



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA  
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**NEAS Reference:** DEA/EIA/0002114/2013

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/424

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Ms Martina Nailana  
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited  
P.O. Box 1091  
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2001

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### **PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Ms Nailana

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543/544/545/546: PROPOSED NARINA (BLANCO) 400/132KV MTS SUBSTATION AND DROERIVIER PROTEUS LOOP-IN LOOP-OUT POWERLINE PROJECT WITHIN THE BLANCO AREA, GEORGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE 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 X447,  
Pretoria, 0001; or  
By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko,

Arcadia,  
Pretoria, 0083

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.

**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](mailto: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 sincerely



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**

**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Environmental Affairs**

Date: *01/09/2016*

CC:	Ms. Natalie Ritsch	Strategic Environmental Focus (Pty)Ltd	Tel: 021 469 9159	E.mail: <a href="mailto:natalie@sefsa.co.za">natalie@sefsa.co.za</a>
	Mr Trevor Botha	George Municipality	Tel: 044 801 9111	E.mail: <a href="mailto:georgemunicipality@george.org.za">georgemunicipality@george.org.za</a>

**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)**

<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)</b>
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"> <li>• a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection.</li> </ul>	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.</li> </ul>
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**

**Narina (Blanco) 400/132kV MTS substation and the Droerivier Proteus Loop-in Loop-out power line project, Western Cape Province**

**Eden District Municipality**

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/424</i>
<b>NEAS reference number:</b>	<i>DEA/EIA/0002114/2013</i>
<b>Last amended:</b>	<i>First issue</i>
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	<i>ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED</i>
<b>Location of activity:</b>	<i>WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Within George Local 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 LIMITED**

with the following contact details –

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to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notices 1, 2 or 3 (GN R. 544, 545 & 546):

<b>Listed activities</b>	<b>Activity/Project description</b>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 10</u></p> <p>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 275kV</p>	<p>The project will include the construction of 2 X 132kV integration power lines, linking the existing Blanco substation to the newly proposed Narina Substation.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 13</u></p> <p>The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 but not exceeding 500 cubic metres</p>	<p>During construction fuel tanks may be required. The volume will be confirmed and accommodated accordingly in line with the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 18</u></p> <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or removing of soil, sand shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from</p> <p>(i) a watercourse</p>	<p>The proposed project entails the construction of access roads for use during the construction phase and operational phase (For maintenance purposes), which cross over drainage lines and non-perennial watercourses occurring in the area. The installation of pylons associated with the loop-in and loop-out lines may also impact on any cross drainage lines and non-perennial watercourse or wetlands encountered in the study area. However, as far as possible proposed towers</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
	and substations are to be located out of the wetlands and watercourses. The exact location of these structures will be determined by means of a walkthrough of the sites at the Detailed Design stage i.e. post receipt of the EA, by both the terrestrial and wetland ecologists.
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 22:</u>                      The construction of a road, outside urban areas,                      (i) with a reserve wider than 13.5 meters or,                      (ii) where no reserve exist where the road is wide than 8 metres</p>	Access roads for construction and maintenance of the proposed infrastructure will be constructed. As far as possible existing routes will be used. No detail regarding the access routes is currently available.
<p><u>GN R. 544 item 23</u>                      The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to -                      (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>	The substation and powerline development is larger than 1ha. The proposed substation will be approximately 600m X 600m, and the associated preferred loop-in, loop-out powerline route will be approximately 4km.
<p><u>GN R. 544 item 26</u>                      Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)</p>	Clearance of vegetation for the proposed power lines and substations areas will be required. The exact size of the area of indigenous vegetation to be cleared will be confirmed during the site

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
	walk down with the specialists. This will be undertaken before any construction takes place.
<p><u>GN R. 544 item 47</u>                      The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre -</p> <p>(i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13.5 meters; or                      (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres</p>	The proposed project could entail the expansion of existing roads to use as access roads for use during the construction phase and operational phase (for maintenance purposes)
<p><u>GN R. 545 item 8</u>                      The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex.</p>	The project entails construction of 400kV power lines outside an urban area, as agriculture is the predominant land use.
<p><u>GN R. 546 item 4</u>                      The construction of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 16.5 metres</p>	The proposed project will entail the construction of access roads for use during the construction phase and operational phase (for maintenance purposes) outside of an urban area. As far as possible existing access roads will be used, as well as the powerline servitude within the study area. Details will be provided at the detail design stage in conjunction with the specialists.
<p><u>GN R. 546 item 10</u>                      The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a</p>	The construction camp may store hazardous material for use in the construction of the



