



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1012

Enquiries: Ms Zamalanga Langa

Telephone: 012-399-9389 E-mail: Zlanga@environment.gov.za

Ms Martina Phiri
Eskom Holding SOC Ltd
P O Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Telephone Number: 011 800 3550
Email Address: phirim@eskom.co.za
PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Martina Phiri

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (NEMA), 1998: GN R. 982/983/985: THE PROPOSED AGGENIES-PAULPUTS 400KV TRANSMISSION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATIONS UPGRADE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant an environmental authorisation to you. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the National Environmental Management Act: the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of this EA, of the Department's 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, 2000 (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, 2013 (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 abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (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.

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

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 Street
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the NEMA, 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 any activity authorised in the EA 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: 23/05/2018

cc:	Ms Judity Fasheun	Mokgope Consulting	Email: judy@mokgope.co.za
	Ms Dineo Moleka	Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conversation	Email: d.moleko@ncpg.gov.za

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environmental affairs

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Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

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

The proposed Aggenies-Paulputs 400kV transmission Powerline and Substations upgrade, Northern
Cape Province

Namakwa District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/1012</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Eskom Holdings SOC Limited</i>
Location of activity:	<i>NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: Khai- Ma 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 as amendment.

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 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 Martina Phiri

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited

P. O. Box 1091

JOHANNESBURG

2000

Tel: (011) 800 3550

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to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, 2 and 3 (GN R. 983, 984 and 985), as amended:

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 14</u></p> <p>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80m³ or more but not exceeding 500m³.</p>	<p>Oil collection dams will be built to collect and store transformer oils in cases of spillages at Paulputs substation only. The transformer oil is used to cool the transformer windings.</p> <p>The oil collection dam will be built to accommodate a capacity of 120m³ of transformer oil.</p> <p>Therefore the capacity of the oil dam will exceed the threshold of 80m³ but less than 500m³.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 19</u></p> <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10m³ from a watercourse</p>	<p>During the construction phase, the construction vehicles will require to transport construction materials along the power line route alignment. Should there be no river crossings with causeways along the route, there will be removal or moving of soil, sand, pebbles or rock of more than 10m³ from a watercourse, to enable easy vehicle access.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 32</u></p> <p>The continuation of any development where the environmental authorisation has lapsed and where the continuation of the development, after the date the environmental authorisation has lapsed, will meet</p>	<p>This proposed development is a continuation of the previous "proposed construction of a 220kV transmission line from Aggeneis to Paulputs substations including the associated substation upgrades".</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>the threshold of any activity or activities listed in this Notice, Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or Listing Notice 3 of 2014.</p>	<p>The Environmental Authorisation was granted (date: 20 October 2011).</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 47</u> The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where the expanded capacity will exceed 275 kilovolts and the development footprint will increase.</p>	<p>Both the Aggeneis and Paulputs substations will require expansion of their capacity: which will be populated by the designated 2nd feeder bay; and with an addition of the 400/132kV Transformer to accommodate the proposed 400kV Power line. A 400kV power line has a bigger footprint and a wider servitude area than a 275kV power line. In particular, Paulputs substation footprint will be expanded by approximately 7.8ha on the south easterly side</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 48</u> The expansion of: (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100m² or more; or (ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100m² or more; where such expansion occurs: (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse</p>	<p>During the construction phase, the construction vehicles will require to transport construction materials along the power line route. Should there be river crossings along the route with causeways that are too small to accommodate the construction vehicles, then the existing causeway crossings will require expansion by more than 100m².</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Item 09</u> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275kilovolts or more, outside an urban</p>	<p>The proposed project involves the construction of a 400kV transmission power line, to be operated at 220kV until future need for it to be</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>area or industrial complex excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is:</p> <p>(a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure;</p> <p>(b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length;</p> <p>(c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and</p> <p>(d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.</p>	<p>operated at 400kV. The power line will connect from the Aggeneis substation (approximately 5km south west of a mining town of Aggeneys) to Paulputs substation (approximately 35km north east of Pofadder town) in the Northern Cape Province. The length of the Power line will be approximately 97km, depending on the final route alignment.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 04</u></p> <p>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</p> <p>(g) Northern Cape province:</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas, in:</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; and</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>During the operation phase of the power line, the access road within the negotiated servitude of approximately 55m will be a gravel road wider than 4m with a reserve less than 13,5m. Negotiations between the landowner, contractor and Eskom Transmission will be undertaken in order to determine the final access routes.</p> <p><u>Geographical Areas</u></p> <p>The power line corridors traverse CBAs (T1 and T2) as well as ESAs through-out its extent. Both the T1 (Critical Terrestrial Habitats) and T2 (Important Terrestrial Areas) were identified by experts as being important for biodiversity areas and include features such as quartz patches, as well as important fauna habitats (Eyssell, 2016).</p>

