



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2979
Enquiries: Ms Makhosazane Yeni
Telephone: (012) 399 9400 **E-mail:** MYeni@dff.gov.za

Ms Madinare Mukhuba
National Transmission Company of South Africa
P.O. Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Telephone Number: 011 516 7350
Cellphone Number: 082 469 1336
Email Address: mukhubdm@ntcsa.co.za

PER EMAIL

Dear Ms Mukhuba

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED HIGHVELD NORTH-WEST AND LOWVELD STRENGTHENING PROJECT EQUIPPING OF EXISTING BORUTHO AND SILIMELA SUBSTATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF BORUTHO-SILIMELA 150KM 400KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WITHIN THE CAPRICORN, SEKHUKHUNE AND WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, LIMPOPO 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 fourteen (14) 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 stipulate 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



Batho pele- putting people first



The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

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December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes 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@dff.gov.za

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
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@dff.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Dr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: *13/11/2024*

cc	Madinare Mukhuba	NTC Group (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011 462 2022 Cell: 072 721 4835/ 072 738 3836	Email: projects@ntcgroup.co.za ebogo@ntcgroup.co.za
	Mr Rhulani Mthombeni	Limpopo (LEDET)	Tel: 015 293 8300	Email: mthombeniRV@ledet.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

Construction of Highveld North-West and Lowveld Strengthening Project: Extension of existing Borutho and Silimela Substations and development of Borutho-Silimela 150km 400kV powerline and associated infrastructure, within the Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mogalakwena, Modimolle-Mookgopong and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities in Limpopo Province

Greater Sekhukhune, Capricorn, and Waterberg District Municipalities

Application Register Number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2979
Applicant:	<i>National Transmission Company of South Africa</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Within Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mogalakwena, Modimolle-Mookgopong and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities of Greater Sekhukhune, Capricorn, and Waterberg District Municipalities in Limpopo Province</i>

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 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 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

National Transmission Company of South Africa

with the following contact details –

Ms Madinare Mukhuba

National Transmission Company of South Africa

P.O. Box 1091

JOHANNESBURG

2000

Telephone Number: 011 516 7350

Cell phone Number: 082 469 1336

Email: mukhubdm@ntcsa.co.za

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, 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, where such development occurs</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; and</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>The proposed project will require the placement of linear infrastructure (i.e., power line) with a combined physical footprint of more than 100m².</p> <p>As the site consists of a number drainage lines and watercourses, the road and/or powerline will cross these watercourses or drainage lines or be within 32m thereof.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 19A:</u></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any materials 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 metres from</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse;</i></p>	<p>The topsoil used within the facility will be removed from the identified areas within the site. This includes areas identified within wetlands.</p> <p>The powerline traverses watercourses and will require infilling and depositing of materials of more than 10 cubic meters into/from watercourses.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 28:</u></p> <p><i>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;</i></p>	<p>The proposed powerline will transverse land used for agricultural purposes. The powerline and its associated infrastructure are located outside an urban area and will cover an area over one hector or more.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 30:</u></p> <p><i>Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</i></p>	<p>The proposed 400kV power line will transverse the Witvinger Nature Reserve, Palmer Nature Reserve and the Potgietersrus Nature Reserves which triggers the requirement to request for permission for the power line to be located within the nature Reserve. NB! LEDET indicated that the powerline</p>

