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Department of Water Affairs Spectrum Building 52 Voortrekker Road Bellville 7530

Your reference: 16/2/7/J300/A/7

Our reference: 11032

Date: 11 July 2013

FOR ATTENTION: D. Jephtha (JephthaD@dwa.co.za)

Dear Mr. Jephtha

PROPOSED OUTENIQUA-OUDTSHOORN RE: **ESKOM** 132 kV **POWERLINE** INSTALLATION, OUDTSHOORN, EDEN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, DEA&DP REF NO. 16/3/1/6/6D7/9/0089/12

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 December 2012 on behalf of Department of Water Affairs.

We hereby respond to the comments raised, accordingly:

The Department noted that the proposed activities falls with the 1:100 floodline of the watercourses which constitutes a water uses in terms of section 21(c) and 21(i)of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998).

Noted. The preparations for a General Authorization application in terms of Section 21(c) and 21(i) are underway and will reach your Department in due course. Please refer to Appendix J for proof of a preliminary submission to your Department by Mr. Meyer de Villiers on 28 May 2013.

This Department concurs with the preferred route being Route A as the existing transmission structures will minimise the additional impacts on the watercourses.

Noted. Please refer to the EMP (Appendix G, Section 6.14) for a complete set of mitigation measures as recommended by the Freshwater specialist.

The Department is of the opinion that the construction of this powerline will not have a detrimental cumulative impact on the watercourses if ALL the mitigation measures as proposed by Ms T Belcher are implemented. This Department therefore considers the intended water use within the ambit of General Authorisatons dated 18 December 2009 as published in GN No. 32805. The Department can however only confirm the GA provided response to the following request and conditions:

- All mitigation measures as prescribed in the Freshwater Assessment are implemented
- Provide the Department with the geographical coordinates of all the pylons that fall within the watercourse.

Noted. Please refer to the EMP (Appendix G, Section 6.14) for a complete set of mitigation measures as recommended by the Freshwater specialist. The EMP is a contractually binding document for the Contractor, therefore all mitigation measures contained in the EMP must be observed during the construction and operational phase of this project.

Please note that at this stage of the powerline design process the surveying for individual tower positions has not been completed, therefore exact coordinates cannot be supplied at this time. However, bend points, which have been mapped accurately at this stage of the project, can be used to extrapolate tower positions, due to the linear nature of the powerline. Bend points for the preferred alternative route and the alternative route, including bend points within 32m of watercourses, can be found in Appendix J.





OCESA



The applicant must register the following water uses prior to commencement: Section 21(c) and (i) of the Act.

Noted. Please refer to the response above in terms of a General Authorization application for the proposed project.

Note: The FBAR and EMP are now available for comment from 11 July 2013 to 2 August 2013. Kindly forward any comments (with relevant reference number) directly to DEA as per contact details below:

Department of Environmental Affairs

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Yours sincerely

Ursina Rusch

Environmental Consultant

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