

IMPACTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE PLANNING AND DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATIONAL, DECOMMISSIONING AND CLOSURE PHASES AS WELL AS PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Impacts Resulting from the Planning and Design Phase

Direct Impacts:

Employment Creation

The planning and design of the proposed development requires input from various individuals, resulting in the employment opportunities for such persons. This additional employment would include both direct (e.g. Environmental Consultants, Engineers, Project Managers, Planners, etc.) and indirect (e.g. reviewing and commenting authorities such as the local authorities, planning authorities and the environmental authorities). The extent and magnitude of this impact is relatively low compared to the other economic impacts, and is typically restricted to a limited number of professionals. All the identified alternatives are likely to result in the same level of significance for this impact. The No-go Alternative would differ in that this impact would not occur.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Employment Creation	No	Positive	3	2	8	4	(30-60) Medium
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measures have been identified. 						

Indirect Impacts:

None Identified.

Cumulative Impacts:

No cumulative impacts were identified.

Alternative 1

Impacts Resulting from the Construction Phase

Direct Impacts:

Soils and erosion

The loss of topsoil in South Africa is a national concern and thus erosion control should be taken seriously. Ineffective storm water management systems can result to soil erosion. Where soils are highly erodible, adequate measures must be implemented to prevent undue soil erosion.

Extensive soil erosion is not expected during the construction of the activities, however, it is anticipated that occurrence of such might occur during wet seasons especially on the stockpiles (Topsoil and Subsoil).

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Soils and erosion	No	Negative	2	2	4	3	<30 Low
	Yes	Negative	1	1	2	1	<30 Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockpiles should be piled up to 2m or less. Stockpiles should not be piled within a 32m distance from any river bank or within wetlands. Foundation excavations for each structure must be inspected by a competent person during construction. Implementation of anti-erosion measures such as the construction of berms to reduce the water velocity is essential. Excavation must not be left open for longer than three weeks. Construction must preferably be during the dry season. In the event of significant erosion occurring, adequate corrective measures must be implemented to prevent any further soil loss. Proper storm water management measures must be put in place. 						

Impact on Traffic

During construction, increase in traffic is likely to occur due to the delivery of construction materials to and from the construction site. The impact of increased traffic can be considered local in extent, short term in duration with the overall impact been *negative with low significance*. However, with implementation of proper mitigation measures, the impact can be further reduced.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Traffic	No	Negative	2	2	2	2	<30 Low
	Yes	Negative	2	2	2	2	<30 Low

Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery of construction material and equipment should be limited to hours outside peak traffic times (including weekends) prevailing on the surrounding roads. Delivery vehicles must comply with all traffic laws and bylaws.
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Impact on Fauna

Increased levels of noise, pollution, disturbance and human presence during construction could be detrimental to fauna resident or utilising the site. Sensitive and shy fauna would move away from the area during the construction phase as a result of the noise and human activities present, while some slow-moving species would not be able to avoid the construction activities and might be killed. Some mammals and reptiles would also be vulnerable to illegal collection or poaching. The nature of the impact will be negative and of low significance.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Fauna	No	Negative	2	2	6	4	(30-60) Medium
	Yes	Negative	2	2	4	2	<30 Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any active faunal burrows within the development footprint should be located and marked before construction and avoided until the occupant animals can be excluded or have moved away due to the nearby construction activities. Any fauna threatened by construction activities should be removed to safety by the ECO or other suitably qualified person. Existing roads and access routes should be used wherever possible. During construction all vehicles should adhere to demarcated tracks or roads and the speed limit should not exceed 40km/h on larger roads and should be 20-30km/h on smaller access tracks. 						

Impact on Flora

There are some listed and protected species confirmed present at the site and these may be impacted by the development. In addition, loss of currently intact habitat resulting from site clearing within the development footprint is an inevitable consequence of the development. The nature of the impact will be negative, however, but of low significance.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Fauna	No	Negative	2	2	6	4	(30-60) Medium
	Yes	Negative	2	2	4	2	<30 Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There must be a preconstruction walk-through of the power line route to identify species of conservation concern that should be avoided or translocated. Individuals of protected species which cannot be avoided should be translocated to safe sites nearby. A permit from DENC is required for any vegetation clearing, destruction or translocation of listed or protected plant species. Existing tracks should be used for access wherever possible. No open fires are permitted within naturally vegetated areas. Formalise access roads and make use of existing roads and tracks where feasible, rather than creating new routes through naturally vegetated areas. A vegetation rehabilitation plan should be implemented. 						