	route will pass through Protected Areas. In light of the above, an EMPr must outline mitigation measures as will be required by the management authorities of the Protected Area.
<p>Listing Notice 2, Activity 9:</p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 Kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex.</i></p>	<p>The proposed project entails the development of a 400kV powerline and associated infrastructure outside the urban area or industrial complex. It should be noted that this project triggers Basic Assessment process since the project is in an Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Corridor.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3, Activity 4:</p> <p><i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres—</i></p> <p><i>e. Limpopo</i></p> <p><i>(i) Outside urban area.</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding disturbed areas,</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical Biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p>	<p>The proposed Borutho - Silimela 400kV line is about 150km in length, thus will comprise of approximately 400 towers. The access routes are required to access all tower positions for the purpose of construction as well as operation and maintenance. Multiple access routes will be required to access the tower positions, and the priority will be to utilise existing roads infrastructure in the area (national, provincial, regional, private owners' roads, etc.) to access various tower positions. In instances where there is no existing network of access roads leading to tower positions, new access roads of approximately 4m wide will be created as a last resort.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3, Activity 12:</p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation in the</i></p> <p><i>(e) Limpopo Province</i></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>In some areas, development of infrastructure will require the clearance of more than 300m² of indigenous vegetation. The project site is located within the Limpopo Province. The access roads and proposed powerline will be developed within critical biodiversity areas as defined in the Limpopo Conservation Plan V2 Technical Report (refer to Appendix 15 of this application Form).</p>

ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;	
<p>Listing Notice 3, Activity 14:</p> <p>The development of—</p> <p>(ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more.</p> <p>Where such development occurs-</p> <p>(a) Within a watercourse,</p> <p>(c) If no development setback has been adopted within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse,</p> <p>e. Limpopo</p> <p>(i) Outside urban area.</p> <p>(aa) a Protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</p> <p>(ff) Critical Biodiversity Areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>The proposed power line will span over a physical footprint of more than 10 square metres and will also span across watercourses. The proposed power line transverses the Witvinger Nature Reserve, Palmer Nature Reserve and the Potgietersrus Nature Reserves. These Nature Reserves have been identified as protected areas in terms of NEMPAA. The power line will also transverse Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA).</p>

as described in the final BAR dated September 2024:

Surveyor General (SG) 21 Digit Codes

PROPERTIES	SGIDS
Portion 0 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR	T0LR00000000086100000
Portion 7 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR	T0LR00000000086100007
Portion 8 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR	T0LR00000000086100008
Portion 9 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR	T0LR00000000086100009
Portion 10 of Farm Gillimberg 861 LR	T0LR00000000086100010
Portion 3 of Farm Uitloop 3 KS	T0KS00000000000300021
Portion 3 of Farm Uitloop 3 KS	T0KS00000000000300039
Portion 33 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS000000000004400033
Portion 35 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS000000000004400035
Portion 36 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS000000000004400036
Portion 39 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS000000000004400039
Portion 40 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS000000000004400040
Portion 44 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS000000000004400044
Portion 43 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS000000000004400043
Portion 80 of Farm Piet Potgietersrust Town and Townlands 4 KS	T0KS000000000004400080
Portion 6 Farm Oorlogsfontein 45 KS	T0KS000000000004500006
Portion 88 Farm Oorlogsfontein 45 KS	T0KS000000000004500088
Portion 89 Farm Oorlogsfontein 45 KS	T0KS000000000004500089
Portion 94 Farm Oorlogsfontein 45 KS	T0KS000000000004500094

