



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2330

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Mr Constantin Hatzilambros
Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 548
HOWARD PLACE
7450

Telephone Number: (021) 685 3240
E-mail Address: constantin@mulilo.com

PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Hatzilambros

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UP TO 400KV DE AAR 2 SOUTH TRANSMISSION LINE AND SWITCHING STATION, WITHIN THE EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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 Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the decision, of the decision, as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

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

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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:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@environment.gov.za;

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

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, 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 or request a copy of the documents at appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 10/08/2021

cc:	A Bodasing	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: ashlinb@arcusconsulting.co.za / deaar@arcusconsulting.co.za
	B Fisher	Department of Environment & Nature Conservation	Email: bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	F Taljaard	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	Email: tallies@emthanjeni.co.za

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forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

The development of the up to 400kV De Aar 2 South transmission line and switching station, within the
Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province

Pixley ka Seme District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2330</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Within Ward 8 of the Emthanjeni Local Municipality; Pixley ka Seme District Municipality; Northern Cape Province.</i>

This 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.

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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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

MULILO DE AAR 2 SOUTH (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Constantin Hatzilambros

Mulilo De Aar 2 South (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 548

HOWARD PLACE

7450

Telephone number: (021) 685 3240

E-mail address: constantin@mulilo.com

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11 (i):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i> <i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts</i></p>	<p>The development of an up to 400kV transmission line outside an urban area. The distribution of electricity from this project will either be between 66kV, 132kV, 220kV, 275kV or 400kV.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12 (ii) (a) (c):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of-</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;"</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists within 32 m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>Associated infrastructure such as roads will be within 32m of a watercourse. The cumulative footprint of all development within 32m of a watercourse will exceed 100 square metres.</p> <p>Roads for the development will include:</p> <p>(1) an approximate 40km long and 5m wide service road; and (2) upgrades to access roads (existing farm roads).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19:</u></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 meters from a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The construction of the transmission line and associated roads will traverse watercourses. The construction will require the infilling or depositing of more than 10 cubic meters or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic meters from a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 24 (ii):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road</i> <i>(ii) with a road reserve wider than 13,5 meters or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters."</i></p>	<p>The construction of the transmission lines will require roads wider than 8 meters. Roads for the development will include:</p> <p>(1) an approximate 40km long and 5m wide service road; and (2) upgrades to access roads (widening or</p>

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	lengthening of existing farm roads). Some parts of these roads will be wider than 8m.
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 27:</u> <i>"The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	The development of the switching station and the infrastructure associated with the transmission line, that is non-linear, will require clearing of more than 1 hectare of indigenous vegetation but less than 20 hectares.
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28 (ii):</u> <i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i></p>	The development will change the land use from agriculture to mixed - agriculture and electricity transmission. The development is outside an urban area and has a footprint that will exceed 1ha.
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 48 (i) (a) (c):</u> <i>"The expansion of- (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs- (a) within a watercourse." (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p>	Existing infrastructure such as roads and bridges within 32m of a watercourse will require expansion. The cumulative footprint of all proposed development expansion within 32m of a watercourse will exceed 100 square metres.
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 56 (i) (ii):</u> <i>"The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre- (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13.5 meters; or (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres;"</i></p>	Existing farm access roads will need to be widened or lengthened. Parts of these roads has no road reserve and will be wider than 8m in some parts of it.
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 9:</u> <i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the</i></p>	The development of an up to 400kV transmission

<p><i>transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex"</i></p>	<p>line. The distribution of electricity from this project will either be 66kV, 132kV, 220kV, 275kV or 400kV.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4 (g) (ii) (bb) (ee):</u> <i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres</i> <i>g. Northern Cape</i> <i>ii. Areas outside urban areas;</i> <i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy</i> <i>Focus areas;</i> <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans"</i></p>	<p>Internal and external access roads will be constructed, which are wider than 4m. The site falls outside of an urban area and part of it falls within a CBA 1 and CBA 2. The transmission line will cross small sections of National Parks Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) focus area.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 10 (g) (ii) (ee):</u> <i>"The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres.</i> <i>g. Northern Cape</i> <i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(ee) Critical Biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;"</i></p>	<p>The switching station will require the use of transformer oils/other hazardous substances during the operational phase. Oils/other hazardous substances will be kept on site and housed within a bunded facility. These substances will be used for the switching station / transformer during operation, as well as diesel for generators or vehicles. The facility earmarked for the storage of such substances will be demarked on the approximately 1 hectare (ha) area marked for O&M buildings and the capacity will be approximately 30m². This will be required for the construction phase as well. The site falls outside of an urban area and part of it falls within a CBA 1 and CBA 2.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12:</u> <i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation</i> <i>g. Northern Cape</i> <i>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in</i></p>	<p>The development will require the clearance of natural vegetation in excess of 300m². Parts of the site fall within CBA 1 and CBA 2.</p>

