



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Maramba

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MAHIKENG MAIN TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION AND 1X400KV PLUTO-MAHIKENG POWERLINE WITHIN THE MERA FONG, DITSOBOTLA, RAMOTSHERE MOILAO, JB MARKS AND MAHIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTH WEST AND GAUTENG PROVINCES

The final Scoping Report (SR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated May 2018 and received by this Department on 03 May 2018 refer.

This Department has evaluated the final SR and the PoSEIA dated May 2018 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22 (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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, as amended.

In addition, the following additional information is required and must be incorporated in the EIAR:

- **Contact details of the Gauteng Provincial Department**

It has been noted that you have included the contact details of the official who does not review the EIA applications as a contact person. Please note that this will result in the relevant information or comments not being incorporated in the application, as the report will be forwarded to the section not responsible for the review of EIA. Therefore, you are requested to amend accordingly the details in the application form and ensure the EIA section is given an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed development.

- **Activities applied for**

Ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice, listed activities and sub-activities are applied for, that they are specific and can be linked to the development activity/ies or infrastructure in the project description.

Furthermore ensure that a detailed description is provided for this listed activity in the EIAR. The EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.

The listed activities in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and relevant to the proposed development.

- The Department has noted that you have applied for the activity, GN R. 327, Activity 12 which read as "The development of – (ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more", however, you have described the triggering activity as follows:

- *"The proposed project will involve construction of a Substation with a physical footprint of approximately 1km X 1km".*

Therefore, you are required to describe the substation footprint in terms of square metres and not in kilometres.

- The following activity, GN R. 327, Activity 24 (i) - the development of a road with a reserve wider than 13, 5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres has been applied for, however, the description does not provide details with regard to the size of the road in terms of road width. Therefore, you are requested to provide the size of the road in terms of its length and width.

- The Department has noted that you have applied for GN R. 324, Activity 12: "The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan" with the following description:

- *The construction of the proposed transmission line will involve the clearing of vegetation for the final preferred route and site.*

The Department needs clarity in terms of whether there won't be any clearance during the construction of the substation as proposed. It was further noted that the area also fall within a CBA. Therefore; if there will be any clearance during substation and power line, you need to amend your description to talk to such clearance.

The Department has further noted that activity GNR 324, Activity 12 was copied as it is from the regulations, and doesn't specify which activities and/or sub-activities are triggered by the proposed development. Please ensure that when you submit the draft EIAr you include only sub-actives that are linked to the proposed development and also ensure that an amended application form is submitted with the relevant activities triggered by the proposed development.

- **Project description and proposed alternatives**

It was noted that for the substation and corridor alternatives, three alternatives were investigated. However there is no indication of which one is the preferred alternative. Please ensure that a preferred alternative is indicated in the EIAr as well as the preference in terms of specialists.

Furthermore no detailed description was provided for the three substation alternatives investigated. Please provide a detailed description of any identified alternatives for each investigated substation sites separately. Also ensure that the proposed activity alternative sites are feasible and reasonable, and include the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per the requirement of the EIA Regulations, as amended.

- **Layout, regional and Locality as well as sensitivity Maps**

A copy of the final site layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible. The layout map must indicate the following:

- Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
- Buffer areas;
- All “no-go” areas.

A sensitivity layout plan overlaid by the sensitive features and the buffer zones i.e. wetland and also the existing structure in the vicinity of the proposed development must be submitted as part of the report for analysis of the effect of the proposed project on the environment. Please ensure all features are clearly indicated on the legend of the sensitivity layout plan.

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR 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.

- **Specialist studies**

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).

- **Public Participation Process (PPP)**

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.

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 EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should 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 EIAr to the Department. The EIAr must also include comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended and the PPP must be in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations.

- **Submission of Draft EIAr**

When submitting a draft EIAr ensures that you submit another copy to Department’s Biodiversity Planning Directorate.

- **General comments**

Please note that the Department will undertake a site inspection prior to or upon receipt of the draft EIAr for comment.

You are hereby reminded that should the EIA fail to comply with the requirements of this acceptance letter, the project will be **refused** in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 published under Government Notice R982 in Government Gazette No. 38282 dated 04 December 2014, as amended ('the EIA Regulations, 2014'), with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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, 1999 (Act No. 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, 1999.

You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD and one (1) hard copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIAr) to the Department.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, 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 Olivia Letlalo

Designation: Control Environmental officer: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 13/06/2018

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