

# **BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS: NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE BON ESPIRANGE KOMSBERG 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE WITHIN THE KAROO HOOGLAND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND THE LAINGSBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**Notice is given in terms of Regulation 41(2) of GNR 982, as amended, published under section 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for an application process for environmental authorisation (EA) in respect of activities identified in terms of GNR 983 and GNR 985 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended) (EIA Regulations)**

## **BACKGROUND AND LOCATION**

The proponent, Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Red Rocket), proposes to construct a 132kV overhead powerline (OHPL), approximately 3km in length, from the existing Bon Espirange substation to the existing Komsberg substation near Laingsburg in the Western Cape Province, South Africa. The proposed grid connection includes a new 33/132kV Eskom switching substation and a new 132kV collector substation. The proposed OHPL will serve to connect the Rietkloof and Brandvalley WEFs to the National Grid. Both WEFs are confirmed Round 5 Preferred Bidder Projects. The proposed project is located within the Central Strategic Transmission Corridor (promulgated in GN 113 of 2018) and traverses the following properties:

- Bon Espirange 73 Portion 1 and Remainder
- Aprils Kraal 105 Remainder
- Standvastigheid 210 Portion 2 (Komsberg Substation)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION**

Due to the fact that the proposed OHPL is greater than 33kV as well as the fact that it traverses areas classified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) according to the Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas (2016) and the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2017), the following listed activities in GNR 327 and GNR 324 are triggered. Should you wish to obtain a complete copy of these listed activities, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), as per the details provided below.

- **GNR 983, as amended (Listing Notice 1): Activities 11, 12, 19 and 27;**
- **GNR 985, as amended (Listing Notice 3): Activities 4, 12 and 14.**

A Basic Assessment (BA) process will therefore be followed as outlined in Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended). The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is the Competent Authority in respect of this application for Environmental Authorisation.

## **DRAFT BA REPORT REVIEW PERIOD**

The Draft BA Report will be made available at the venues below for review and comment for 30 days from **3 December 2021 – 24 January 2022**.

- Sutherland Public Library, Sarel Celliers Street, Sutherland, 6920 (Tel: 023 571 1429);
- Matjiesfontein Community Centre, Matjiesfontein, 6901 (Tel : 023 551 1019).
- WSP Website: <https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents>

## **INVITATION TO REGISTER**

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) has been appointed as the independent and suitably qualified EAP to manage and undertake the BA process. Parties wishing to formally register as interested and affected parties (IAPs) in order to receive more information and/ or raise their comment(s) on the proposed project, are requested to forward their full contact details to the EAP and disclose their direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the project. Any comments on the proposed project may be submitted to the EAP via the details provided below. Registered interested and affected parties will be sent all future project related correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

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