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<p><i>bioregional plans"</i></p> <p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 14(ii) (a) (c) (g) (ii) (bb) (ff):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of –</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs—</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>g. Northern Cape</i></p> <p><i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans"</i></p>	<p>Infrastructure associated with the transmission lines, such as roads, will be constructed within 32m of a watercourse. The site lies outside of an urban area and the transmission line traverses ESAs, CBAs and small sections of National Parks Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) focus area.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 18 (g) (ii) (bb) (ee):</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 4 metres or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre</i></p> <p><i>g. Northern Cape</i></p> <p><i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas:</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans"</i></p>	<p>Existing roads will be widened or lengthened within ESAs, CBAs and NPAES focus areas, during construction of the access and servitude roads. Roads for the development will include:</p> <p>(1) an approximate 40km long and 5m wide service road; and</p> <p>(2) upgrades to access roads (widening or lengthening of existing farm roads). Some parts of these roads will be wider than 4m.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 23 (ii) (a) (c) (g) (ii) (bb) (ee):</u></p> <p><i>"The expansion of—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such expansion occurs—</i></p>	<p>The construction of the transmission line will include the expansion of existing infrastructure such as roads that are located outside an urban area, within 32m of a watercourse, in ESAs, CBAs</p>

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<p>(a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; g. Northern Cape ii. Outside urban areas: (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;"</p>	<p>and NPAES focus areas. Roads for the development include: (1) an approximate 40km long and 5m wide service road; and (2) upgrades to access roads (existing farm roads).</p>
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as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated June 2021 at:

Farm properties and SG 21 Codes

Wag 'n Bietje	3	5	C0300000000000500003
Wag 'n Bietje	1	5	C0300000000000500001
Wag 'n Bietje	RE	5	C0300000000000500000
Wag 'n Bietje	RE	137	C03000000000013700000
Hydra	RE	144	C03000000000014400000
Carolus Poort	3	3	C0300000000000300003
Carolus Poort	4	3	C0300000000000300004
Carolus Poort	2	3	C0300000000000300002
Slingers Hoek	RE	2	C0300000000000200000
Slingers Hoek	2	2	C0300000000000200002
Wag 'n Bietje Annex C	1	137	C03000000000013700001
Vetlaagte	RE	4	C0300000000000400000
De Aar	1	180	C05700000000018000001

Preferred Transmission Line Route 1 Coordinates (within the approved 200m corridor) - and Switching Station Corners

Route	Point	Longitude	Latitude
Route 1	Start	30° 35.385' S	24° 16.857' E
Route 1	Bend Point	30° 35' 23.83" S	24° 16' 31.18" E
Route 1	Bend Point	30° 35' 45.62" S	24° 16' 16.86" E
Route 1	Middle	30° 39.050' S	24° 11.165' E
Route 1	Bend Point	30° 41' 44.92" S	24° 6' 37.09" E
Route 1	Bend Point	30° 42' 16.15" S	24° 6' 7.16" E
Route 1	End	30° 42.951' S	24° 5.632' E
Switching Station	North West Corner	30° 35' 22.26" S	24° 16' 52.04" E
Switching Station	North East Corner	30° 35' 24.79" S	24° 16' 56.07" E
Switching Station	South East Corner	30° 35' 30.55" S	24° 16' 51.55" E
Switching Station	South West Corner	30° 35' 28.06" S	24° 16' 47.65" E

- for the development of the up to 400kV De Aar 2 South transmission line and switching station to connect the authorised De Aar 2 South Wind Energy Facility to the existing Eskom Hydra Substation, within the Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The facility will comprise the following:

An up to 400kV transmission line (i.e., with a capacity ranging between 66kV and 400kV depending on the final design and Eskom requirements), using either steel monopole or steel lattice tower structures with maximum heights of 30m, and associated infrastructure consisting of:

- an up to 400 kV switching station. The switching station will be located on the plateau, within the authorised De Aar 2 South Wind Energy Facility site, alongside the authorised collector substation. The switching station will have a maximum 100m x 100m footprint and will be placed within an assessed area (referred to as the "Switching Station Assessment Area" of approximately 2.8ha (i.e. approximately 200m x 140m);
- foundations and insulators, O&M buildings, including a dangerous goods facility, and temporary construction laydown areas within the assessed study area;

- service road, existing access roads and jeep tracks within the assessed study area. Roads for the development will include: (1) an approximate 40km long and 5m wide service road; and (2) upgrades to access roads (widening or lengthening of existing farm roads and bridges); and
- line and servitude clearances to meet the statutory requirements.

