

NOTICE

NOTICE OF A BASIC ASSESSMENT AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION PROCESS FOR THE NEW ALOE SUBSTATION AND LOOP-IN LOOP-OUT POWERLINES, POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Notice is hereby given that Eskom Limpopo Operating Unit (LOU) is proposing to construct the New Aloe 132kV substation and the parallel 132kV Silica- Aloe loop-in powerline and 132kV Thabamoopo - Aloe loop - out powerline approximately 20km east of the Polokwane CBD. This Notice is in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended. It is also in terms of Section 41(4) of the National Water Act No 36 of 1998, read with Regulations 17 to 19 regarding Procedural requirements for Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals in GNR 267 published in Government Gazette 40713 of 24 March 2017. The intention of the proposed project is to secure supply of electricity in order to cater for proposed new developments in the site vicinity. GA Environment has therefore been appointed to undertake the Basic Assessment (BA) and Water Use Authorization (WUA) Processes for the proposed project.

The New Aloe 132kV substation and associated powerlines are proposed within Ward 5 and Ward 6 of the Polokwane Local Municipality on Portion 1005 of Farm Majebas Kraal LS. The existing Aloe substation is located approximately 350m of the proposed New Aloe substation, refer to **Figure 1**. The eastern edge of the village of Orange Grove is located west of the proposed substation site and powerlines and the Diep River is located east of the site. The preferred alternative site for the substation is located adjacent to the proposed substation and is about 250m south of the surfaced R71 and is directly accessible from a gravel road off the R71. The approximate centre coordinates of the preferred substation site are 23°53'57.97"S; 29°37'22.02"E and those of the alternative site proposed approximately 100m south of the preferred site are 23°54'5.33"S; 29°37'24.18"E. The proposed substation will cover an extent of 2 hectares and will also include an access road, feeder bays, transformers and a communication tower.

The proposed development of substations and powerlines infrastructure will result in the clearance of indigenous vegetation. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, as amended, a Basic Assessment (BA) is required for the project based on the following triggered activities:

Listing Notice 1, Activity 27

The clearance of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-

- (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or
- (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

Listing Notice 1, Activity 11

The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—

- (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts

Listing Notice 3, Activity 3

The development of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast or tower—

- (a) is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose; and
- (b) will exceed 15 metres in height—but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops.

e. Limpopo

i. Outside urban areas:

(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

Listing Notice 3, Activity 12

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan in:

c. Limpopo

ii. Within Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas identified.

As the powerline 1km corridor is located within the regulated area of the Diep River, this watercourse may be impacted by proposed and a WUA may be triggered. These triggered activities are Section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). These are as follows: (c) *impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; (i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristic of a watercourse.* Any other triggered activities will be confirmed after consultation with the Department of Water and Sanitation.

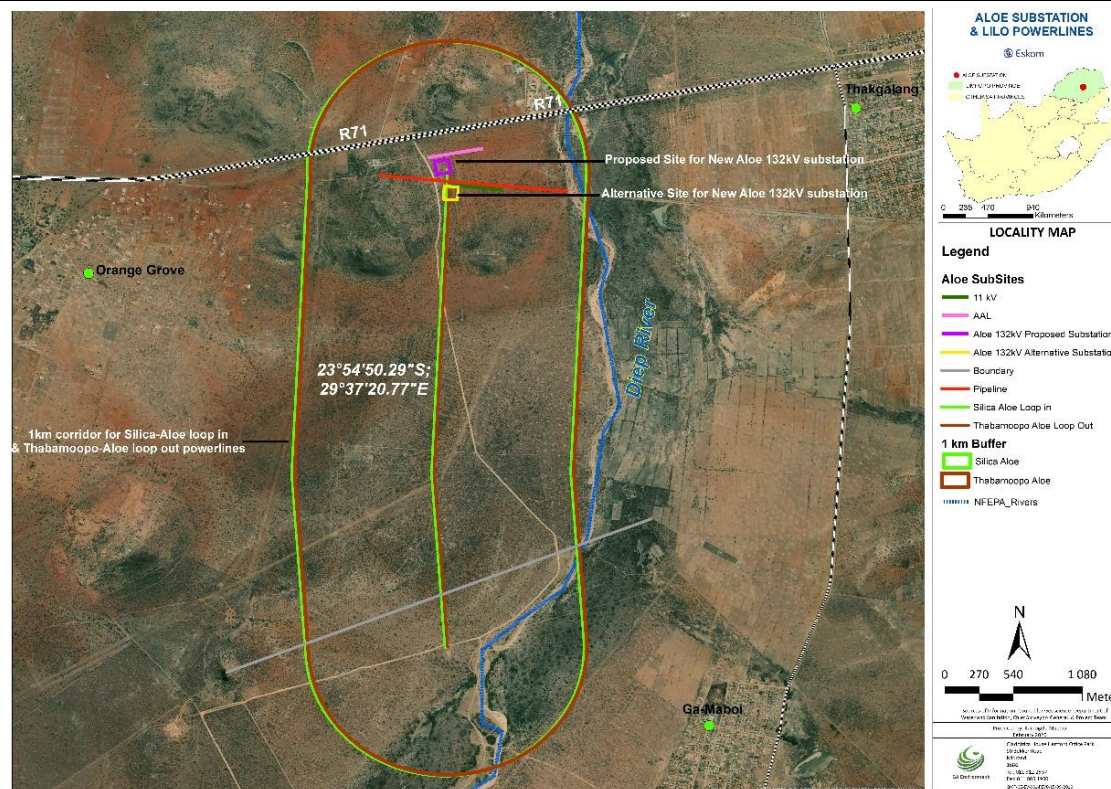


Figure 1: Locality of proposed New Aloe infrastructure and LILO powerlines

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, and the Regulations regarding the Procedural requirements for Water Use License Applications and Appeals (2017), all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) must be provided with an opportunity to participate in the EIA and WUA Process for the proposed project. This Notification is also in terms of the directions regarding the measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 relating to the National Environmental Management Permits and Licences issued by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries on 05 June 2020. All parties who wish to participate in the process by commenting, registering as I&APs or obtaining more information on the proposed project can contact **Nyaladzi Nleya** on: **Tel:** 011 312 2537,078 329 7918 **Fax:** 011 805 1950, **E-mail:** environment@gaenvironment.com or nyaladzin@gaenvironment.com or **Post:** P.O Box 6723 Halfway House 1685.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN THE PROJECT BY NO LATER THAN 30th SEPTEMBER 2020



GA Environment

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