



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/629

Enquiries: Ms Constance Musemburi

Telephone: 012-399-9416 **E-mail:** CMusemburi@environment.gov.za

Mr. Lordwick Makhura
Baagi Environmental Consultancy
P.O. Box 72847
Lynnwood Ridge
PRETORIA
0040

Tel: (012) 365 2546
Email: makhural@baagi.co.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Makhura

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 2 X 500kV POWER LINES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FROM NZHELELE SUBSTATION, LIMPOPO PROVINCE TO TRIANGLE SUBSTATION ZIMBABWE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated February 2015 and received by the Department on 03 March 2015 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated February 2015 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 30(1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This includes but is not limited to the Limpopo Department of Environmental, Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Water Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Local Authorities.

Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof of the attempts that were made to obtain comments must be submitted to the Department.

Please be advised that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report must be made available to the public and all State Departments that administer laws relating to a matter affecting the environment for comment for a period of 40 days. The applicant/EAP is required to inform this Department in writing upon submission of the draft report to the relevant State Departments. Upon receipt of this confirmation, this Department will in accordance with Section 24O (2) & (3) of the NEMA (as amended) inform the relevant State Departments of the commencement date of the 40 day commenting period.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information must be included in the EIAR:

a) Listed Activities

The listed activities included in the FSR do not correspond with the listed activities provided in the application form. The application form only lists of GN. No. R. 544: Activities 11, 18, and 26, GN No. R. 545: Activity 8, and 15, and GN No. R. 546. Activities 4, 13, and 16 as being triggered by the proposed development while the FSR lists the following activities as being triggered by the proposed development, GN. No. R. 544: Activities 13, 20, and 38, GN No. R. 545: Activity 8 and 15, and GN No. R. 546: Activities 4, 12, 13, and 16. It is therefore not clear which activities are triggering by the proposed development. As such, you are required to amend the application form to include all **the applicable listed activities. The onus is on the applicant to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application.** An amended application form must be submitted together with the EIAR.

b) Activity Description

The description of the proposed activity is inadequate as it does not describe the full extent of the proposed development including associated infrastructure in relation to the activities applied for in terms of the EIA Regulations 2010. Information must be provided in the description of the proposed development which unpacks the activities applied for. Potential impacts and mitigation measures thereto of all the activities applied for and the associated infrastructure must also be assessed.

In addition, the proposed project only has reference to the corridor that falls within the ambit of South Africa, however the Triangle Substation which the power line will connect to is proposed in Zimbabwe. It is not clear as to what the proposed power line will connect to at the border. Details of the coordination being undertaken to ensure that the full extent of the proposed development is realised from the Nzhelele Substation to Triangle Substation including associated infrastructure must be provided. The Department will need to know whether the power line is connecting to an existing power line or substation at the border or if it is connecting to the proposed power line from the Triangle Substation, what steps are being taken by ZESA to ensure that the Eskom power line will not be left hanging at the border.

- c) Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
- d) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the following aspects, *inter-alia*, must be assessed,
- Soil, land capability and land use impacts assessment;
 - Surface and ground water impact assessment;
 - Noise impact assessment;
 - Topography assessment;
 - Ecological impact assessment (i.e. both fauna, flora and sensitive areas);
 - Geological Impact assessment
 - Heritage impact assessment;
 - Agricultural potential impact assessment,
 - Air quality impact assessment;
 - Traffic impact assessment; and
 - Socio-economic impact assessment.
- e) The specialist assessments must clearly show how assessment on the alternatives identified informed the outcome of the alternatives.
- f) A construction and operational phase EMP to include mitigation and monitoring measures.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and Regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in Regulation 56(3a-3h).

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

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, Act 25 of 1999, then 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, Act 25 of 1999 must be provided.

You are requested to submit three (3) copies of the EIAR to the Department as per Regulation 34(1) (b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010. Please submit at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final EIAR with the hard copy documents.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Signed by: Ms. Milicent Solomons
Designation: Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments
Date: 07/04/2015.

Copied to: Mr David Tunnicliff (Eskom Holdings SOC Limited)
Ms. Juliet Mukhari (LEDET)
Ms Susan Sithole (Musina Local Municipality)

Email: david.tunnicliff@eskom.co.za
Email: mukharigj@ledet.gov.za
Email: techsec@musina.gov.za