



## environmental affairs

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

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/927

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### **PER EMAIL/ MAIL**

Dear Ms Rikhotso

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESKOM AGULHAS 400/132KV 2X500 MVA TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION AND LOOP-IN LOOP-OUT LINES WITHIN THE SWELLENDAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2016 and received by the Department on 01 June 2016 refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated May 2016 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

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, 2014.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This includes but is not limited to Biodiversity Section from this Department, Department of Forestry and Fisheries and SAHRA. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIR:

- a) An Aquatic study needs to be undertaken to ascertain the impact which the proposed development will have on number of watercourses that may be affected depending on the site alternative selected for the substation and loop in and loop out power lines. The findings

- of the specialist study must be incorporated in the EIA report, motivating for the preferred alternative in relation with other alternatives identified.
- b) A wetland has been identified on Site A and its functionality must be defined in the EIA report.
  - c) A sensitivity layout plan overlaid by the sensitive features and the buffer zones i.e. wetland and also the existing structure in the vicinity of the proposed route and the proposed road must be submitted as part of the final report for analysis of the effect of the proposed project on the environment. Please ensure all features are clearly indicated on the legend of the sensitivity layout plan.
  - d) The total footprint of the proposed development including the associated infrastructure must be indicated and clarified in the project description.
  - e) Should the Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license must be submitted.
  - f) Response to the issues raised by the landowners must be clearly articulated and incorporated in the EIA report.
  - g) A construction and operational phase EMP with mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the report.
  - h) As part of the EIA, a visual impact assessment study for this project must be commissioned to thoroughly and cumulatively assess the impact on the environment.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 45 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 locality maps of the area. 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 this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending 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.

You are requested to submit two (2) copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department and at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents. Please ensure that the final EIA Report also includes the details and expertise of the EAP, and the undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP that is required in terms of 2(j) of Appendix 2 of GN R. 982.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may 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. Olivia Letlalo**

**Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Development**

**Date: 15/07/2016**

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