



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1025

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Ms Diane Erasmus
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PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Erasmus

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOTSWANA - SOUTH AFRICA TRANSMISSION INTERCONNECTION PROJECT, BETWEEN MAFIKENG AND GABORONE, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Scoping Report (SR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated September 2017 and received by this Department on 15 September 2017 refers.

This Department has evaluated the submitted SR and the PoSEIA dated September 2017 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. The SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22 (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

You may proceed with the Environmental Impact Assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA and the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the draft SR and submitted as part of the final SR must be taken into consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR) in respect of the proposed development. Please ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations in the specialist studies are addressed and included in the final EIAR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the provincial Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transport, the Local and District Municipalities, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), BirdLife SA, and the Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.

You are also required to address all issues raised by Organs of State and I&APs, prior to the submission of the EIAR to the Department.

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

The EAP must, in order to give effect to Regulation 8, give registered I&APs access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report in writing within 30 days before submitting the final EIA to the Department.

In addition, the following additional information is required for the EIA:

- i. It must be made clear within the project description section of the EIA, whether the Watershed B substation is included in this application or within a separate application. If the substation has been applied for separately, please provide the details and status of that application (how far that process is) and also indicate whether the end point of the preferred alternative routes align with the exact location of the proposed Watershed B Substation and the extent to which that connection point has been assessed within the current application.
- ii. Proof of the placement of site notices must be included in the EIA
- iii. The date of the EIA must be written on the cover of the EIA.
- iv. Please ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice activities are applied for, that the Listing Notice activities applied for are specific and that they can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description. The listed activities table must be included in the EIA and must provide a description of the project activity that triggers the applicable listed activities.
- v. The listed activities included in the EIA and the application form must be the same and correct. Please note that Listed Activity 11 of GN R. 983 is not applicable, and must be removed from the listed activity table, since the capacity of the power line exceeds the threshold of 275 kV. Activity 4 of GN R. 985 must also be corrected to Activity 10 of GN R. 985.
- vi. Further, please note that on 7 April 2017, the Minister of Environmental Affairs made amendments to the EIA Regulations, 2014, published under Government Notice ("GN") No. R. 982 of 4 December 2014, in terms of sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA"). The amendments to EIA Regulations, 2014 and its listing notices came into effect on 7 April 2017. Please be advised that only the applicable similarly listed activities in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be included in the EIR and application form.
- vii. The EIA must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- viii. The EIA must provide the coordinates from the start, middle and end point of the proposed transmission line.
- ix. The EIA must also include a comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 2 (1) (h) (iii) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.
- x. The EIA must include the details of the PPP that was undertaken in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations.
- xi. The Terms of Reference for the following specialist studies are accepted to be assessed in the assessment phase:
 - Avifaunal Assessment;
 - Aquatic and Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment;
 - Heritage Impact Assessment;
 - Visual impact assessment;
 - Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Livelihoods Restoration Plan (LRP); and
 - Climate Change Assessment.
- xii. The EIA must adhere to all the comments issued by this Department in the Draft SR dated August 2017.
- xiii. The EIA must include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to (i) the correctness of the information provided in the reports; (ii) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs; (iii) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and (iv) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested or affected parties, as per 3(1)(s) of Appendix 3.

- xiv. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the EIAR must include the following:
- All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
 - An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmentally sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
 - An avifauna monitoring and management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. This plan must be drafted by a suitably qualified avifauna specialist.
 - An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
 - Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and Regulations 43 and 44 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 43(1).


Furthermore, 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. Comments from SAHRA and/or the provincial department of heritage must be provided in the EIAR.

You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD) and one (1) hard copy of the EIAR to the Department as per Regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

Please note that the reference number has changed from **14/12/16/3/3/2/1020** to **14/12/16/3/3/2/1025**. You are requested to use this new reference number for further correspondence regarding this project.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, which stipulates that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Letter Signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo
Designation: Deputy Director: IEA: National and Public Sector
Date: 30/10/2017

cc:	Mr D Tunnicliff	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited	Email: tunnicDA@eskom.co.za
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