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4th Floor, York Park Building
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Your reference: 16/3/1/6/6/D7/9/0089/12
Our reference: 11032
Date: 11 July 2013

FOR ATTENTION: Francois Naude (Francois.Naude@westerncape.gov.za)

Dear Francois

RE: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132 KV TRANSMISSION LINE FROM THE EXISTING OUTENIQUA SUBSTATION TO THE EXISTING OUDTSHOORN SUBSTATION, WESTERN CAPE

Thank you for your correspondence dated 7 February 2013 on behalf of DEA&DP.

We hereby respond to the comments raised, accordingly:

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 the Department's "Guideline for involving visual and aesthetic specialists in EIA processes, 2005" provides guidance on how this could be assessed and reported on. Furthermore, note that the Western Cape 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 attention.

Noted. Please refer to the NID response and Heritage Western Cape comment (Appendix E3) which requested an archeological assessment only. The preferred alternative route is not visible from the N12/N9 therefore visual impacts for this route are unlikely. As per the HWC comment, should the alternative route be selected through the EIA process, a visual impact assessment will be completed in order to determine the potential visual impacts on the landscape and any scenic routes in the vicinity. Please refer to the EMP (Appendix G, Section 6.17) for a set of mitigation measures for potential visual impacts.

This Directorate hereby reminds you that the NEMA 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) specifically states that the principles set out in section 2 apply throughout the Republic to the action 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 into cognisance of the requirement of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999).

Noted. As stated above, please refer to the NID response and Heritage Western Cape comment (Appendix E3) in terms of the impact assessment process recommended for this project (archaeology only). All requested impact assessments have been completed by accredited, independent specialists and can be found in Appendix D of the Final BAR. Please refer to the EMP (Appendix G, Section 6.13) for all Heritage mitigation measures. As per Department of Water Affairs comment, a General Authorization is required in terms of Sections 21(c) and 21(i) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998). The application for the General Authorization is in progress (refer to Appendix J for a preliminary report).

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.

Divisional Director M J Wright (Managing)
Divisional Manager J A Barnard

A Division of SiVEST Directors S D Leach (Chairman), M J Wright (Managing), S G Joubert, M J Meikle-Braes, W A Pearce,
H G D Regnaud, G R Sims, K P Smith, K Soni, G G Visser
Offices: South Africa Durban, Johannesburg, Ladysmith, Pietermaritzburg, Richards Bay, Cape Town. Africa Harare (Zimbabwe).

Noted. As stated below, the Final BAR and EMP will be available for 21-day comment on 11 July 2013.

Note: The FBAR and EMP are now available for comment from 11 July 2013 to 2 August 2013. Kindly forward any comments (with relevant reference number) directly to DEA as per contact details below:

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Yours sincerely



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