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Portion 96 Farm Oorlogsfontein 45 KS	T0KS00000000004500096
Portion 152 Farm Oorlogsfontein 45 KS	T0KS00000000004500152
Portion 0 of Farm Rooipoort 46 KS	T0KS00000000004600000
Portion 1 of Farm Rooipoort 46 KS	T0KS00000000004600001
Portion 5 of Farm Rooipoort 46 KS	T0KS00000000004600005
Portion 9 of Farm Rooipoort 46 KS	T0KS00000000004600009
Portion 19 of Farm Rooipoort 46 KS	T0KS00000000004600019
Portion 20 of Farm Rooipoort 46 KS	T0KS00000000004600020
Portion 0 Farm 1046 KS	T0KR000000000033300000
Portion 1 Farm 1046 KS	T0KR000000000033300001
Portion 2 Farm 1046 KS	T0KR000000000033300002
Portion 4 Farm 1046 KS	T0KR000000000033300004
Portion 7 Farm 1046 KS	T0KR000000000033300007
Portion 0 Farm Platdoorns 333 KR	T0KR000000000033300000
Portion 1 Farm Hartebeestfontein 355 KR	T0KR000000000054300001
Portion 2 Farm Hartebeestfontein 355 KR	T0KR000000000054300002
Portion 4 Farm Hartebeestfontein 355 KR	T0KR000000000054300004
Portion 0 Farm Derdekraalpoort 543 KR	T0KR000000000054300000
Portion 0 Farm Klaver Valley 542 KR	T0KR000000000054200000
Portion 0 Farm Vlaklaagte 544 KR	T0KR000000000054400000
Portion 1 Farm Vlaklaagte 544 KR	T0KR000000000054400001
Portion 2 Farm Vlaklaagte 544 KR	T0KR000000000054400002
Portion 1 Farm Geluksfontein 547 KR	T0KR000000000054700001
Portion 11 Farm Geluksfontein 547 KR	T0KR000000000054700011
Portion 4 Farm De Hoop 617 KS	T0KS000000000061700004
Portion 0 Farm Klipgat 618 KS	T0KS000000000061800000
Portion 3 Farm Klipgat 618 KS	T0KS000000000061800003
Portion 0 Farm Hendriksrust 621 KS	T0KS000000000062100000
Portion 0 Farm Conterberg 665 KS	T0KS000000000066500000
Portion 7 Farm Conterberg 665 KS	T0KS000000000066500007
Portion 9 Farm Conterberg 665 KS	T0KS000000000066500009
Portion 18 Farm Conterberg 665 KS	T0KS000000000066500018
Portion 23 Farm Conterberg 665 KS	T0KS000000000066500023
Portion 0 Farm Weltevrede 670 KS	T0KS000000000067000000
Portion 2 Farm Doornpan 694 KS	T0KS000000000069400002
Portion 3 Farm Doornpan 694 KS	T0KS000000000069400003
Portion 0 Farm Onverwacht 698 KS	T0KS000000000069800000
Portion 0 Farm 996 KS	T0KS000000000099600000
Portion 5 Farm Haringbult 699 KS	T0KS000000000069900005
Portion 6 Farm Haringbult 699 KS	T0KS000000000069900006
Portion 0 Farm Dronkfontein 724 KS	T0KS000000000072400000
Portion 1 Farm Dronkfontein 724 KS	T0KS000000000072400001
Portion 4 Farm Claremont 734 KS	T0KS000000000073400004
Portion 5 Farm Claremont 734 KS	T0KS000000000073400005
Portion 7 Farm Claremont 734 KS	T0KS000000000073400007
Portion 8 Farm Claremont 734 KS	T0KS000000000073400008
Portion 0 Farm Rhenosterfontein 731	T0KS000000000073100000
Portion 1 Farm Mapochsgronde 733	T0JS000000000073300001
Portion 2 Farm Mapochsgronde 733	T0JS000000000073300002
Portion 0 Farm Gruysbank 5 JS	T0JS00000000000500000
Portion 191 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200191

Portion 206 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200206
Portion 281 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200281
Portion 282 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200282
Portion 351 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200351
Portion 630 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200630
Portion 638 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200638
Portion 640 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200640
Portion 642 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200642
Portion 643 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200643
Portion 686 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200686
Portion 782 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200782
Portion 783 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200783
Portion 784 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200784
Portion 785 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200785
Portion 786 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200786
Portion 787 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200787
Portion 788 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200795
Portion 795 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001200975
Portion 1050 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001201050
Portion 1107 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001201107
Portion 1083 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001201083
Portion 1085 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001201085
Portion 1208 Farm Loskop Noord 12 JS	T0JS00000000001201208
Portion 04 Farm Kleinklipput 11 JS	T0JS00000000001100004
Portion 05 Farm Kleinklipput 11 JS	T0JS00000000001100005
Portion 0 of Farm Doelen 327 KR	T0KR000000000032700000
Portion 8 of Farm Blinkwater 331 KR	T0KR000000000033100008
Portion 2 Farm Gegund 332 KR	T0KR000000000033200002
Portion 4 Farm Gegund 332 KR	T0KR000000000033200004