Technical details of the Transmission Line:

Height of pylons	Maximum of 30m high
Length of transmission line	Route 1 (Preferred Alternative): Approximately 23km
Type of poles used	Steel monopole or steel lattice tower structures
Corridor within which to construct the transmission line	200m corridor (i.e., 100m on either side of the transmission line alignment)
Area occupied by pylon servitude	The pylon servitude width will be between 31m (132kV) and 55m (400kV) wide
Transmission capacity	Up to 400kV (i.e., with an infrastructure capacity ranging between 66kV and 400kV (i.e., either 66kV, 132kV, 220kV, 275kV or 400kV, depending on the final design and Eskom requirements))
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	Approximately 1 Hectare (ha)
Area occupied by O&M buildings	Approximately 1 Hectare (ha)
Length of service road	Approximately 40km
Width of service road	Approximately 5m
Height of fencing	No fencing for Transmission Lines
Type of fencing	No fencing for Transmission Lines

Technical detail of the Switching Station:

Area occupied by switching station	Maximum 100m x 100m footprint
Capacity of switching station	Up to 400kV
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	Approximately 2.8ha (i.e., ~200m x 140m)
Area occupied by buildings	Approximately 2.8 ha (i.e., ~200m x 140m)

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Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred route 1 alternative (within the approved 200m corridor) for the development of the up to 400kV De Aar 2 South Transmission Line and Switching Station, to connect the authorised De Aar 2 South Wind Energy Facility to the existing Eskom Hydra Substation, near De Aar, within Ward 8 of the Emthanjeni Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province is approved, per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
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 above.
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 ten (10) 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 five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site. This condition does not apply to Listing Notice 3, Item 10 (g) (ii) (ee), which includes operational aspects (i.e., for the dangerous goods facility).

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. 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.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. 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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended 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

12. A final site layout plan for the up to 400kV transmission line, switching station and associated infrastructure, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting of the powerline route and pylon structures, and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the

- activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
- 12.1. The position of the switching station (indicating the Independent Power Producer's Section and Eskom's section, if applicable);
 - 12.2. The final delineation of the centreline of the powerline within the approved 200m corridor;
 - 12.3. The specific position of the pylon structures and foundation footprints;
 - 12.4. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - 12.5. All heritage/palaeontology sites identified as significant;
 - 12.6. All associated infrastructure within the assessed study area, including the service road, the expanded sections of the existing roads and bridges, O&M buildings, including the dangerous goods facility, and temporary laydown areas. The dimensions of the structures must be indicated;
 - 12.7. All sensitive environmental features that will be affected by the transmission powerline;
 - 12.8. All watercourse areas (inclusive of buffers); and
 - 12.9. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
13. Part C of the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) for the up to 400kV transmission line and switching station, submitted as part of the final BAR dated June 2021, is not approved. Part C of the generic EMPrs must be amended to include the following:
- 13.1. The requirements and conditions of this environmental authorisation;
 - 13.2. Measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting;
 - 13.3. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist reports as included in the final BAR dated June 2021;
 - 13.4. All recommendations and mitigation measures to be implemented for the operational phase of the dangerous goods facility;
 - 13.5. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of any hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use or storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems;
 - 13.6. A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility;
 - 13.7. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan. The plan must provide for restoration to be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities, to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
 - 13.8. An aquatic Rehabilitation and Monitoring plan, particularly for watercourse features that will be infilled and / or excavated;
 - 13.9. A stormwater management plan; and
 - 13.10. The final site layout map.
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14. Part C of the generic EMPs must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the generic EMPs must be submitted to the Department for written approval (of Part C) prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the generic EMPs must be implemented, adhered to and strictly enforced. They shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
15. Changes to the approved EMPs must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
16. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPs, should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMP

17. The EMP must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 24 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMP.
18. The updated EMP must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
19. The updated EMP must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMP must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMP to the Department for approval.
20. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMP which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMP, the Department may request such amendments to the EMP as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMP sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
21. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMP, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMP or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

22. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced 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 EMPr.
 - 22.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 22.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
 - 22.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 22.4. The ECO 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

23. 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.
24. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
25. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
26. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report 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.
27. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA 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 EMPr.