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Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 12</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>(g) In Northern Cape</p> <p>(ii) Within any critically biodiversity area identified bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The working areas for tower construction will range from approximately 64m² to 3 400m². The working area footprints that are more than 300m² will require vegetation clearance of 300m² or more, where the vegetation cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.</p> <p><u>Geographical Areas</u></p> <p>The powerline corridors traverse CBAs (T1 and T2) as well as ESAs through-out its extent. Both the T1 (Critical Terrestrial Habitats) and T2 (Important Terrestrial Areas) were identified by experts as being important for biodiversity areas and include features such as quartz patches, as well as important fauna habitats (Eyssell, 2016).</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 14</u></p> <p>The development of:</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10m² or more;</p> <p>Where such development occurs:</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse; and</p> <p>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</p> <p>-excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</p> <p>(g) In Northern Cape:</p>	<p>The footprint working area for each of the tower structures to be constructed will range from approximately 64m² to 3 400m², depending on the type of towers to be used at different points along the route alignment. The area footprints exceed the threshold of 10m². Some of the tower structures will be constructed within 32m of a watercourse.</p> <p>The proposed power line routes will overlap with numerous non perennial rivers and drainage lines. The watercourses that will be affected will be determined along the final chosen route alignment prior to construction phase of the project. Applications for water use licenses and</p>

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Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>ii. Outside urban areas, in (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; and (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>rehabilitation will be undertaken prior to the operational phase.</p> <p><u>Geographical Areas</u></p> <p>The power line corridors traverse CBAs (T1 and T2) as well as ESAs through-out its extent. Both the T1 (Critical Terrestrial Habitats) and T2 (Important Terrestrial Areas) were identified by experts as being important for biodiversity areas and include features such as quartz patches, as well as important fauna habitats (Eyssell, 2016). The majority of the southern extent (heading towards Aggeneis substation) of all three proposed powerline corridors will traverse the Kamiesberg Bushmanland Augrabies Focus Area. This focus area represents the largest remaining natural area for the expansion of the protected area network and forms part of the planned Lower Orange River Trans-frontier conservation area (Eyssell, 2016).</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 18</u></p> <p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre. (g) Northern Cape province: ii. Outside urban areas, in: (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; and (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The proposed Corridor 1 from Aggeneis to Paulputs follows the existing 220kV Powerline which already has an existing access road. If Corridor 1 becomes the chosen route for the construction of the proposed 400kV power line, the existing road will require widening by 4m.</p> <p><u>Geographical Areas</u></p> <p>The power line corridors traverse CBAs (T1 and T2) as well as ESAs through-out its extent. Both the T1 (Critical Terrestrial Habitats) and T2</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
	<p>(Important Terrestrial Areas) were identified by experts as being important for biodiversity areas and include features such as quartz patches, as well as important fauna habitats (Eyssell, 2016). The majority of the southern extent (heading towards Aggeneis substation) of all three proposed powerline corridors will traverse the Kamiesberg Bushmanland Augrabies Focus Area. This focus area represents the largest remaining natural area for the expansion of the protected area network and forms part of the planned Lower Orange River Trans frontier conservation area (Eyssell, 2016).</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report dated February 2018 at:

Paulputs Substation Upgrade	Latitude	Longitude
Point A	28° 52' 39.3"S	19° 33' 56.1"E
Point B	28° 52' 41.0"S	19° 33' 56.7"E
Point C	28° 52' 47.6"S	19° 33' 54.9"E
Point D	28° 52' 38.2"S	19° 33' 50.5"E
Point E	28° 52' 46.3"S	19° 33' 48.9"E

Aggeneis Substation Upgrade	Latitude	Longitude
Point A	29° 17' 36.5"S	18° 48' 04.3"E
Point B	29° 17' 43.2"S	18° 48' 23.8"E
Point C	29° 18' 00.1"S	18° 48' 16.2"E
Point D	29° 17' 50.1"S	18° 47' 58.1"E
Point E	29° 17' 54.8"S	18° 48' 00.2"E

Preferred Corridor 1	Latitude	Longitude
Start point -Aggeneis	26° 17' 51.4"S	18° 48' 17.4"E
Middle	29° 8' 9.477"S	19° 14' 13.806"E
End point - Paulputs	28° 52' 42.4"S	19° 33' 53.4"E

