



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1781

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### PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (NEMA), 1998: GN R. 982/983/984/985: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV OLIFANTSHOEK POWER LINE IN THE GAMAGARA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE.**

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 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), as amended you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties (I&APs), in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, 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](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za);

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

M.5

By post: Private Bag X447,  
Pretoria,  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998, the lodging of an appeal 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.

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](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



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

Date: 07/02/2018

CC:	Ms Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011 656 3237	Email: <a href="mailto:joanne@savannahsa.com">joanne@savannahsa.com</a>
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## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# **Environmental Authorisation**

**In terms of regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended)**

**Construction and Operation of a 132 kV Olifantshoek Power line, Gamagara Local Municipality  
in the Northern Cape**

**John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality**

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/1781</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>NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: within ward 3, 4 and 5 in Gamagara Local Municipality</i>

This environmental 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 environmental authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the Environmental Impact Assessment 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 No.107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

### **ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED**

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Andrea van Gensen  
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited  
P O Box 606  
**KIMBERLEY**  
8301

Tel no: 053 830 5775

E-mail: [vGenseAL@eskom.co.za](mailto:vGenseAL@eskom.co.za)

Fax: 086 539 5177

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 (as amended):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><b><u>GN R. 983: Activity 11</u></b></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or</i></p>	<p>The construction of a 132kV power line extending up to 35km from the urban edge of the town of Olifantshoek, to the existing Emil switching station. The majority of the power line to be constructed is situated outside the urban edge.</p>
<p><b><u>GN R. 983: Activity 12</u></b></p> <p><i>The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p>	<p>The power line infrastructure or structures and associated access roads will be located within 32m of a watercourse and access road will cross watercourses.</p>
<p><b><u>GN R. 983: Activity 19</u></b></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse;</i></p>	<p>This activity will be trigger where new power line service roads are required to cross a watercourse which will result in infilling of more than 10 cubic meters of soil into the feature.</p>
<p><b><u>GN R. 983: Activity 56</u></b></p> <p><i>The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre</i></p> <p><i>(ii) where no reserve exist , where the existing road is wider than meters</i></p>	<p>The construction of the 132kV power line will require the lengthening of roads within the area by more than 1km in order to provide access to the power line route for construction and maintenance purposes.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2017 at:

**Farm Names:**

- Portion 1 of Farm Frits 540
- Portion 2 of Farm Frits 540
- Portion 5 of Farm Frits 540
- Remaining Extent of Farm Lanham 539
- Remaining Extent of the Farm Wright 538
- Portion 1 of Farm Wright 538
- Remaining Extent of Farm Bredenkamp 567
- Remaining Extent of Farm Brooks 568
- Remaining Extent of the Farm Beaumont 569
- Portion 3 of Farm Beaumont 569
- Portion 3 of Farm Murray II 570
- Portion 2 of Farm Cox 571
- Remaining Extent of the Farm Cox 571
- Remaining Extent of Farm Vostershoop 706
- Farm Diergaard's Heuwel 765
- Remaining Extent of Farm Hartley 573
- Portion 1 of Farm Neylan 576
- Portion 2 of Farm Neylan 766
- Portion 1 of Farm Cox 571
- Portion 3 of Farm Cox 571
- ErF 155
- Portion 4 of Farm Neylan 766
- Remaining Extent of Farm Spence 537
- Remaining Extent of Farm Lewis 535
- Portion 1 of Farm Beaumont 569
- Portion 2 of Farm Beaumont 569

**21 Digit SG codes:**

C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	2
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	5

C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	9	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	8	0	0	0	1
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	8	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	7	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	8	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	9	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	9	0	0	0	3
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	3
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	1	0	0	0	2
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	1	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	6	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	5	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	3	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	4	0	0	0	1
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	6	0	0	0	4
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	1	0	0	0	1
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	1	0	0	0	3
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	7	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	5	0	0	0	0
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	9	0	0	0	1
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	9	0	0	0	2
C	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	6	0	0	0	2

Powerline Route Alternative C	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of the activity	27° 56' 11.26" S	22° 44' 28.96" E
Middle point of the activity	27° 50' 36.52" S	22° 49' 53.63" E
End point of the activity	27° 44' 10.81" S	22° 55' 14.12" E

the location indicated in the locality plan, attached as Annexure 2 of this authorisation.

The construction of 132kV Olifantshoek power line within the Gamagara Local Municipalities, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

*MS*

The infrastructure associated with this transmission line is as follows:

- Access tracks and roads;
- Operational and maintenance facilities; and
- Laydown areas.