28. 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

29. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. 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

30. 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

31. 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

Conditions for non-operational aspects

32. No activities, which require a water use authorisation, must be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
33. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for construction works. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
34. A permit must be obtained from the relevant Department for the removal or destruction of indigenous, protected, or endangered plant or animal species (if any) and a copy of such permit/s must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
35. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
36. An ecologist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough of the alignment to identify sensitive plant species, and to assist in identifying the areas that require protection and the species requiring permits
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- for their removal or destruction. The findings of the final walkthrough must inform the final site layout plan required in condition 12 above.
37. An aquatic specialist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough of the alignment to identify all watercourse areas (inclusive of buffers) and to inform the micro-siting of the pylons and associated infrastructure. The findings of the walkthrough must inform the final site layout plan required in condition 12 above, and must be used in the development of the stormwater management plan and Aquatic Rehabilitation and Monitoring plan required in condition 13 above.
 38. Foundations and trenches must be backfilled with originally excavated materials as much as possible.
 39. Dust suppression measures must be always implemented during the construction phase to limit the impacts of dust.
 40. An avifaunal specialist must be appointed to conduct a walkthrough of the alignment to inform the micro-siting of the pylons and to provide input on the fitting of the anti-collision devices. The findings of the final walkthrough must inform the final site layout plan required in condition 12 above.
 41. Anti-collision devices such as bird flight diverters, or flappers must be attached to the full length of the transmission line.
 42. The powerline must be constructed to the east of the existing powerline to reduce the risk of collision by the Verreaux's Eagle pair and their fledglings in the north-east of the project corridor.
 43. A heritage specialist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough of the alignment to inform the micro-siting of the pylons. The findings of the final walkthrough and the requirements of conditions 44 and 46 below must inform the final site layout plan as required in condition 12 above.
 44. The mapping, recording and collection of the following three archaeological sites must be undertaken by a heritage specialist, prior to the commencement of any activities related to the installation of the grid connections (namely: JG050-JG052/GEB013-GEB014 – dense early Holocene LSA stone scatter with ostrich eggshell eroding out of the bank of a stream in the Brak River Valley; JG067-JG072/GEB025 – deflation hollow with possibly early Holocene LSA lithics, with OES, eroding out of white riverine covers sands; and JG077- dense scatter of large, fresh hornfels artefacts in a sandy matrix which appear to still be in the process of eroding, as identified in the Archaeological Impact Assessment).
 45. Permits in terms of Section 35 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) must be applied for the recommended mitigation work for sites JG050-JG052/GEB013-GEB014, JG067-JG072/GEB025 and JG077 prior to construction.
 46. The following sites and their buffers, as identified in the Archaeological Impact Assessment, must be avoided and marked as no-go areas, and those nearest to the route alignment must be clearly marked as out of bounds (namely: the possible Khoi kraals and shepherds' huts (JG040; JG064; JG066; JG081-

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- JG090) - 40m buffer centered on JG088; the possible "wolwehok" (JG036) - 20m buffer; and the rock engraving (JG044) - 20m buffer). The marking of these sites must be performed by a heritage specialist.
47. The findings of the heritage specialist walk-down for the micro-siting of pylons must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for review and comment. Construction may not commence without comment from SAHRA.
 48. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate area must be halted, SAHRA must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist (depending on the nature of the finds) must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.
 49. 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.
 50. 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).

Conditions for operational aspects (i.e., for the dangerous goods facility)

51. The holder of Environmental Authorisation must prevent the occurrence of nuisance conditions or health hazards.
52. No effluent must be discharged into any storm water drain or furrow, whether by commission or by omission.
53. 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).

General

54. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 54.1. at the site of the authorised activity;

54.2. to anyone on request; and

54.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

55. 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: 10/08/2021



Mr Sabelo Majaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

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 listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 22 April 2021.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated June 2021.
- c) The comments received from the SAHRA, South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Eskom, and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated June 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPrs.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated June 2021 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Ecological Impact Assessment (Flora and Fauna)	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd	December 2020
Aquatic Impact Assessment	EnviroSci (Pty) Ltd	December 2020
Avifaunal Impact Assessment	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd	December 2020
Agricultural and Soils Impact Assessment	Johann Lanz	December 2020
Archaeological Impact Assessment	ACO Associates CC	December 2020
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	Professor Marion Bamford (for ACO Associates CC)	February 2020

