



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ms. Hellen S. Mlotshwa
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PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Mlotshwa

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 400kV POWER LINE OF APPROXIMATELY 250KM AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE BORUTHO SUBSTATION IN MOKOPANE TO THE NZHELELE SUB-STATION (BOKMAKIERIE), LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated August 2012 and received by the Department on 20 August 2012 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated August 2012 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 30(1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This includes but is not limited to the Limpopo Department of Environmental, Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Water Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Local Authorities.

Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof of the attempts that were made to obtain comments must be submitted to the Department.

Please be advised that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report must be made available to the public and all State Departments that administer laws relating to a matter affecting the environment for comment for a period of **40 days**. The applicant/EAP is required to inform this Department in writing

upon submission of the draft report to the relevant State Departments. Upon receipt of this confirmation, this Department will in accordance with Section 24O (2) & (3) of the NEMA (as amended) inform the relevant State Departments of the commencement date of the 40 day commenting period.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information must be included in the EIAR:

a) Listed Activities

While the application form lists the following listed activities as being triggered by the proposed development GN. No. R. 544: Activities 10, 11, 22, 24, 26, 38 and 47, GN No. R. 545: Activity 8 and GN No. R. 546: Activities 4, 12 and 19, it is not clear **how** the proposed development triggers the abovementioned listed activities. Detailed information regarding how the listed activities being applied for are triggered by the proposed development must be provided. In addition, the Department identified inconsistency regarding listed activity 26 of GN. No. R 544 of 18 June 2010. As such, you are advised to **correctly list the applicable listed activities** as indicated in the government notices. An amended application form must be submitted together with the EIAR.

b) Activity Description

The description of the proposed activity is inadequate as it does not describe the full extent of the proposed development including associated infrastructure in relation to the activities applied for in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2010. You are required to provide a detailed description of the proposed development and its associated infrastructure, for example, the specific locality, footprint, capacity, size etc. of the proposed substation, access roads and the oil dam and how these relate to the activities applied for must be provided.

c) Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.

d) Possible impacts and effects of the development on all aspects indicated in the FSR must be indicated, *inter-alia*;

- Land capability impacts assessment;
- Water impact assessment;
- Visual impact assessment;
- Tourism impact assessment;
- Noise impact assessment;
- Ecological impact assessment (i.e. both fauna and flora);
- Heritage impact assessment;
- Air quality impact assessment; and
- Socio-economic impact assessment.

e) The specialist assessments must clearly show how assessment on the alternatives identified informed the outcome of the EIA process.

f) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the surrounding industrial and residential areas must be assessed in the EIA phase.

g) A construction and operational phase EMP to include mitigation and monitoring measures.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and Regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in Regulation 56(3a-3h).

Please ensure that the Final EIAR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIAR illustrate the different proposed alignments and above ground storage of fuel. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

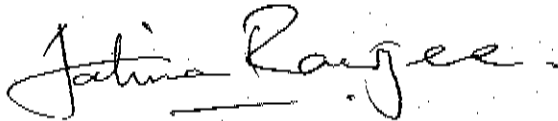
- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit three (3) copies of the EIAR to the Department as per Regulation 34(1) (b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010. Please submit at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final EIAR with the hard copy documents.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Mark Gordon
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Signed by: Ms. Fatima Rawjee
Designation: Acting Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Date: 28/10/2012

Copied to: Ms. Mmamoloko Seabe (Eskom Holdings SOC Limited) Fax (011) 800 3917
Mr. Ngoasheng (Limpopo Province Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) Fax (015) 295 5015