SG Codes

C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	6	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	5	9	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	5	7	0	0	0	1	5
C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	6	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	4
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	2
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	3
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	5

- for the construction of the Aggeneis- Paulputs transmission power line and the upgrade of the Aggeneis and Paulputs Substations of the Khai-Ma Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The proposed development will entail the following:

- I. A 400kV Aggeneis-Paulputs overhead transmission line with the length of 94km with a 2km wide corridor ;
- II. Upgrade at Aggeneis substation:
 - Aggeneis is an existing substation with a footprint of approximately 11.6ha (Figure 2);
 - The substation will require future footprint extensions; and
 - he substation will be populated by the designated 2nd feeder bay on the 400kV side
- III. Upgrade at Paulputs substation:
 - Paulputs is an existing substation with a current footprint of approximately 3ha (Figure 3);
 - The substation will be expanded by approximately 7.8ha on the south easterly side of the proposed 400kV terrace;
 - The Paulputs substation will be populated by the designated 2nd feeder bay on the 220kV side; and
 - There will be an addition of a 500MVA 400/132kV transformer, which will require an oil collection dam for storage of the transformer oil.
- IV. Access roads

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The Alternative Corridor 1 for the construction of the Aggeneis- Paulputs transmission power line and the upgrade of the Aggeneis and Paulputs Substations of the Khai-Ma Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited 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 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, 1998 will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto.

In the instance where an appeal is lodged you must not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

12. The 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 recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr dated February 2018 must be incorporated as part of the EMPr. The EMPr must also include all recommendations and mitigation measures of specialist studies and also conditions of this decision. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

13. 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.
14. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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

18. 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.
- 18.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 18.2. 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.
- 18.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 18.4. 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

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.

23. 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.
24. 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

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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

28. The approved corridor 1 must be amended prior commencement to include recommendations of Vegetation Assessment, which requires that the section of this corridor where it passes through the Gamsberg prior reaching the Aggeneis substation, must be moved further to west or linked with alternative corridor 2 in order to avoid potential impacts on vegetation of concern.
29. The new alignment of alternative corridor 1 which is inclusive of the recommendation of vegetation specialist as indicated above, must be reviewed by all specialist commissioned for this project and

- specialist statements/conclusions must be submitted together with the final layout map for approval prior to the commencement of activities.
30. An ecological specialist, avifauna specialist, agricultural specialist, and wetland specialist must be commissioned to perform a final walkthrough of the site once the final route alignment and tower positions have been identified. The specialists must cover buffer identification, sensitive sites identification, no-go areas identification, fine scale mapping and site specific mitigation measures within the approved corridor.
 31. A pre-construction walkthrough survey is imperative and must be conducted between March and May, depending on rainfall. This must take place prior to commencement of activity to ensure that all protected, threatened and endemic species are marked to enable avoidance and/or rescue.
 32. No construction activities for the new line must take place within 1km of the Martial Eagle nest on the existing power line during breeding season if the nest is active. The exact timing of breeding season will need to be confirmed prior to construction, but is likely to be approximately March to September.
 33. All existing roads and storage sites must be used where possible.
 34. Towers must not be placed within 100m of red dunes and water sources (drinking troughs, wind mills, reservoirs). No vehicle or human traffic must be allowed through these areas and towers should be spaced to avoid these areas and accessed during construction from either side, not continuously along the servitude.
 35. As recommended by the Avifaunal specialist, a cross rope suspension tower structure must be used, since this will provide less perching and nesting substrate for large birds than a guyed-V or self-support structure.
 36. An avifaunal walk through must be conducted by specialist to determine whether the Martial Eagle nest is occupied and define the breeding season in that year, to identify any other nests of sensitive species, that may require management measures, identify any particularly sensitive habitats, including red dunes and surface water in the form of windmills/reservoirs/drainage lines; and also to provide final confirmation of the high risk sections of this power line.
 37. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
 38. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of indigenous, protected or endangered plant or animal species and a copy of such permit/s must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
 39. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.

40. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal.
41. 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 EMPr, 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 website.
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 authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 23/05/2018



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 EIAr dated February 2018;
- b) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the EIAr dated February 2018;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr dated February 2018 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Annexure M of the EIAr; and
- e) 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 that, in the Department's view, were of the most significance are set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project was well explained and the Department considered the need of the project.
- c) The EIAr dated February 2018 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr dated February 2018.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated February 2018 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 EIAR dated February 2018 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 February 2018 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAR 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.