Technical Details of the power line components:

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Specification</b>
Pylon Type	Steel monopoles and/or self-supporting towers
Line Capacity	132kV
Pylon Height	23m - 28m on average
Pylon Separation Distance	200m - 400m. Distance can exceed 500m depending on the topography and terrain to be spanned
Pylon foundation footprint	10m x 10m (100m <sup>2</sup> )
Conductor attachment height	25-28 m
Conductor Type	Tern Conductor
Servitude	32m
Access road	4m wide access roads



## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred power line alternative C and the preferred design Alternative 1 (Single Circuit Overhead Power line) for the construction of 132kV Olifantshoek power line from the existing Elim substation to the proposed Olifantshoek substation within ward 3, 4 and 5 of Gamagara Local Municipalities in the Northern Cape Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates and 21 Digit SG codes cited at the table reflected in page 4 and page 5 above of the Environmental Authorisation.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this environmental 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 in the document.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this environmental 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 environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of the 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.
7. This activity must commence within a period of five (05) years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within Six (06) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

### **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 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
  - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
  - 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.

### **Commencement of the activity**

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. 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.

### **Management of the activity**

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

### **Frequency and process of updating the Environmental Management Programme**

14. The Environmental Management Programme must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 23 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or Environmental Management Programme.

15. The updated Environmental Management Programme must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
16. The updated Environmental Management Programme must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982, as amended. The updated Environmental Management Programme must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated Environmental Management Programme to the Department for approval.
17. In assessing whether to grant approval of an Environmental Management Programme which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.982, as amended. Prior to approving an amended Environmental Management Programme, the Department may request such amendments to the Environmental Management Programme as it deems appropriate to ensure that the Environmental Management Programme sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
18. The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an Environmental Management Programme, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The holder must notify the Department of its intention to amend the Environmental Management Programme at least 60 days prior to submitting such amendments to the Environmental Management Programme to the Department for approval. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R. 982, as amended.

## **Monitoring**

19. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an 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 environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved Environmental Management Programme.
- 19.1. The Environmental Control Officer must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 19.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the Environmental Control Officer must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at [Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za).

- 19.3. The Environmental Control Officer must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the Environmental Control Officer.
- 19.4. The Environmental Control Officer 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**

20. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at [Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za).
21. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and Environmental Management Programme remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the Environmental Management Programme are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at [Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za).
22. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the Environmental Management Programme, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982, as amended.
23. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
24. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with appendix 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended and 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 approved Environmental Management Programme.
25. 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.

### **Notification to authorities**

26. 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.

### **Operation of the activity**

27. 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**

28. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must 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**

29. An in-depth final walkover prior to construction commences must be done by the Ecological and Avifauna specialist. This must be conducted to confirm the preliminary areas/zones along the proposed corridors to be fitted with "bird flight diverters".
30. A walk down of the approved route must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and Palaeontologist prior to the construction phase. A report detailing the results of the walk down must be submitted to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for comment. No construction may commence without comment from SAHRA.
31. A report detailing the result of walk-down and comments/ approval from SAHRA must be incorporated to the EMPr and also be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
32. Should any heritage resources, including evidence of graves and human burials, archaeological material and paleontological material be discovered during execution of the activities, all work must be stopped immediately and SAHRA must be notified.

33. Construction must include 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.
34. No activities, which require a water use authorisation, must be allowed to encroach into a water resource(s) without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
35. 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 must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).
36. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
37. Construction areas must be clearly demarcated and only approved areas must be used for storage and cement mixing. Any cement or concrete mixing must be done on an impervious surface to prevent soil contamination.

#### **General**

38. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved Environmental Management Programme, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 38.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
  - 38.2. to anyone on request; and
  - 38.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
39. 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 holder of the authorisation or his/her 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 holder of the authorisation 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: 02/02/2018



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 Basic Assessment Report dated October 2017;
- b) The comments received from SAHRA, Department of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries, Gamagara Local Municipality, Sishen Mine, SANRAL, Department of Water and Sanitation and interested and affected parties as included in the Basic Assessment Report dated October 2017;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the Basic Assessment Report dated October 2017 and the Environmental Management Programme;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the Basic Assessment Report; and
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.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 132kV power line will ensure that there is enough energy for the increase of developments, as Olifantshoek has undergone rapid population expansion.
- c) The Basic Assessment Report dated October 2017 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the Basic Assessment Report dated October 2017.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the Basic Assessment Report dated October 2017 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended 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 Basic Assessment Report dated October 2017 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 Basic Assessment Report dated October 2017 is accurate and credible.
- e) Environmental Management Programme measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the Basic Assessment Report and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities 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 authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.