



WSP ref.: 41103473

03 December 2021

PUBLIC

Dear Sir/Madam:

Subject: 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 326 (07 April 2017) 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 327 and GNR 324 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended) (EIA Regulations).

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

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 approximately 34 km north of Matjiesfontein, originating at the Bon Espirange substation in Ward 2 of the Laingsburg Local Municipality in the Central Karoo District Municipality in the Western Cape Province and ending at the Komsberg substation in Ward 4 of the Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality in the Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, South Africa (**Figure 1**). The OHPL is located within the Central Strategic Transmission Corridor, promulgated in GN 145, with the centre point of the OHPL located at 32°55'35.62"S; 20°33'59.25"E. The table below outlines the location of the proposed project:

PROJECT	LOCATION	PROCESS
Bon Espirange to Komsberg 132kV Overhead Powerline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bon Espirange 73 Portion 1 and Remainder – Aprils Kraal 105 Remainder – Standvastigheid 210 Portion 2 (Komsberg Substation) 	Basic Assessment

The OHPL will be a 132kV steel single or double structure with kingbird conductor. The power line towers will either be steel lattice or monopole structures with a maximum height up to 25m above ground level.

A 200m corridor around the OHPL (100m on either side of the centre line) has been assessed for the purposes of this BAR. The registered servitude will fall within this 200m corridor and will likely be 32m (16m on either side of the centre line). The length of the OHPL is approximately 6km, which will result in a servitude area of approximately 19.2 hectares.

Existing access roads and farm tracks will be used during the construction phase and to service the OHPL during the operational phase. Short, temporary access tracks (jeep tracks) may be developed to access certain sections of the OHPL where no existing tracks are present.

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.

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A BA process has therefore been 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.

The listed activities associated with the proposed project are reflected in the table below. Should you wish to obtain a complete copy of these listed activities, please contact the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), per the details provided below.

Project Name	Listing Notice	Activities applied for in terms of the EIA Regulations			
Bon Espirange to Komsberg132kV Overhead Powerline	GNR 327	11	12	19	27
	GNR 324	4	12	14	

REGISTRATION

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 IAPs will be sent all future project related correspondence and notified individually of additional opportunities to participate in the process.

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 **03 December 2021 – 24 January 2022**.

Area	Venue	Street Address	Contact No
Matjiesfontein	Matjiesfontein Community Centre	Matjiesfontein, 6901	Tel: 023 551 1019
Sutherland	Sutherland Public Library	Sarel Celliers Street, Sutherland, 6920	Tel: 023 571 1429
Website	https://www.wsp.com/en-ZA/services/public-documents		

We look forward to your participation in this process and your meaningful contributions.

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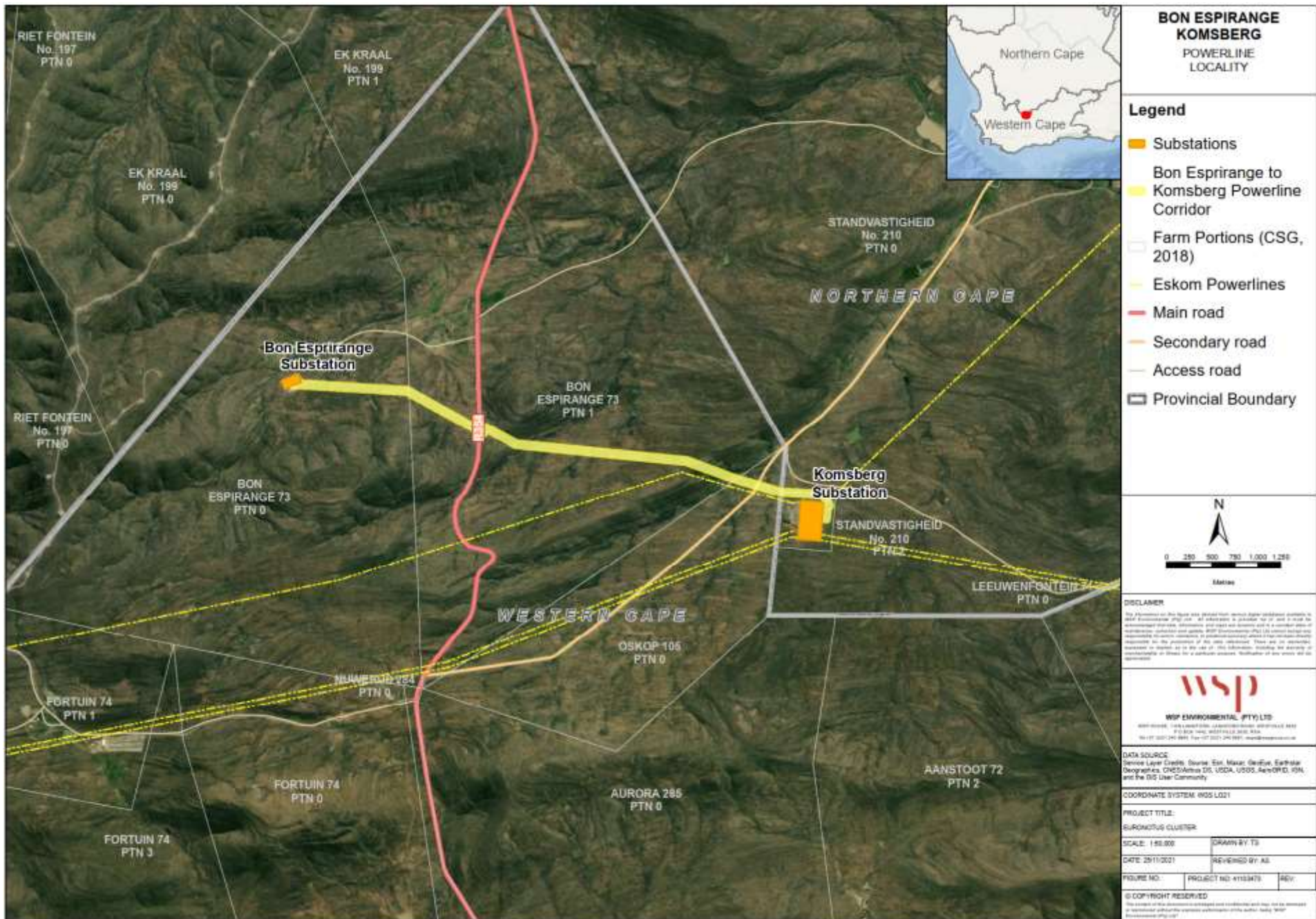


Figure 1: Location of the Proposed 132 kV Powerline