



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0002710/2015

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1358

Enquiries: Ms Dakalo Netshiombo

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Ms Charmaine Mare
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
P.O. Box 36099
MENLO PARK
0102

Tel no: (012) 484 5141
Email: marecc@eskom.co.za

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Mare

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543, 544 AND 546: FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 132KV POWER LINE CONNECTING FROM THE EXISTING BIGTREE SUBSTATION IN THE NORTH TO THE NEWLY PROPOSED REFILWE SUBSTATION TO THE SOUTH CONNECTING TO THE EXISTING PELLY 132KV POWER LINE IN THE WEST WITHIN CITY OF TSHWANE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY IN GAUTENG PROVINCE AND WITHIN THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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 post: Private Bag X 447,
Pretoria, 0001; or

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By hand: Department of Environmental Affairs
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Acardia
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) 399 9356
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 in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 17/08/2025

CC:	Ms Umeshree Naicker	GIBB (Pvt) Ltd	Tel: 011 519 4701	unaicker@gibb.co.za
	Mr Khaka Khaka	Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD)	Tel: 011 240 3051	Khaka.Khaka@gauteng.gov.za
	Mr T Mphphu	City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality	Tel: 012 358 8667	TshinyadzoM@tshwane.gov.za

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 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 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 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

The construction of the 132kV power line connecting from the existing Bigtree Substation in the north to the newly proposed Refilwe Substation to the south connecting to the existing Pelly 132kv power line in the west within City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality in Gauteng Province and within Thembisile Hani Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province

City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality and Nkangala District

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/1358
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
Location of activity:	City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Gauteng Province and Mpumalanga Province

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 activity/ies 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 LIMITED

with the following contact details –

Charmaine Mare

Eskom Holding SOC Limited

P.O. Box 36099

MENLO PARK

0102

Tel: 012 484 5141

Fax: 086 667 3961

Cell: 083 556 6257

E-mail: marecc@eskom.co.za

to undertake the following activity/ies (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in terms of GN R543 and GN R544 of 18 June 2010:

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>GN R 544 Activity 10(i): The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</p> <p>(i) Outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;-</p>	<p>The proposed distribution line for the Bigtree-Refilwe and Pelly-Refilwe power lines will have a capacity of 132kV.</p>
<p>GN R.544 Item 11(xi): The construction of: (xi) infrastructure or structures covering 50square metres or more;</p> <p>Where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</p>	<p>Several watercourses will be crossed along the power line route, and as such pylons will be constructed within 32 metres of the watercourse.</p>
<p>GN R.544 Item 22(ii): The construction of a road, outside urban areas, (ii) Where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.</p>	<p>Access road will be required at certain sections to access the power line.</p>
<p>GN R.544 Item 23(ii): The transformation of undeveloped , vacant or derelict land to-</p> <p>(ii) residential retail, commercial recreational ,industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares.</p>	<p>The proposed Refilwe Substation is located outside the urban edge and size of the proposed substation will be approximately 1, 5 hectares.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>GN R.546 Item 4(b)(i)(iii)(viii): The construction of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13, 5 metres.</p> <p>(b) In Gauteng:</p> <p>(i) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>(iii) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(viii) Any declared protected area including Municipal or provincial Nature Reserves as contemplated by the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989) and the Nature Conservation Ordinance (Ordinance 12 of 1983);44r</p>	<p>Access roads will be required along certain sections to access the power line within Gauteng, where such power line alignments will extend through sensitive and protected areas.</p>
<p>GN R.546 Item 12(b): The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>(b) Within a critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>Vegetation clearance would be required for the proposed construction of the 1.5 hectare Refilwe Substation and Bigtree-Refilwe and Pelly-Refilwe 132kV power line, which extends through an identified Critical Biodiversity Area.</p>
<p>GN R.546 Item 14(a)(i): The clearance of an area of 5 hectares or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation, except where such removal of vegetation is required for:</p> <p>(1) purposes of agriculture or afforestation inside areas identified in spatial instruments adopted by the competent authority for agriculture or afforestation purposes;</p>	<p>Vegetation will be cleared to allow for the erection of the pylons. Bush clearing of approximately 16m wide (8m on either sides of the power line) will be required for the 132kV power line.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>(2) the undertaking of a process or activity included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the activity is regarded to be excluded from this list;</p> <p>(3) the undertaking of a linear activity falling below the thresholds in Notice 544 of 2010.</p> <p>(a) In Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Northwest and Western Cape:</p> <p>(i) All areas outside urban areas.</p>	

as described in the BAR received by the Department on 17 June 2015 at:

Preferred Route Alternative 1	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	25°27'55.829"	28°36'50.511"
Bend 1	25°29'26.76"	28°40'38.91"
Bend 2	25°30'17.58"	28°39'56.47"
Bend 3	25°31'34.86"	28°39'37.98"
Bend 4	25°34'22.82"	28°37'50.58"
Bend 5	25°35'0.87"	28°35'11.30"
Middle point of activity	25°33'32.637"	28°38'28.018"
Bend 6	25°36'53.71"	28°33'16.89"
Bend 7	25°37'26.76"	28°32'3.94"
Bend 8	25°37'22.92"	28°31'41.48"
Bend 9	25°37'46.20"S	28°31'14.57"

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Proposed Refilwe substation: Preferred Alternative 1	25°37'55.279"	28°31'0.418"
Bend 10	25°38'45.88"	28°28'8.91"
Bend 11	25°39'1.57"	28°27'52.54"
End point of activity	25°37'52.355"	28°31'0.824"

- for the proposed construction of the Bigtree-Refilwe-Pelly 132kV power line within City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality (Gauteng Province) and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality (Mpumalanga Province), hereafter referred to as "the property".

