



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NEAS Reference: DEAEIA/0001293/2012

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/613

Enquiries: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo

Telephone: 012-395-1856 Fax: 012-320-7539 E-mail: Sdlomo@environment.gov.za

Dr Barbara Van Geems
Eskom Holdings SOC (Pty) Limited
P.O. Box 222
BRACKENFELL
7561

Fax no: 021-980-3053

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Dr Van Geems

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543/544/546 FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A 132KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE FROM THE EXISTING OUTENIQUA SUBSTATION TO THE EXISTING OUDTSHOORN SUBSTATION, EDEN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE.

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 10(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 12 (twelve) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 7 of the Regulations, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached document. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should the applicant or any other party wish to appeal any aspect of the decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged by all prospective appellants with the Minister, within 20 days of the date of the EA, by means of one of the following methods:

- By facsimile: (012) 320 7561;
- By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria, 0001; or
- By hand: 2nd Floor, Fedsure Building, North Tower,
Cnr. Lillian Ngoyi (Van der Walt) and Pretorius Streets,
Pretoria.

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of intention 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.

Please include the Department (*Attention: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations*) in the list of interested and affected parties, notified through your notification letter to interested and affected parties, for record purposes.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

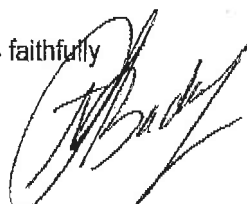
Mr Z Hassam Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 310 3271

Email: AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za

The authorised activities shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation. Further, please note that the Minister may, on receipt of appeals against the authorisation or conditions thereof suspend the authorisation pending the outcome of the appeals procedure.

Yours faithfully



Mr Ishaam Abader

Deputy Director-General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 31/10/13

CC:	Ms J. Barnard	SIVEST SA (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 021-852-2988	Fax: 021-852-2660
	Mr. Mohamed	DEADP	Tel: 021-483-4793	Fax: 021-483-3633
	Municipal Manager	Oudtshoorn Municipality	Tel: 044-203-3005	Fax: 044-203-3042
	Mr S Malaza	Compliance Monitoring (DEA)	Tel: 012-310-3397	Fax: 012-320-5744

APPEALS PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2010 (THE REGULATIONS) AS PER GN R. 543 OF 2010 TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE APPLICANT AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA)

APPLICANT	INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)
1. Receive EA from the relevant Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA]).	1. Receive EA from Applicant/Consultant.
2. Within 12 days of date of the EA notify all IAPs of the EA and draw their attention to their right to appeal against the EA in terms of Chapter 7 of the Regulations.	2. N/A.
3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).	3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA. with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).
4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide each registered IAP with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.	4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide the applicant with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.
5. The Applicant must also serve on each IAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection. 	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.
6. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.	6. The appeal must be submitted to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.
7. Any IAP who received a notice of intention to appeal may submit a responding statement to that appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.	7. An Applicant who received notice of intention to may submit a responding statement to the appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.

NOTES:

1. **An appeal against a decision must be lodged with:-**
 - a) the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs if the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
 - b) the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development if the applicant is the Department of Water Affairs and the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
2. **An appeal lodged with:-**
 - a) the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
 - b) the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
3. **An appeal must be:-**
 - a) submitted in writing;
 - b) accompanied by:
 - a statement setting out the grounds of appeal;
 - supporting documentation which is referred to in the appeal; and
 - a statement that the appellant has complied with regulation 62 (2) or (3) together with copies of the notices referred to in regulation 62.



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 36 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010

Proposed installation of a 132kV overhead power line from the existing Outeniqua Substation to the existing Oudtshoorn Substation within the Oudtshoorn Municipality of the Eden District Municipality, Western Cape Province

Eden District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/613
NEAS reference number:	DEA/EIA/0001293/2013
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC (PTY) LTD
Location of activity:	WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE: <i>Within Oudtshoorn Municipality</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 authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

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 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 the Department hereby authorises –

ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC (PTY) LTD

with the following contact details –

Dr Barbara Van Geems
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
P.O. Box 222