Point	Latitude	Longitude
Powerline Co-ordinates:		
Start Point 1	23°54'11.44"S	28°58'38.38"E
Middle Point 2	24°31'21.87"S	28°57'43.26"E
End Point 3	25°05'09.01"S	29°17'52.40"E
Laydown area: Borutho Substation		
Point A	28° 58' 28.86" S	23° 54' 6.18" E
Point B	28° 58' 29.16" S	23° 54' 6.24" E
Point C	28° 58' 28.92" S	23° 54' 7.44" E
Point D	28° 58' 28.50" S	23° 54' 7.32" E
Point E	28° 58' 28.86" S	23° 54' 6.78" E
Laydown area: Silimela Substation		
Point A	29° 17' 51.66"S	25° 5' 13.62" E
Point B	29° 17' 56.46" S	25° 5' 11.52" E
Point C	29° 17' 54.60" S	25° 5' 12.66" E
Point D	29° 17' 52.08"S	25° 5' 14.64" E
Point E	29° 17' 54.36" S	25° 5' 13.08" E

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Borutho Substation corner co-ordinates		
A	23°54'1.56"S	28°58'29.57"E
B	23°54'10.55"S	28°58'27.00"E
C	23°54'13.39"S	28°58'41.51"E
E	23°54'4.61"S	28°58'43.60"E
Silimela Substation corner co-ordinates		
A	25° 5'8.00"S	25° 5'8.00"E
B	25° 5'16.95"S	29°17'48.88"E
C	25° 5'13.14"S	29°17'58.29"E
D	25° 5'4.24"S	29°17'53.56"E

Project Description:

National Transmission Company of South Africa NTCSA is proposing to construct the Borutho-Silimela 400kV powerline which is approximately 150 kilometres in length and its associated infrastructure. The proposed powerline is located between the existing Borutho Substation on farm Gillimberg 861 in Mokopane and runs south to the existing Silimela Substation on farm Loskop Noord 12, near Marble Hall within the Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mogalakwena, Modimolle- Mookgophong and Ephriam Mogale Local Municipalities, Limpopo Province.

The scope of work entails:

- ✓ Equip 1 x 400kV feeder bay at Borutho Substation for Silimela Line 1.
- ✓ Equip 1 x 400kV feeder bay at Silimela Substation for Borutho Line 1.
- ✓ Build approximately 150km 400kV line from Borutho Substation to Silimela Substation, with associated extensions at the terminal substations. There will be no expansion of the existing terrace or substation boundaries.
- ✓ The powerline study route/area is 250m wide and the servitude within the route will not be more than 90m wide.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred alternative for the Highveld North-West and Lowveld Strengthening Project: equipping of the existing Borutho and Silimela substations and development of Borutho-Silimela 150km 400kV powerline and associated infrastructure, within the Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mogalakwena, Modimolle-Mookgopong and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities in Limpopo Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table 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 conducted 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 affected. 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 commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made 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 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

12. The layout plan/ maps (for the powerline corridor is 250m wide and the servitude within the corridor will not be more than 90m wide) attached as Appendix B submitted as part of the final BAR dated September 2024 is hereby not approved. A copy of the final development layout map must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties 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. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - 12.1 The negotiated route for the proposed development (400kV powerline).
 - 12.2 Position of all infrastructure e.g., the 400kV powerline, substation, electrical distribution infrastructure as included in the application form.
 - 12.3 Permanent/ existing laydown area footprint.
 - 12.4 All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed).
 - 12.5 All existing infrastructure on the site.
 - 12.6 The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, ESAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected.
 - 12.7 Buffer areas of the above sensitive areas.