The proposed project consists of the following:

132 kV Monopole Structures:

- The single circuit steel mono-pole structures;
- Mono-pole structures will comprise of the following characteristics:
 - The footprint for the mono-pole structures is approximately between 0,5m² and 8m² in size;
 - The mono-pole structures will be buried to a depth of between 2m and 3,6m;
 - The height of the mono-pole structures will range between 18m and 30m;
 - The span lengths between the mono-pole structures will vary on average between 30m and 350m depending on terrain;
 - Span lengths can be to a maximum of 350m if the topography allows for this;
 - These variations are due to a number of factors including the structure, the terrain, ground clearance requirements, topology and geology; and
- The operation and construction servitudes will be 31m.

132kV Steel Lattice Structures:

- The footprint for the steel lattice structures is approximately between 36m² and 64m² in size;
- The foundations will be installed to a depth of between 2m and 4m;
- The height of the lattice structures will range between 18m and 30m;
- Lattice structures will allow span lengths of up to 500m depending on terrain and if the topography allows it. These variations are due to a number of factors including the structure, the terrain, ground clearance requirements, topology and geology; and
- The operation and construction servitudes will be 31.0m.

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Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred Route Alternative one (1) and preferred Substation Alternative one (1) for the proposed construction of the Bigtree-Refilwe-Pelly 132kV power line within City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality in Gauteng Province and within Thembisile Hani Local Municipality in Mpumalanga province, with the above 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/ies must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue of this authorisation. If commencement of the activity/ies does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity/ies to be undertaken.
7. If the applicant anticipates that commencement of the activities would not occur within five (5) year period, he/she must apply and show good cause for an extension of the Environmental Authorisation three (3) months prior to its expiry date.
8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

9. 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/ies is to take place.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

10. 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/ies.
11. The notification referred to must –
 - 11.1. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
 - 11.2. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued
 - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 11.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
12. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
 - 12.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
 - 12.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
 - 12.3. 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

13. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Application for EA is hereby approved. This EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.

Monitoring

14. 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.
 - 14.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity/ies.
 - 14.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 14.3. The ECO must meet with the contractors to discuss the conditions of the EA and the contents of the EMPr prior to any site clearing occurring.
 - 14.4. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 14.5. 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

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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

19. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
20. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity/ies until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Notification to authorities

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

Site closure and decommissioning

23. Should the activity/ies 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. Vegetation clearing must be kept to the development footprint. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion.
25. All cleared indigenous vegetation must be used to make mulch during the rehabilitation process. Rehabilitation of soil around pylons must take place as soon as possible after construction has ceased.

26. All construction material, equipment and any other foreign objects brought into the area by contractors and staff must be removed immediately after construction.
27. The applicant must obtain a Water Use Licence (WUL) from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) prior to the commencement of the project should the applicant impact on any wetland or water resource. A copy of the WUL must be submitted to the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations (IEA) of this Department for record keeping.
28. The construction activities must take into account the movement of residents and business owners and must allow access at all times to their properties.
29. Adequate and proper signage must be erected at the road and construction site to warn the public of the construction activities.
30. Eskom must ensure that all waste control and the location of fuel storage areas, hazardous materials (oils, chemicals, and cement), waste storage areas, ablution and latrines and any other potentially polluting activities are in bunded areas and are 100m away from river or stream to avoid any pollution.
31. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriately. Any solid waste must 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

32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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: 17/08/2015



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
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 final BAR dated June 2015 and received by the Department on 17 June 2015;
- b. The public participation process undertaken as per the requirements of regulation 54 of the EIA Regulations, 2010;
- c. Mitigation measures as proposed in the final BAR dated June 2015, received by the Department on 17 June 2015 and the EMPr;
- d. The information contained in the specialist study contained within Appendix D of the final BAR dated June 2015 and received by the Department on 17 June 2015;
- 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 need for the proposed project which is to strengthen the existing electricity supply in the area
- c. The BAR dated June 2015 received by the Department on 17 June 2015 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d. The methodology used in assessing the identified potential impacts has 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, 2010 for public involvement.

3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a. The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- b. The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- c. EMPr proposed the mitigation measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development and was included in the BAR dated June 2015. The EMPr received as part of the BAR by this Department on 17 June 2015 will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the above mentioned phases.

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.