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to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notices 1 & 3 (GN R. 544 & 546):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 10 (i)</u> <i>The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</i> <i>(i) outside urban areas with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</i></p>	<p>The construction of a 132 kV power line and associated infrastructure for the distribution of electricity.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 11 (xi):</u> <i>The construction of:</i> <i>(xi) infrastructure or structures covering 50m² or more</i> <i>where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</i></p>	<p>The power line and associated infrastructure may be constructed within 32m of a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 18 (i):</u> <i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from:</i> <i>(i) a watercourse</i></p>	<p>With the construction of the power line, infilling or depositing of material may be required within a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546 Item 12 (b):</u> <i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.</i> <i>(b) within CBA identified in bioregional plans</i></p>	<p>Two options for the routing of the power line have been provided. With each option it is likely that an area of 300m² or more of indigenous vegetation may have to be cleared.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546 Item 13 (a):</u> <i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetation cover constitutes indigenous vegetation</i> <i>(a) Critical biodiversity areas and ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority</i></p>	<p>Two options for the routing of the power line have been provided. With each option it is likely that an area of 1000m² or more of indigenous vegetation may be cleared.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>GN R. 546 Item 16 (iv) (d) (ii) (ff):</i></p> <p>The construction of: (iv) infrastructure covering 10 square meters or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</p> <p>(d) in the Western Cape (ii) outside urban areas (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>Power line structures could be located within 32m of the edge of watercourse outside an urban area and within CBA.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated July 2013 at:

Alternative S1: Alternative Route A	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	33° 45' 51.1 S	22° 21' 21.2 E
Middle point of activity	33° 39' 41.8 S	22° 19' 54.9 E
End point of activity	33° 36' 30.5 S	22° 13' 13.3 E

- for the proposed installation of a 132kV overhead power line from the existing Outeniqua Substation to the existing Oudtshoorn Substation within the Oudtshoorn Municipality of the Eden District Municipality, Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- The proposed new power line between the existing substations with a total length of 27km with a 40m servitude corridor;
- Preferred Alternative Route A will run in an existing servitude of a 400kV line for the first 8.8km of the proposed 27km power line;
- The structures to be used to support the overhead power line will either be steel monopole (preferred) or double-wood structures;
- The steel monopole or double-wood structures will be self-supporting, and will not require restrictive foundations or stay-wires, which will limit the footprint and impact of the structures;

- Where no access roads to the proposed route exist, new access roads or tracks will likely be created during the construction phase of the project with maintenance during the operational phase.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred route (Alternative Route A) with a 40m corridor and associated infrastructure as per the abovementioned geographic coordinates is approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this 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 may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this 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 authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. This activity must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue of this 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.
7. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
8. The holder of an environmental authorisation must notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.

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 12 (twelve) 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 Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. provide the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
11. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
 - 11.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
 - 11.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
 - 11.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in the newspaper(s) contemplated and used in terms of regulation 54(2)(c) and (d) and which newspaper was used for the placing of advertisements as part of the public participation process.

Management of the activity

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of 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 BAR dated July 2013 must be incorporated as part of the EMPr. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.

Monitoring

13. The applicant must appoint a suitably 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 authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
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- 13.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 13.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 13.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 13.4. 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

14. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department.
15. The holder of the authorisation must submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
16. The environmental audit report 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 EMPr.
17. 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.

Commencement of the activity

18. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
 19. An appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998 (as amended), does not suspend an environmental authorisation or exemption, or any provisions or conditions attached thereto, or any directive, unless the Minister, MEC or delegated organ of state directs otherwise.
 20. Should you be notified by the Minister of a suspension of the authorisation pending appeal procedures, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the Minister allows you to commence with such an activity in writing.
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Notification to authorities

21. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity will commence. 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. This notification period may coincide with the notice of intent to appeal period.

Operation of the activity

22. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity operational phase will commence.

Site closure and decommissioning

23. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall 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

24. The final pegging of the positions of the pylons must be done with the assistance of a qualified botanist to ensure that no pylons are placed in sensitive areas. The specialist must also perform a final walkthrough of the site once the final route alignment and tower positions have been identified.
25. All crossings over the drainage channels or stream beds after the construction phase should be rehabilitated such that the flow within the drainage channel is not impeded.
26. Maintenance of power line must only take place via the designated access routes and multiple crossings over streams and rivers should not be allowed.
27. Neither the monopoles nor the anchors should be constructed within the proposed buffer zones of 15m and 30m on either side of the affected rivers.
28. Disturbed stream bed and banks must be rehabilitated and vegetated with suitable indigenous vegetation.