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 need for the project was adequately addressed. South Africa faces serious electricity and water shortages due to its heavy dependency on fossil fuels and increases in demand. There is, therefore, a strong need for additional electricity generation options to be developed and to diversify the sources of energy that feed into the national grid. The purpose of the development, situated within a Strategic Infrastructure Corridor, is to export the renewable energy generated by the authorised De Aar 2 South Wind Energy Facility, to the national grid.
- c) The BAR dated June 2021 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the transmission line within the Electricity Grid Infrastructure Central Strategic Transmission Corridor as per Government Notice 113, National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The approved route has also been pre-negotiated and agreed upon with all landowners.
- e) The low overall footprint of the development within the ESAs, CBAs and NPAES Focus Areas, combined with the fact that the proposed route runs adjacent to existing power lines for most of the route, means that the development would not compromise the ecological functioning or the long-term conservation value of the area.
- f) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated June 2021 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- g) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

3. Findings

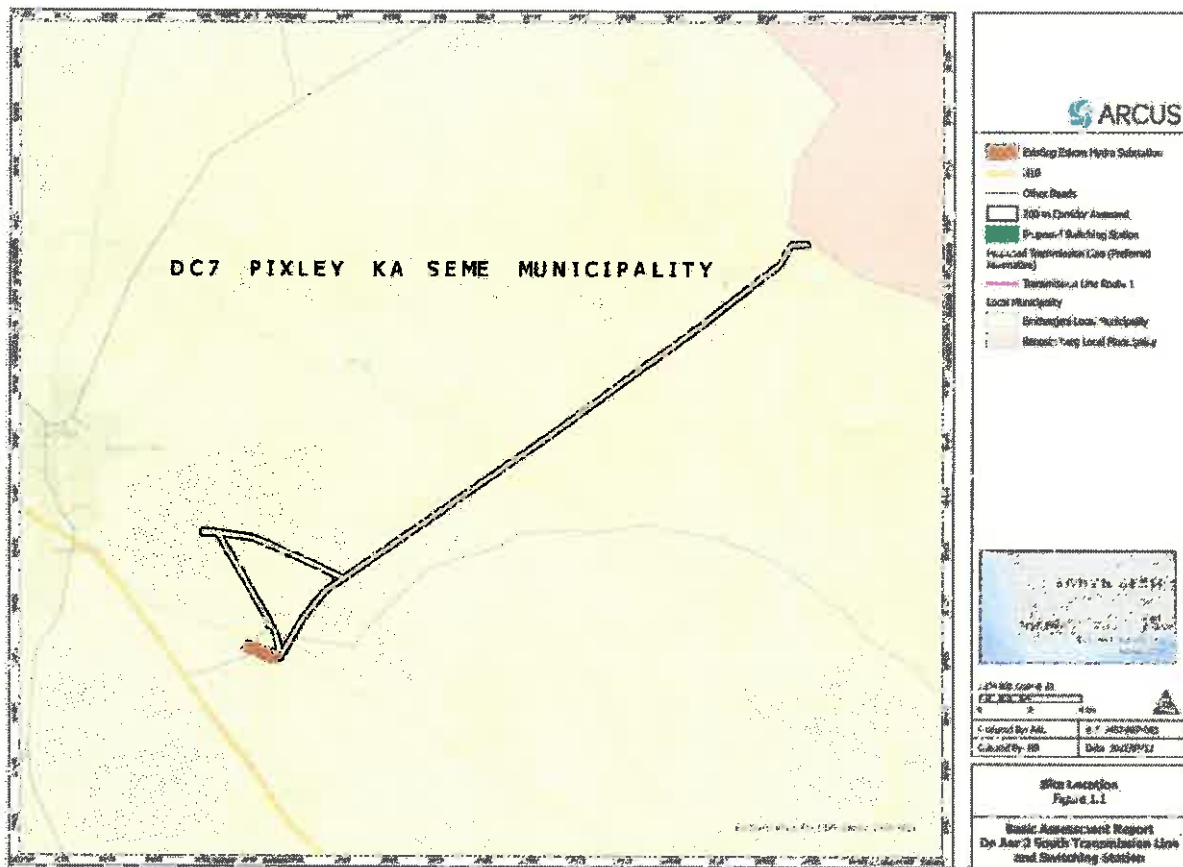
After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated June 2021 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 information contained in the BAR dated June 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR 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.

Annexure 2: Locality Plan



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