Impact on Avifauna

It is inevitable that birds will be killed through interaction with power infrastructure, despite the best possible mitigation measures. Habitat destruction during the construction phase of the proposed activities is inevitable and this will have an impact on birds breeding, foraging and roosting in or in close proximity of the servitude, both through modification of habitat and disturbance. Given the absence of sensitive bird habitat on site, this impact is definite and of low significance. Further electrocution and collision of birds during the operational phase is highly likely. This impact is also of low significance with proper mitigation.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Avifauna	No	Negative	1	4	4	4	(30-60)=Med

	Yes	Negative	1	4	2	2	<30 =Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care must still be taken to reduce the impact of habitat destruction to an absolute minimum. The already disturbed servitude and all existing roads must be used if possible. Construction activities must be limited to the site and surroundings and not be allowed to spill over to adjacent habitat. The steel monopole design should be used for the new power line towers. This will mitigate for the impact of electrocutions as well as the impact of bird induced faulting. All poles should be fitted with a Bird Perch on top to provide safe perching space for large birds. The new power line must be built adjacent to the existing power line to mitigate for the impact of collisions. In addition the new line must be marked with anti-collision flappers to further reduce the impact of collision. An avifaunal walk down should be commissioned once the line has been surveyed and pegged to indicate the exact spans requiring marking. 						

Air pollution

Construction activities on the site will lead to land clearing and disturbance of the soil resulting in dust generation. During construction, movement of construction vehicles will present temporary but significant sources of inhalable particulates and dust deposits. Given the nature and magnitude of the proposed project it is anticipated that very little dust will be generated from the construction activities. The potential impact on air quality will be short term and can be controlled. Proper implementation of recommended corrective measures will reduce the impact to *low significance*.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Air pollution	No	Negative	2	1	4	4	<30 =Low
	Yes	Negative	2	1	2	3	<30 =Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unnecessary clearing of vegetation must be avoided. All exposed surfaces subjected to dust generation must be managed with appropriate dust 						

suppression methods including amongst others, the use of water tankers etc.

- Vehicles travelling on the site should not be allowed to reach sufficient speeds so as to cause dust to rise from the roads.
- Unnecessarily exposed surfaces should be rehabilitated after the construction period.
- The amount of exposed soil at a particular time must be limited.

Hydrological

Construction phase disturbance within or near washes and drainage lines may impact on hydrological function and ecological integrity of the drainage systems. Although the area is arid, it may experience occasional intense summer thunder showers and capture of overland flow along vehicle tracks or through disturbed areas, may result in large amounts of erosion and silt movement into drainage lines with negative consequences for fauna and flora in these areas. An impact of medium significance is expected, with proper mitigation it can be reduced to low.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Surface and ground water pollution	No	Negative	1	2	5	4	(30-60)= Medium
	Yes	Negative	1	1	3	2	<30 = Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate measures must be taken during construction to manage storm water runoff. • Fuel must not be stored on site. Should the need arise to store fuel on site, it must be stored in bunded and confined areas. • Care must be taken not to spill fuels during service or re-fuelling of construction equipment. During refuelling drip trays must be placed under the machinery or vehicle to prevent contamination of soil in case of spillages. • In the event of a spillage of a hazardous substance the requirements of the EMP must be implemented. • Attempt should be made to schedule construction during the dry season. • Disturbance within or near the drainage lines should be kept to a minimum. No pylons should be located within drainage lines or the adjacent floodplains. 						

- Any roads along slopes should have water diversion structures placed at regular intervals to ensure that they do not capture overland flow and become eroded. The existing access route along the existing power line should be used during operation and it should not be necessary to construct an additional permanent access route.

Waste generation

During the construction phase waste material will be produced. Contractors and sub-contractors must adhere to all proposed measures and provide adequate waste skips and bins around the site. Waste must be regularly removed from site and disposed of at registered waste disposal sites. The impact will be *negative, site specific, low in significance* and will last the duration of the construction and rehabilitation phase.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Waste generation and management	No	Negative	2	2	4	4	<30 Low
	Yes	Negative	1	2	4	3	<30 Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No waste will be buried on site or incorporated into the foundation trenches. The work force must be encouraged to sort waste into recyclable and non-recyclable waste. No burning of waste will be allowed on site. Waste must be regularly removed from site and disposed of at a registered waste disposal facility. 						

Noise pollution

At present the land-use in the area is predominantly agricultural and partly commercial land uses. There will be an increase in noise levels during the construction period emanating from construction vehicles, machinery and workers, which can be a nuisance during construction, but this will be manageable. The level of noise and extent will depend entirely on the prevailing construction activities within the site. The impact of noise will also be reduced to almost insignificant levels given the small scale of the development, the proposed locality which is far removed from other land owners as well as the short span of the construction period.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Noise pollution	No	Negative	2	2	2	3	<30 Low
	Yes	Negative	2	2	2	2	<30 Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It must be ensured that all vehicles used during construction are appropriately maintained. Working hours must be restricted to daytime only (7am – 6pm). Noise levels should conform to the bylaws. 						

Fire hazards

Onsite storage of fuel and other flammable solvents, during construction, increase the risk of fire. It is anticipated that the uncontrolled fires on site could cause damage to infrastructure and the biophysical environment and impact on the social environment. This impact is considered to be of medium significance. Should the recommended mitigation measures be implemented, the significance of the impact will remain *negative but low in significance*.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Fire hazards	No	Negative	2	2	6	3	(30-60) medium
	Yes	Negative	2	1	4	2	<30 Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas where flammable substances are kept must have proper warning signs on display (Highly flammable, No smoking etc.) to warn personnel on site of risk associated with such areas. No burning of waste or cooking will be allowed on site. Contracting personnel must be conversant in the relevant existing fire and safety management procedures and activities on site. Implement fire hazard sensitive on- and offloading procedures. Designate a site safety official and ensure that personnel are adequately trained regarding fire hazards and procedures. 						

