

Our reference: 230607-04

Your reference: EMPr Amendment

Date: August 2023

Physical address:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental
Authorisations
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia

Postal Address:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

ATTENTION: CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS - DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (DFFE)

REQUEST FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPR) AMENDMENT FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VIRGINIA 132KV POWERLINE WHICH WILL CONNECT THE VIRGINIA 1, 2 AND 3 SOLAR PARKS TO THE ESKOM THESEUS SUBSTATION, LOCATED WITHIN THE MATJHABENG AND MASILONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

On behalf of the **Applicant:**
Norma Energy (Pty) Ltd

Please find attached to this cover letter, the electronic copy of the Completed **EMPr Application form, the Amended EMPr and the associated Appendices** for the above-mentioned Project.

The Applicant proposes to submit an Application for an EMPr Amendment for the Virginia 132kV Powerline. The Generic EMPr and layout are already approved and will be updated to enhance the resolution of the EMPrs and to reflect the current EA. The project was awarded Preferred Bidder Status under the 6th round of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) and is listed as a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP) 8.

We provide the following pre-amble as context for this EMPr Amendment Process:

1. An Environmental Authorisation (EA) (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2444, dated 21 February 2022 was granted for the Virginia 132kV Powerline.
An amendment was made to the EA and approved dated 14 June 2023 (DFFE Ref No14/12/16/3/3/1/2444/AM1) for several non-substantive administrative amendments.
2. The **current EMPr Amendment Application** proposes to undertake the following amendments:
 - a. The current approved Generic OHPL EMPr does not contain adequate construction and operation measures nor site specific information and recommendations. The approved generic EMPr is only 14 pages long.

tel: +27 21 701 5228 · **fax:** +27 86 558 1213 · **mobile:** +27 82 575 3800

address: 5 Devon Air Close, Crofters Valley, Noordhoek 7975 · **postal:** postnet suite 211, private bag x26, tokai, 7966

email: info@terramanzi.co.za · **web:** www.terramanzi.co.za · **skype:** terramanzi

- b. The Applicant wishes to update the approved Generic OHPL EMPr, via a Regulation 37 and to include Conditions 33 to 37 of the EA (14/12/16/3/3/1/2444/AM114 June 2023) to incorporate construction and operations measures, to verify archaeological features and wetland features and buffers, to better reflect specialist findings, and to ensure alignment of the EMPr with the current EA following the recent amendment. The layout will incorporate the sensitive heritage buffers. The new coordinates are located within the approved and assessed 250m servitude and no additional impacts are anticipated from the revised routing. A reduction in impacts is anticipated because the new routing avoids the sensitive heritage features and the wetland features within the servitude. The EMPr Amendment process appointed Specialists to verify the original impacts and reports during the BAR process. These verification letters, specifically for the Heritage and Wetland Reports, enabled the Specialists to better delineated and appropriate buffer the sensitive features.
- c. Update the layout as per the above to reflect the current EA.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any clarification or additional information.

Yours Faithfully,



FABIO VENTURI

Certified Environmental Scientist (SAIEES)

Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (Founding Member, Reg #2021/4088)

On behalf of The Terramanzi Group (Pty)

