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Document prepared by:

Zutari (Pty) Ltd Reg No 1977/003711/07 Riverwalk Office Park, 41 Matroosberg Road, Ashlea Gardens, Extension 6, Pretoria

South Africa PO Box 74381, Lynnwood Ridge 0040

T +27 12 427 2000 F +27 86 556 0521 E tshwane@zutari.com

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Author signature	djr	Approver signature	Defin
Name	Candice Dürr	Name	Wynand Loftus
Title	Environmental Consultant	Title	Senior Environmental Practitioner

Comments received during the 1st draft BAR review period

ISSUES AND COMMENTS RAISED (verbatim)	COMMENTATOR/S	SOURCE	DATE	RESPONSE
Good day Wynand, please find the SACAA procedure and processes for this Authority Granting Authorisation to the proposed line. http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Default.aspx	Lizell Stroh Obstacle Inspector CAA	Email (in response to dBAR notification letter)	20 August 2021	Dear Lizell Thank you for your email regarding the SACAA procedure and processes for this Authority Granting Authorisation to the proposed line, the information has been forwarded to EDF Renewables who is the applicant for the environmental process.
http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Obstacles/Urgent-notices.aspx http://www.caa.co.za/Obstacles%20Forms/CA139-27.pdf Kindly provide a .kml (Google Earth) file reflecting the footprint of the proposed overhead electric power line. Also indicate the highest structure of the project & the Overhead electric power transmission line.				We are currently busy with the Basic Assessment Environmental Process and will be conducting a second round of public comment on the project starting next week. Changes had to be made to the project proposal, particularly regarding new pylon locations. The engineering team is currently busy with the preliminary design with final design only following much later. As such the pylon locations are not fixed at this stage and will be finalised during final design. We have therefore forwarded the CAA's comment to the developer and engineering team and highlighted to them that the procedures referred to in your email must be followed once the pylon positions are fixed. I trust the above response is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further comment, questions or wish to discuss anything. Kind regards, Wynand Loftus
Please send me a KMZ file of the affected line route where the upgrade will be done.	John Geeringh Senior Consultant Environmental Management Eskom	Email (in response to dBAR notification letter)	25 August 2021	Hi John Please find attached KMZs which includes the following: Alternative 1: 1. Section of existing line to be upgraded along the same alignment 2. Existing locations of pylons to be upgraded Alternative 2: 1. Proposed alignment 2. Proposed pylon locations

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				Please can you confirm whether the information is sufficient to satisfy your needs and let me know if I need to provide additional info?
				Kind regards,
				Wynand Loftus
(a) Listed activities i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Only activities applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted. iii. It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the basic assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous GN R. 985 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In	Thabile Sangweni Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)	Email (in response to dBAR notification letter)	10 September 2021	i. The Listed Activities applicable to the project are included Section 2.2, Table 2-2 of the 1st Draft BAR. A description of why the activity is relevant and how it links to the proposed project is included in the table. ii. Should there be any change to the Listed Activities, an updated Application form will be submitted together with the Final BAR to be submitted for decision-making post PPP. iii. All relevant authorities and organs of state will continue to be included in the EIA process. Authorities and Organs of State automatically registered as I&APs for the project are included in the I&AP register.
addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.				
(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps i. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following: - The proposed infrastructure which includes all supporting onsite infrastructure existing roads, new roads (if applicable), access points, route corridor, route alternatives etc. - The proposed grid infrastructure overlain by the sensitivity map.				i. Maps have been provided in various applicable sections of the Draft BAR. As the preferred alternative simply proposes to upgrade an existing 132 kV transmission line, no new access routes or roads will be required. The existing servitude maintenance road and access routes will be utilised and is the defined site for the project. Specific environmental sensitivities as they relate to the various specialist fields are included in the summaries of the specialist assessment, e.g. CBAs, nesting sites, drainage lines etc. The specialist summaries are included in Section 6 – Baseline Environment and Environmental Impact Assessment.
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage				