12.8 All “no-go” areas.

13. The Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the powerline, specifically Part C submitted as part of the final BAR is not approved. Part C of the respective EMPr must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site layout plan and micro-sitting and the provisions of this EA. Part C of the generic EMPr must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of the EA must consider such comments. Once amended, the generic EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval of Part C prior to commencement of the activity. Part C of the generic EMPr must be amended to include the following:
 - The final micro-sited and pegged powerline route layout plan must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
 - The recommendations by the Nature Reserves management authorities must be incorporated to Part C of the generic EMPr.
 - A site-specific rehabilitation plan.
 - An alien invasive plant (AIP) management plan.
 - A Fossil Chance Find Protocol.
14. Once Part C of the generic EMPr are approved, the generic EMPr 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 when approved.
15. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
16. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

17. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 24 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.
18. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
19. 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, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.

20. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated because 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.
21. 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

22. 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.
 - 22.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 22.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 22.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 22.4. 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

23. 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.
24. 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.

25. The frequency of auditing and of 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.
26. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit 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.
27. 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.
28. 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

29. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. The approved route must be demarcated, and construction must be limited within the development footprint.

33. No construction must take place within the wetlands or 100m GN704 Zone of Regulation. Additionally, the wetlands and 100m GN704 Zone of Regulation must be demarcated as a no-go area.
34. No stockpiles are to be permitted within the 100m GN704 Zone of Regulation.
35. Exposed soil and stockpiles must be protected from wind by covering with a suitable geotextile such as hessian sheeting and ensure no stockpiles are higher than 2m.
36. A site-specific rehabilitation plan, including an alien invasive plant ("AIP") management plan must be compiled and implemented. AIPs must be removed by hand and no machinery must be allowed in the wetlands.
37. Bird flight diverters must be placed from tower/pylon to tower/pylon instead of 60% placement along river crossings.
38. The contractor must install EMB BF-1 bird flight diverters along water crossings.
39. Implement mitigation controls during the construction and operational phase as specified in the mitigation requirements, monitor and report on their effectiveness.
40. Monitoring of implementation of mitigation controls along with reporting, must be undertaken at least quarterly throughout the construction phase, and bi-annually during the operational phase.
41. Monitoring must consist of a quarterly monitoring of the powerline area for evidence of collisions and electrocution risks.
42. Preserve as much of the natural habitat as possible during construction and operation to lessen the operational impacts and to reduce the irreversibility of impacts.
43. Effective restoration of the natural habitats that were intact before the development must be implemented and reported on after decommissioning.
44. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be used.
45. 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.
46. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use 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

47. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-

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- 47.1. at the site of the authorised activity,
 - 47.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 47.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
48. 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: 13/11/2024



Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and 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 application form received on 09 May 2024, the amended application form received with the final BAR dated September 2024.
- b) The information contained in the final BAR dated September 2024.
- c) The comments received from all interested and affected parties as included in the final BAR dated September 2024.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EMPr included in the final BAR dated September 2024.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final BAR.

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 proposed 400kV powerline project is part of the Waterberg Generation Integration and aims to cater for the full evacuation of power from Matimba and Medupi Power Stations.
- c) The final BAR dated September 2024 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final BAR dated September 2024 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 as amended for public involvement.

