



## **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

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**Enquiries:** Mathodi Mogorosi

**Telephone:** 012-399-9388 **E-mail:** mmogorosi@environment.gov.za

Ms Terry Calmeyer  
MDT Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
1761 Tezula Estate  
Uranium Street  
**WITKOPPEN EXT 107**  
2191

Tel No: 011-465-2163

Email address: [terry@mdte.co.za](mailto:terry@mdte.co.za)

### **PER MAIL / E-MAIL**

Dear Ms Calmeyer

### **ACCEPTANCE OF SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ESKOM NORTHERN KWAZULU-NATAL STRENGTHENING PROJECT: NORMANDIE-IPHIVA 400KV POWERLINE, WITHIN THE ABAQULUSI, EDUMBE, JOZINI, MKHONDO AND UPHONGOLO LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, IN THE UMKHANYAKUDE, GERT SIBANDE AND ZULULAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, KWAZULU-NATAL AND MPUMALANGA PROVINCES**

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated October 2017 and received by the Department on 23 October 2017 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and PoSEIA dated October 2017 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the draft SR and submitted as part of the final SR must be taken into consideration when preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR) in respect of the proposed development.

Please ensure that all relevant stakeholders are provided with an opportunity to comment on the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development; Tourism and Environmental Affairs; KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agricultural and Rural Development; Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture; Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs; the Department of Roads and Transport; the Department of Water and Sanitation; the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs; Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife;

Amafa AkwaZulu Natali; Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority; the Department of Environmental Affairs: Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation; AbaQulusi, eDumbe, Jozini, Mkhondo and uPhongolo Local Municipalities; the Ithala Game Reserve; the Hluhluwe–Umfolozzi National Park; the Pongola Nature Reserve and the Mkuze Game Reserve which forms part of the greater Isimangaliso Wetland Park; Traditional Councils and Community Trusts. 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 additional information is required for the EIAr:

- a) The total footprint of the proposed development must be indicated. The location of the powerline within the proposed corridor and the associated infrastructure must be mapped at an appropriate scale.
- b) A clear description of all associated infrastructure must be provided. This description must include, but not limited to the following:
  - Access roads infrastructure (existing and new); and
  - All supporting onsite infrastructure.
- c) With regards to infilling and excavation of watercourses for the construction of the powerline, the applicant is required to provide an indication of the preferred and alternate locations from which the material used for infilling will be sourced and where excavated material will be stored and/or disposed of. In addition, the impacts associated with this activity must be adequately assessed in the EIAr.
- d) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
- e) The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct. Only activities that are applicable and relevant to the development must be included in both the application form and the EIAr. Should there be activities that are no longer applicable to the development, the application form must be amended and submitted together with the EIAr.
- f) The EAP must engage the relevant provincial authority with regards to development in geographic areas triggering GN R. 985: Activities 4 and 12. Please ensure that all applicable provinces and only the relevant sensitive geographic areas are applied for under these listed activities.
- g) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- h) Please make sure that correct contact details for all authorities (provincial, local and district municipalities) including email addresses are provided in the application form.
- i) The EIAr must provide the corner/bend-point coordinates for the proposed powerline (as well as start, middle and end points) and these must be attached as a separate appendix to the EIR, as well as the start, middle and end points of all the roads proposed for construction or widening.
- j) Please ensure that the EIAr correctly indicates only the affected provinces, district and local municipalities for this specific application, as far as the location of the activity is concerned.
- k) The EIAr must provide a detailed need and desirability motivation as to why there is a need for the development and why the specific location is desirable.
- l) The EIAr must include all items as specified in Appendix 3 of GN R 982; including:
  - the 21 digit Surveyor General code of each cadastral land parcel; and
  - where available, the physical address and farm name of the property or properties;
- m) Information on services required on the site, e.g. sewage, refuse removal and water. Who will supply these services and has an agreement and confirmation of capacity been obtained?
- n) Please provide in the EIR an indication of the time period that will be required to complete construction of the applied for powerline and associated infrastructure (i.e. number of years or months to required complete the development, once construction commences).

- o) A construction and operational phase EMPr to include mitigation and monitoring measures. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the EIAR must include the recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted.
- p) Please ensure that the Final EIAR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and that the locality maps included in the Final EIR illustrate the different proposed alignments. 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.

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, and Regulations 43 and 44 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 43(1).

You are requested to submit two (2) copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIAR) to the Department and at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

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**

**Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo**

**Designation: Deputy Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations: Public Sector**

**Date: 05/12/2017**

CC:	Mr A Mogokonyane	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Tel: (011) 800 3778	Email: MogokoA@eskom.co.za
	Ms Z Mbanjwa	DEDTEA(KZN)	Tel: (035) 780 0314	Email: zama.mbanjwa@edtea.gov.za
	Ms PN Ntuli	DARDLEA(MP)	Tel: (013) 759 4000	Email: pnntuli@mpg.gov.za