Impact on cultural and heritage resources

The construction of the power line could negatively affect sites associated with Middle/ Late Stone Age noted in the area. Considering that a number of the identified sites and features are of high significance and will be negatively impacted by the proposed development, it is thus recommended that the area proposed for power line be subjected to heritage walk down study once all the final pylon placements have been done. The walk down will focus on the individual pylon positions to see if any pylons will negatively impact on any archaeological sites. It will also concentrate on servitude and access roads that will be used during construction.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Cultural and heritage resources	No	Negative	2	5	8	3	(30-60) Medium
	Yes	Negative	2	5	1	1	<30 = Low
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site should be subject to a heritage walk-down. Should there heritage or archaeological artefacts be discovered during construction or operational phase, all works must be stopped at the affected area and SAHRA must be contacted. 						

Indirect Impacts: None

Cumulative Impacts:**Socio-Economic Impact**

This phase will also result in a positive socio-economic impact as the demand for equipment, building material and labour. Equipment and building material should be sourced locally as far as possible. Secondary service provision such as food supply, toilet hire, equipment maintenance etc. would also stimulate the local economy during the construction phase. This is a positive impact of a short duration.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Socio-economic impacts	No	Positive	3	2	8	5	(>60) = High
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractors should by all means practise the localisation matrix while seeking for construction equipment or building materials. For minimal jobs, the appointed contractor should by all means consider the local residents for jobs that do not need any skill transfer. 						

Alternative 2

Environmental Impacts for this alternative during the construction phase will be similar to the impacts of the preferred alternatives.

No go Alternative

Direct Impacts: Should the proposed development not continue, none of the identified impacts would result.

Indirect Impacts:

Cumulative Impacts: None identified

IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPERATIONAL PHASE**Alternative 1: Site A****Impacts Associated with the Operational Phase**

Direct Impacts:

Improved energy supply

In the short and longer term, the proposed project will have reliable power supply to meet future demands and Transnet's supply need. This is a positive impact long term impact

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Improved energy supply	No	Positive	3	4	8	5	(>60) = High
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular maintenance of the facility should be done continuously to ensure uninterrupted supply of energy. 						

Employment creation

The proposed development will have the capacity to produce considerable employment opportunities, mainly during the construction phase. During operation, employment opportunities will arise as a result of the actual maintenance work required to keep the facility running. The significance of this impact is anticipated to be *positive and medium in significance*.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Employment creation	No	Positive	3	4	6	3	(30-60) = Medium
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation 						

Indirect Impacts: None identified.

Cumulative Impacts: None identified.

Alternative 2:

Impacts Associated with the Operational Phase

Same Impact as Alternative 1.

No-go alternative

Direct Impacts: None of the impacts identified for the proposed activity will occur (including positive and negative impacts) if the proposed activity does not proceed.

Indirect Impacts: None identified

Cumulative Impacts: None identified

IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

At present it is not anticipated that the proposed infrastructure will ever be decommissioned. On-going maintenance and upgrades, where necessary will be carried out. In the unlikely event that decommissioning is necessary it is recommended that the potential impacts identified below are reviewed and a detailed decommissioning strategy and rehabilitation plan is prepared and implemented. **Impacts for decommissioning phase are similar for all three alternatives.**

Impacts Associated with the Decommissioning Phase

Direct Impacts

Waste

The decommissioning of the proposed project will contribute to large amounts of waste material that will be produced. The decommissioning will contribute to a large portion of bare soil being exposed to erosion if not rehabilitated properly. This waste material should be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Waste	No	Negative	3	4	8	4	(30-60) = Medium
	Yes	Negative	3	2	6	3	(30-60) = Medium
Corrective Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal of waste at a registered waste disposal site. Non-hazardous material should be recycled and utilised in other construction processes. An appropriate rehabilitation plan should be in place. 						

Dust generation

Decommissioning of the facility and other infrastructure may lead to an increased amount of airborne particles in the local

atmosphere as the infrastructure is dismantled and transported to the disposal site. The nature of this impact will be negative and of low significance.

Issue	Corrective measures	Impact rating criteria					Significance
		Nature	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	
Employment creation	No	Negative	2	1	4	4	(>30) = Low
	Yes	Negative	2	1	4	3	(>30) = Low
Corrective Actions	Use of dust suppression techniques to reduce the dust.						

Indirect Impacts: None Identified.

Cumulative Impacts: None identified.

No-go alternative

Direct Impacts: None of the impacts identified for the proposed activity will occur. If the proposed infrastructure is not to be decommissioned, it will require continuous maintenance and the measures identified for the operational phase must be continued. Efforts for continual improvement must be encouraged.

Indirect Impacts: None identified

Cumulative Impacts: None identified