3. Findings

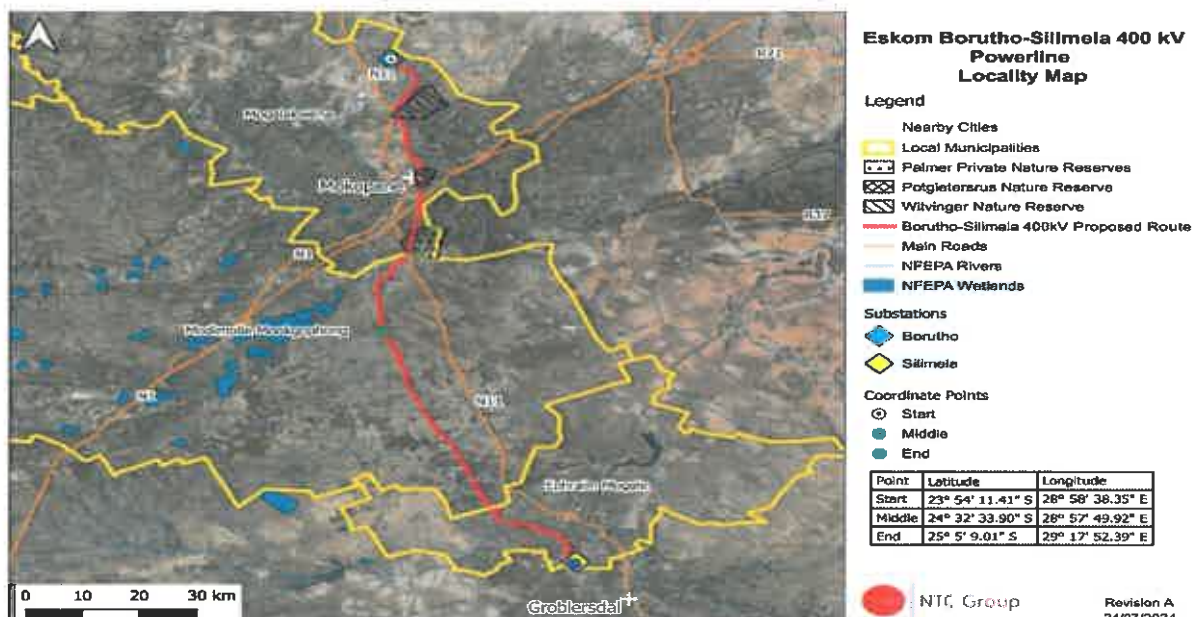
After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the final BAR dated September 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 proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.

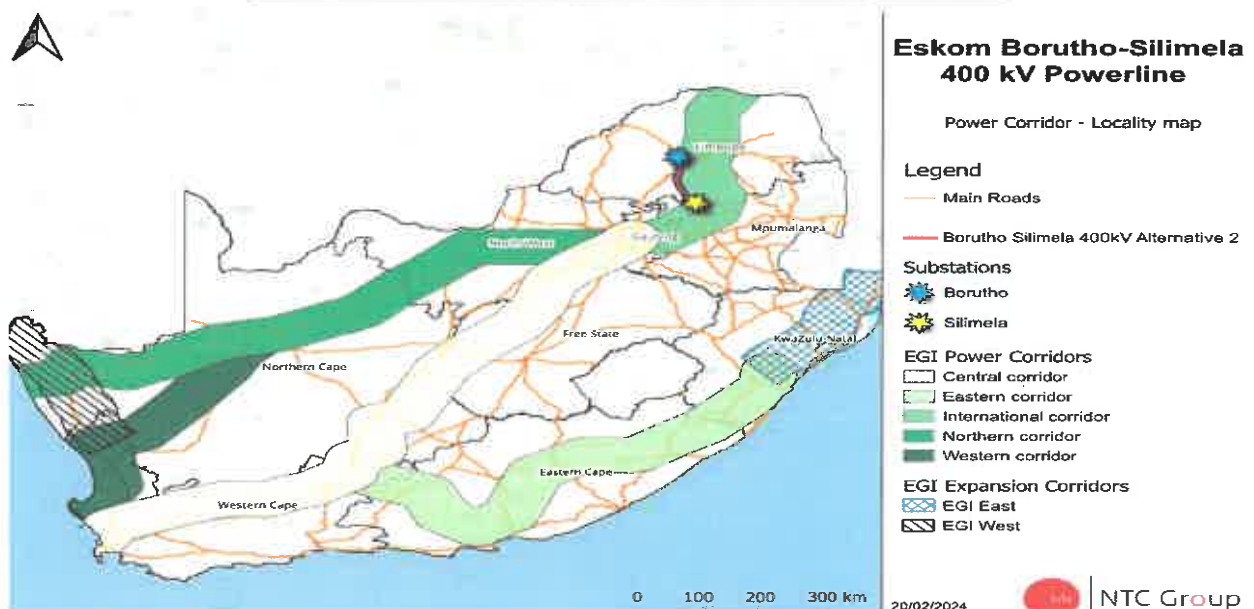
- d) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the final BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

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 A: Route of the powerline



Annexure B: Route of the powerline in the Strategic Corridor



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