



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2411/AM2

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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Tunnicklif

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 18 JUNE 2013 FOR THE THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF FOSKOR-MERENSKY 275kV POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATION WORKS, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above application by this Department on 18 June 2013 and your application for amendment to the EA received by this Department on 13 April 2017, refers.

Based on a review of the reasons for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, has decided to amend the EA dated 18 June 2013 as follows:

- **The general capacity is increased from 275kV to 400kV.**
- **The servitude is increased from 47m to 55m.**

Reasons for the amendment

Eskom Lands and Rights have been busy with land acquisition for the project which was solely for the strengthening of the Foskor-Merensky 275kV and Acomhoek-Foskor 275kV corridor and 2nd Merensky-Foskor 275kV power line project that were estimated to commence in 2018/19. However, new developments have emerged since the project was proposed, the load growth towards the northern direction of Foskor MTS includes Tzaneen area which is supplied by Spencer MTS and there is need for additional transmission strengthening. The planned Nzhelele MTS will slightly de-load Spencer MTS, hence a new solution for Spencer MTS is required.

To solve the network constrains at Spencer MTS and to meet future load growth demand, six (6) options were identified and evaluated to strengthen Spencer MTS supply zone, and the option of increasing the capacity from 275kV to 400kV between Spencer, Foskor, and Merensky transmission substation is the preferred option. The power line will be built at 400kV but operate at 275kV for now, until such time as it is necessary to operate at 400kV. In general, the reason for this capacity increase is to create a comprehensive long term solution that will cater for future demands without the need to construct new lines in the same area.

M.S

This letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 18 June 2013.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, and the provisions regarding the submission of appeals as contained in the Regulations.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appealsdirector@environment.gov.za

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia,
Pretoria,
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: *9/10/2017*