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lines, surface water, nesting areas, heritage sites etc. that will be affected;				Comprehensive sensitivity maps indicating buffer zones and no-go areas of all sections of the transmission centreline have been provided in Section 7 of the Draft BAR. All maps are included in Annexure I.
- Buffer areas; and				· ·
- All "no-go" areas.				ii A map indicating the sensitivities of the site as informed by the specialist, the existing Eskom infrastructure and neighbouring renewable energy
ii. The layout map must be overlain by a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighboring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.				developments is included in the 2 nd Draft BAR to be made available for comment.
iii. Google maps will not be accepted.				
(c) Alternatives i. Please note that you are required to provide a full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternative within the site, in terms of Appendix 1(3)(1)(h) of the EIA Regulations				i. A full description of alternatives was provided in Section 5 of die initial draft BAR and are further detailed in the project description and Section 5 of the second draft BAR as these have changed after technical feedback from Eskom was received.
2014, as amended, including the following content: - details of all the alternatives considered; - details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting				The public participation process undertaken is detailed in Section 3.3 with all required documents appended in Annexure C of the second draft BAR. It should be noted that interest to register for the project, nor comments were received from the public.
documents and inputs; - a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them;				The baseline environment and environmental impact assessments are in Section 6 of the second draft BAR as per the EIA methodology as described in Section 3. Mitigation measures for each predicted impact is also contained in Section6.
 the environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural 				Section 7 (environmental impact statement) and Section 8 (conclusions and way forward) detail the concluding statements on the preferred alternative.
aspects; - the impacts and risks identified for each alternative, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts— - (aa) can be reversed; - (bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and				ii. Alternatives were investigated and assessed in the 1 st Draft BAR as well as the respective specialist assessments. It was however found that Alternative 2 is unfeasible for the project and is subsequently no longer being considered in the 2 nd Draft BAR to be made available to the public for review and comment. A motivation and detailed description of alternatives is included in Section 5 of the Draft BAR.
 (cc) can be avoided, managed or mitigated; the methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives; 				

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 positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects; the possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk; the outcome of the site selection matrix; if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such; and a concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity. ii. Written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1. (d) Specialist Declaration of Interest in the such attached to the final BAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study 				All specialist declarations have been included in Annexure J of the 1 st Draft BAR and will also be included in the 2 nd Draft BAR. Note the BAR is submitted electronically and therefore original signed copies will not be submitted.
conducted. (e) Specialist Assessments i. All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA. ii. Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for the authorisation. iii. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted. iv. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation				 i. All required specialist reports and compliance statements have been appended to the 1st Draft BAR and 2nd Draft BAR in Annexure D and include mitigation measures and recommendations. No further studies are required post EA. ii. Please refer to the relative specialist reports in Annexure D and summarised in Section 6 of the Draft BAR. iii. Please refer to the relative specialist reports in Annexure D and summarised in Section 6 of the Draft BAR. iv. Please refer to the relative specialist reports in Annexure D. The specialist recommendations and mitigation measures are also described in Section 6 of the draft BAR. v. These procedures and protocols have been considered and complied with. Please refer to the relative specialist reports in Annexure D and summarised in Section 6 of the Draft BAR.

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v. It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols. (f) Undertaking of an Oath i. Please ensure that the final BAR includes an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP. ii. Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 1(3)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the BAR must include: "an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to: a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports; b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and d) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties".				i. Please refer to Annexure J of the Draft BAR, also to be included in the Final BAR. ii. Please refer to Annexure J of the Draft BAR, also to be included in the Final BAR.
(g) Details and Expertise of the EAP i. You are required to include the details and expertise of the EAP in the BAR, including a curriculum vitae, in order to comply with the requirements of Appendix 1(3)(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.				Please refer to Annexure A of the Draft BAR for the EAPs CV.
(h) Public Participation i. Comments must be obtained from this Department's Biodiversity Conservation directorate at BCAdmin@environment.gov.za.				i. The DFFE's Biodiversity conservation directorate will be notified of the availability of the 2 nd Draft BAR for comment and have been added to the register of I&APs.

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ii. The Public Participation Process must be				ii. Please refer to Section 3.3 which details the PPP undertaken for the
conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &				project and Annexure C which includes proof of these activities.
44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.				DI () A O () D (DAD () II I
iii. Please ensure that all issues raised and				iii-ix. Please refer to Annexure C of the Draft BAR for all documents and
comments received during the circulation of the draft				communications related to the PPP undertaken for the project.
BAR from registered Interested and Affected Parties				
(I&APs) and organs of state, as listed in your I&APs				
Database, and others that have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed				
and included in the final BAR.				
iv. Copies of original comments received from I&APs				
and organs of state, which have jurisdiction in				
respect of the proposed activity are submitted to the				
Department with the final BAR.				
v. Proof of correspondence with the various				
stakeholders must be included in the final BAR.				
Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof				
should be submitted to the Department of the				
attempts that were made to obtain comments. In				
terms of Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations,				
2014, as amended, please provide proof of written				
notice for the availability of the BAR for comment.				
vi. All issues raised and comments received during				
the circulation of the draft BAR from I&APs and				
organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of				
the proposed activity are adequately addressed in				
the final BAR, including comments from this				
Department, and must be incorporated into a				
Comments and Response Report (CRR).				
vii. The CRR report must be a separate document				
from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this				
comments letter.				
viii. Please refrain from summarising comments				
made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be				
copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please				
note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded				
as an adequate response to an I&AP's comments.				
ix. Minutes and attendance registers (where				
applicable) of any physical/ virtual meetings held by				
the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)				
with Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and				
other role players must be included in the final BAR.				