<b>Listed activities</b>	<b>Activity/Project description</b>
combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres	proposed project and the substation design will include transformer oil ponds. The capacities of hazardous material and the size of the ponds will be determined during the detail design phase, that is, the combined capacity thereof will be confirmed.
<p><u>GN R. 546 item 13</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>(b) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas</p>	Clearance of vegetation for the proposed power lines and substations areas will be required. The exact size of the area of indigenous vegetation to be cleared for the pylons are unknown at this stage, since the location of the pylons will be determined by the terrestrial ecologists by means of walk-through at the Detailed Design stage, i.e. post receipt of the EA.
<p><u>GN R. 546 item 16</u></p> <p>The construction of</p> <p>(iv) infrastructure covering 10 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a water course or within 32 metres of a water course, measured from the edge of a watercourse</p> <p>(d) In Western Cape</p> <p>(ii) Outside urban areas, in :</p> <p>(ff) Critical Biodiversity areas or ecosystem services areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	The proposed development is less than 5.5 kilometres south of Ruitersbos Nature Reserve (part of the Outeniqua Nature Reserve Complex). Alternative Site 5 occurs within Ecological Support Areas and Critical Biodiversity Areas.

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 546 item 19</u>                      The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre                      (d) In Western Cape                      (ii) All areas outside urban areas</p>	<p>The construction of roads and infrastructure has been assessed and included in the draft EMPR. A site walk-down will be undertaken with specialists where after the EMPr will be updated to address these impacts.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated February 2016 at:

four corner points of the Preferred Substation	Latitude	Longitude
Alternative Site 5	33° 55' 28.72" S	22° 22' 01.25" E
	33° 55' 28.82" S	22° 22' 24.28" E
	33° 55' 47.82" S	22° 22' 24.12" E
	33° 55' 47.96" S	22° 22' 01.14" E
Power line Route Alternative 5 (at 250m intervals)	Latitude	Longitude
	33° 55' 39.60" S	22° 22' 00.84" E
	33° 55' 39.12" S	22° 21' 50.70" E
	33° 55' 19.12" S	22° 21' 40.95" E
	33° 55' 39.49" S	22° 21' 31.37" E
	33° 55' 39.52" S	22° 21' 21.52" E
	33° 55' 40.00" S	22° 21' 11.98" E
	33° 55' 39.74" S	22° 21' 02.02" E
	33° 55' 39.74" S	22° 20' 50.39" E
	33° 55' 39.76" S	22° 20' 42.61" E
33° 55' 39.53" S	22° 20' 35.98" E	

- for the establishment of a new 400/132kV MTS with an expected development foot print of approximately 600m X 600m and loop in – loop out power lines with a length in the region of 1.8 km – 4

km under the jurisdiction of the George Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- Establishment of a 2x500MVA, 400/132kV MTS near Blanco Substation.
- 2 x loop-in loop-out line of the Proteus – Droerivier 400kV lines to the Blanco proposed MTS.
- 2 x loop-in loop-out lines linking the proposed new MTS to the existing Blanco substation.
- The new MTS 400/132 kV will supply the existing Blanco Substation 132kV busbars
- The site is approximately 600 x 600m in extent
- The 400kV power lines each have servitudes of 55m (i.e. 110m for 2 lines) and the 132 kV power lines have servitude of 32 m.

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred site alternative 5 with power line route corridor 5 with the above mentioned 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 03 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
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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 apply for an amendment of environmental authorisation with the competent authority for any alienation, transfer or 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. give 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 to include the terrestrial and wetland ecologist walkthrough recommendations and it must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity.

The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR February 2016 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.
- 13.1. The ECO shall be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity/ies.
- 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 shall 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 shall remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.
- 13.5. 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.

### **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* of the Department at [Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za).
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. 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 until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

### **Notification to authorities**

20. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. 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**

21. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

### **Site closure and decommissioning**

22. 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**

23. A terrestrial and wetland ecologist must be commissioned to perform a final walkthrough of the site once the final route alignment and pylon positions have been identified. The specialist must cover buffer identification, no-go areas and fine scale mapping within the approved corridor. This specialist report must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction.
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24. Bird Flight Diverters on the earth wires must be installed as per specifications devised by the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Bird flappers and anti-collision devices must be installed on the power lines as there are various wetlands and watercourses in this area.
25. No activities must encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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**

30. 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.
  31. The holder of the authorisation must notify both the *Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations* and the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department at [Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za), 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.
  32. 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.
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Date of environmental authorisation: 01/09/2016

  
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 EIAR dated February 2016 and additional information received 04 August 2016;
- b) The comments received from the organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the EIAR dated February 2016;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAR dated February 2016 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix 6 of the EIAR;
- e) Findings of the site visit conducted on 15 June 2016; and
- f) 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 EIAR dated February 2016 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAR dated February 2016.
- c) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAR dated February 2016 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- d) 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 EIAR dated February 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 EIAR dated February 2016 is accurate and credible.
- e) 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.