



## LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS  
CK 97/08197/23 VAT Regd 4900171176

Date: 14 May 2016  
NEAS Ref Nr: DEA/EIA/0000133/2015  
DEA Ref Nr: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1480

### To whom it may concern

### ESKOM MIER SUBSTATION PROJECT, RIETFONTEIN BORDER POST, MIER, NORTHERN CAPE: NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) approved the construction of the proposed Eskom Mier Substation Project and an Environmental Authorisation (EA) was issued on 12 May 2016. A copy of the EA can be faxed / emailed on request.

### The DEA authorised Eskom Holdings SOC Limited to undertake the following activities:

GN R983, Items 11, 12, 19, 24 (Listing Notice 1)

### Authorisation was granted, with certain conditions, for the execution of the following development

“For the construction of a new 2 x 2.5 MVA substation and an approximately 120m, 66kV power line to connect from the metering point to the new substation and an approximately 55m, 33kV power line to connect to the existing 33kV line, Rietfontein Border, Mier Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province...”

### The reasons for the decision were:

#### 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 Final BAR dated January 2016 and received by the Department on 21 January 2016;
- b) The comments received from Northern Cape Department of Water & Sanitation, Landscape Dynamics and interested and affected parties as included in the Final BAR dated January 2016 and the EMPr;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated January 2016 and the EMPr;
- d) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

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## 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 which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the Basic Assessment conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project stems from Eskom's need to meet the current demand and make provision for future demand by increasing the capacity of the distribution line which extends from the Namibian Border to Rietfontein.
- c) The Final BAR dated January 2016 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the Final BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts were identified in the Final BAR dated January 2016 and 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 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 BAR January 2016 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 Final BAR dated January 2016 is accurate and credible.
- e) The EMPr proposed mitigation measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR. The EMPr will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction process."

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the proposed activity 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 proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted."

### **Validity period of the EA**

The EA is valid for a period of five years from the date of issue of this authorisation and shall lapse if the activity does not commence within this period.

### **Right to appeal against the DEA's decision**

Should any person, or an interested and affected party, decide to appeal, they must do so in terms of Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R993, the *National Appeal Regulations*, which prescribes the appeal procedure.

An appellant must submit an 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 interest and affected parties by the applicant.

The last day for appeal is 3 June 2016.

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of attention to appeal on all registered, interested and affected parties, as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection, should you intend to submit an appeal.

**Notes**

An appeal must be submitted in writing:

By post: The Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Street  
Arcadia  
Pretoria  
0083

For Attention: Mr Z Hassam  
Director: Appeals and Legal Review

Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:  
Tel: 012 399 9356  
Email: [AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za](mailto:AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za)

For guidance on appeals submitted to the Minister in terms of NEMA and the SEMAs, a copy of the guideline on the administration of appeals can be found on the Department's website:

[https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations)

A copy of this Environmental Authorisation must be included with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

We trust you find this in order, but please contact us should more information be required.

**Kind regards**



**Susanna Nel**

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