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(i) Environmental Management Programme i. The EMPr must also include the following: - It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility. - There needs to be an EMPr for the facility, the onsite substation as well as the overhead line. - Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended. - Please be informed that the following content must be incorporated within the EMPr's as indicated in Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended: (i) Details of the EAP who prepared the EMPr; and the expertise of that EAP to prepare an EMPr, including a curriculum vitae. (ii) A map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity, its associated structures, and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers. (iii) A description of the impact management outcomes, including management statements, identifying the impacts and risks that need to be avoided, managed and mitigated as identified through the environmental impact assessment process for all phases of the development including - (a) Planning and design;		SOURCE	DATE	i. The gazetted generic EMPr for overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure was used for this project as the project relates to an existing overhead line. The facility is therefore the section of transmission line associated with this project does not include in its scope any substations or other facilities associated with it. Please refer to Annexure G for the generic EMPr. The EMPr included in Annexure G o the Draft BAR complies with the content requirements for an EMPr as included in Appendix 4 of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended).
(b) Pre-construction activities;(c) Construction activities;(d) Rehabilitation of the environment after construction and where applicable post closure; and				

COMMENTATOR/S	SOURCE	DATE	RESPONSE
			Please refer to Section 7 of the Ddraft BAR for the Environmental Impact
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			Statement which contains the relevant information as detailed in the comment.
	COMMENTATOR/S	COMMENTATOR/S SOURCE	COMMENTATOR/S SOURCE DATE

ISSUES AND COMMENTS RAISED (verbatim)	COMMENTATOR/S	SOURCE	DATE	RESPONSE
(a) a summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment; (b) a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers; and (c) a summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives.				
Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 1(3)(1)(q) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.				The period for which authorisation will be required is included in Section 7.1 of the Draft BAR which details the recommended Conditions of Authorisation for the project.
You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 19(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "Where basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority – (a) a basic assessment report, inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority".				A notification for extension of timeframe in terms of Regulations 19(1)(b) was submitted to the department on 17 September 2021. The 2 nd Draft BAR will be made available to the public for a 30-day review and comment period. The Final BAR, inclusive of specialist reports and the EMPr will therefore be submitted to the Department for decision-making within 140-days from the date of receipt of the Application form by the Department.
Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the BAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 19(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: "the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit				A Draft BAR was compiled and made available for public review. This review period included more detailed consultation with Eskom regarding the feasibility of the alternatives as presented in the Draft BAR. In lieu of these consultations, it was determined that Eskom finds the initial alternatives to be unfeasible and therefore, an updated 2 nd Draft BAR has been compiled based on the new proposed alternatives.

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to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the documents which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised documents will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days."				A notification for extension of timeframe in terms of Regulations 19(1)(b) was submitted to the department on 17 September 2021. The 2 nd Draft BAR will be made available to the public for a 30-day review and comment period. The Final BAR, inclusive of specialist reports and the EMPr will therefore be submitted to the Department for decision-making within 140-days from the date of receipt of the Application form by the Department.
The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr: 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development; 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;	Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer SAHRA	Email (in response to dBAR notification letter and online submission)	20 September 2021	Your comments and non-objection to the project are noted, thank you. Please note that a 2 nd draft BAR has subsequently been prepared which has also been uploaded onto the SAHRIS website for your review and opportunity to comment The recommended measures have also been noted and will be included in the final BAR and EMPr, which will also be uploaded to the SAHRIS website.
38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo				

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012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA for offences; 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:				
With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above; If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;				
The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;				
The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the				
SAHRIS Case application.				

In diversity there is beauty and there is strength.

MAYA ANGELOU

Document prepared by:

Zutari (Pty) Ltd Reg No 1977/003711/07 Riverwalk Office Park, 41 Matroosberg Road, Ashlea Gardens, Extension 6, Pretoria

South Africa PO Box 74381, Lynnwood Ridge 0040

T +27 12 427 2000 F +27 86 556 0521 E tshwane@zutari.com

