

13. A copy of the final site layout plan must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must further indicate the following, as informed by the final walkthrough:
 - 13.1. The final delineation of the centreline of the 132kV power line within the approved corridor;
 - 13.2. The specific position of the pylon structures and foundation footprints;
 - 13.3. All sensitive features e.g. Critical Biodiversity Areas, drainage lines, wetlands, heritage sites etc. that will be affected by the proposed powerline and associated infrastructure;
 - 13.4. Substation footprint(s);
 - 13.5. Laydown area footprint(s) and/or construction camp footprint;
 - 13.6. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
14. The Generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr(s) submitted as part of the BAR are not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting, and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr(s) must be made available for comments by registered I&APs and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final MMP and EMPr(s) must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr (s) must be implemented and adhered to.
15. The amendment of the Generic EMPr(s) must include the following:
 - 15.1. The requirements and conditions of this environmental authorisation.
 - 15.2. The Vegetation Management Plan, contemplated in Condition 38 below;
 - 15.3. Measures as recommended by the final comments from the DFFE: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness dated 02 May 2024.
 - 15.4. Any additional management and monitoring plans, procedures and designs, which must be developed, as per the management actions in the EMPr(s) dated April 2024.
 - 15.5. All site-specific recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR dated April 2024 and specialist studies.
 - 15.6. Any site-specific mitigation measures that may arise when the final walk through is undertaken.

- 15.7. The approved final development layout plan and all mitigation measures as recommended by the final development layout plan.
- 15.8. The corner coordinates of the new Prince Alfred Hamlet Substation.
- 15.9. The coordinates for each pylon position.
16. The EMPr(s), when approved, must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
17. Changes to the approved EMPr(s) must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
18. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr(s), should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

19. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 26 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.
20. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
21. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department before submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
22. 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 the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. 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.
23. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. 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

24. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced 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.
 - 24.1. The ECO must be appointed before the commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 24.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 24.3. The ECO must keep a record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 24.4. 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

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. The frequency of auditing and submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
28. 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.
29. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended 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.

30. 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

31. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days before 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

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

Site closure and decommissioning

33. 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

34. Construction activity must be restricted to the immediate footprint of the infrastructure as far as possible.
35. Eskom approved Bird Flight Diverters (BFDs) must be installed where the powerline spans the avifaunal high sensitive areas as recommended by the avifaunal specialist and the DFFE: Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness (PAPME) Directorate, i.e., between Pylons 3 - 6, 15 - 18, 20 - 26, 33 - 40, 44 - 52, 56 - 63, 65 - 67, 68 - 70, and 89 - 92.
36. Pylon 4 must be removed or relocated further away from the Koekedou River, as recommended by the DFFE: PAPME Directorate.

37. Permits must be obtained from relevant authorities for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or provincially protected species prior to construction. However, the removal of the SCC and Critically Endangered Witsenberg conebrush is not supported.
38. A Vegetation Management Plan must be compiled in consultation with CapeNature as recommended by the Botanical Impact Assessment and must be incorporated as part of the Generic EMP(s) and MMP.
39. The avoidance and mitigation measures as recommended by the Botanical, Aquatic, and Heritage specialists and as included in the EMP(s) must be implemented and adhered to.
40. Should any heritage resources, including evidence of graves and human burials, archaeological material and paleontological material be discovered during the execution of the authorised activities, all works must be stopped immediately, the Heritage Western Cape must be notified as soon as possible, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources.
41. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, reuse, and disposal where appropriate. 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).

General

42. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 42.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 42.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 42.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible websites.
43. 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 the authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 01/07/2024



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment

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 listed activities as applied for in the amended application form received on 30 April 2024.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated April 2024.
- c) The comments received from Interested and Affected Parties as included in the BAR dated April 2024.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated April 2024, the Maintenance Management Plan and the EMPr's.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated April 2024 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Agricultural Compliance Statement	SRK Consulting	April 2024
Specialist Aquatic Ecosystems	Liz Day Consulting	February 2024
Botanical Assessment	Capensis Ecological Consulting	December 2020, updated February 2024
Bird Impact Assessment Study	AfriAvian Environmental	February 2024
Visual Impact Assessment	SRK Consulting	February 2021
Integrated Heritage Impact Assessment	ACO Associates	February 2021

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was considered 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 need to improve the reliability of the electrical supply to Ceres and Witzenberg, and for meeting the growing electricity demands of the Witzenberg Municipality.
- c) The BAR dated April 2024 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 April 2024 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) The location of the proposed project within the Strategic Transmission Corridor (STC).

- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

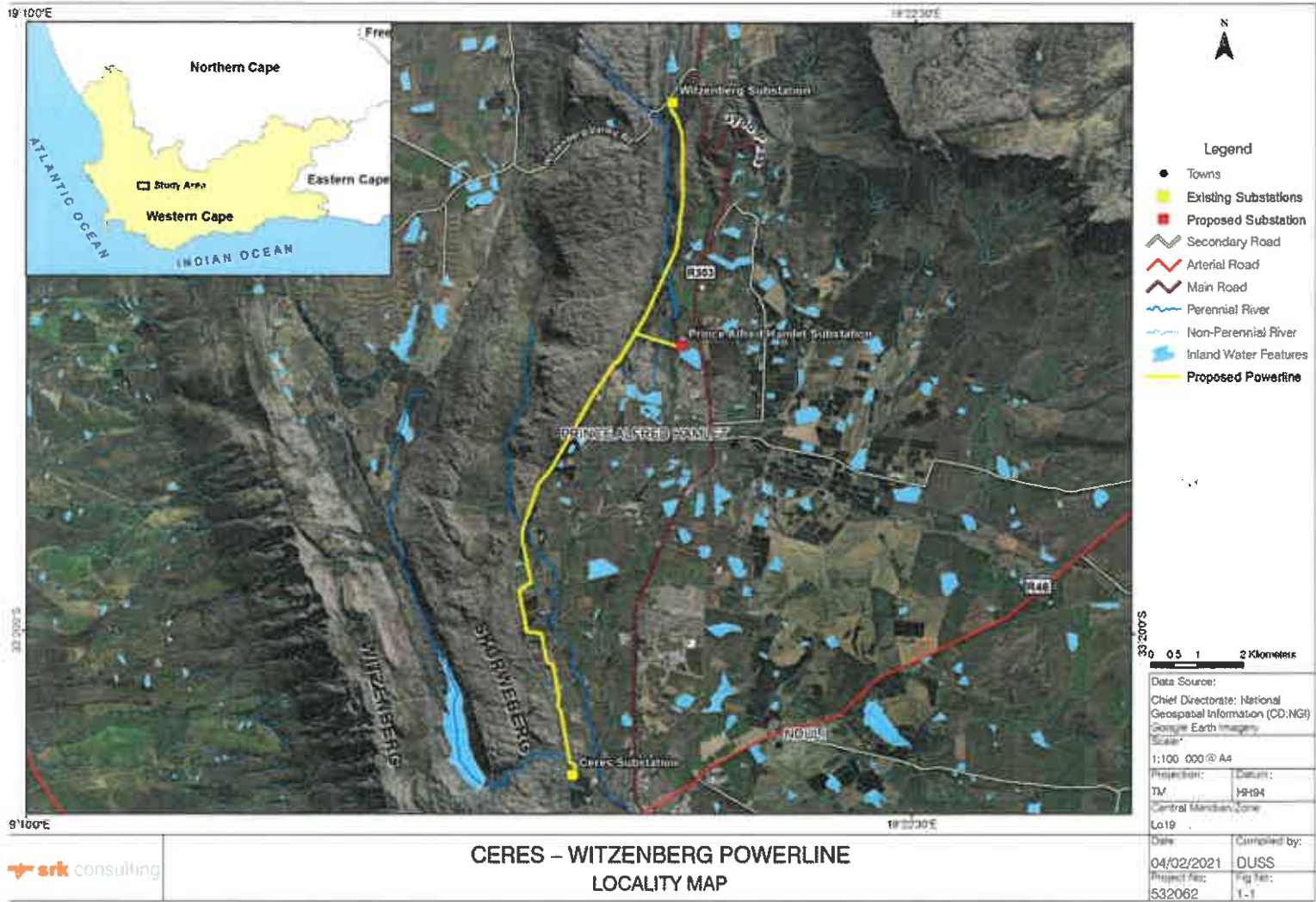
3. Findings

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 April 2024 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 information contained in the BAR dated April 2024 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- 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



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