29. Should new access tracks be required, these must be carefully planned in conjunction with the respective landowners to ensure that they are properly constructed and can also serve the needs of the local farmers.
 30. Monitoring of weedy species such as *Galeria Africana (Kraalbos)*, must take place after completion of construction activities and where necessary selective removal of these species to promote diverse re-vegetation rather than dominance of one or species.
 31. Extra care must be taken to ensure that no fire are started anywhere on site as such fires can spread into areas of flammable vegetation such as Blossoms Asbos Gwarrieveld.
 32. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water Affairs.
 33. The applicant must obtain a wayleave from the Department of Public Transport Roads and Works prior construction.
 34. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power lines cross avifaunal corridors, as recommended by the avifaunal specialist. The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged.
 35. A botanist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough of the alignment to identify sensitive plant species, and assist in identifying the areas that require protection.
 36. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of indigenous protected and endangered plant and animal species.
 37. Copies of all permits required for the proposed construction of the Outeniqua-Oudtshoorn 132kV power line installation must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
 38. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
 39. Liaison with land owners/farm managers is to be done prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan agricultural activities. If possible, construction should be scheduled to take place within the post-harvest, pre planting season, when fields are lying fallow.
 40. The applicant is required to inform the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and this Department should the removal of protected species, medicinal plants and "data deficient" plant species is required.
 41. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
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42. Construction must include appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
43. 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 shall be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).

General

44. A copy of this authorisation and the approved EMPr must be kept at the property where the activity will be undertaken. The authorisation and approved EMPr must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
45. The holder of the authorisation must notify both the *Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations* and the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty eight) hours, if any condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.
46. 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 applicant or his 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 applicant 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: 31 October 2013



Mr Ishaam Abader

Deputy Director-General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement
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 BAR dated July 2013;
- b) The comments received from the Western Cape Government: Agriculture, CapeNature: Land Use George, Western Cape Government: Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works, Department of Water Affairs, Heritage Western Cape, George Municipality and Eden District Municipality, organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated July 2013;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated July 2013 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR; and
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 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 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 construction of a 27km long, 132kV Power line between the existing Outeniqua and Oudtshoorn Substations is proposed to provide sufficient capacity and reliability for future electricity demand in the Oudtshoorn area. The proposed Power line will have a 40m servitude corridor. The preferred alternative route (Route A) will run in the existing servitude of the Outeniqua-Dysselsdorp 400kV line for the first 8.8km of the proposed 27km Power line.
- c) An existing servitude corridor that contains the 400kV Power line running from the existing Outeniqua substation to the Dysselsdorp substation will be used for the first 8.8km of the proposed 27km line of the preferred alternative Route A.

- d) The proposed Power line routes would traverse Little Karoo Critical Biodiversity Areas at various locations (refer to Specialist Botanical Report Appendix D). Most notably, an area of CBA is traversed by Route B from km 3.9 to km 9.9 of the 27km route. A small CBA is traversed approximately 2km south of Oudtshoorn, shortly before the existing Oudtshoorn substation.
- e) The remainder of the proposed Power line preferred alternative Route A would run in a valley, therefore decreasing the visual impact of the Power line. The use of an existing servitude as well as the location of the second part of the preferred alternative Route A in a valley, favour the land use proposed.
- f) The BAR dated July 2013 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated July 2013.
- g) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated July 2013 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- h) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2010 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 dated July 2013 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) Most of the 6 vegetation types identified are not botanically sensitive; however, they contribute importantly to the ecosystem of the Eastern Little Karoo.
- e) A comparison of the botanical data collected on the alternative transmission line routes together with the mapped CBA information and impact assessment shows Alternative 1, the preferred route, would be the most desirable route to follow.
- f) The type of construction envisaged for the transmission lines as described will not result in a significant cumulative loss of any particular habitat type or vegetation type. Cumulative losses are rated as low negative overall.

- g) The impact for both preferred route and alternative, in terms of aquatic ecosystem is similar and very low. The existing power line (along the preferred route) will minimise the additional impacts along this section of the proposed new power line route.
- h) The information contained in the BAR dated July 2013 is accurate and credible.
- i) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and 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.