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Part A of the Assessment Protocols published in GN 320 on 20 March 2020 (i.e., Site sensitivity verification is required where a specialist assessment is required but no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed) is applicable where the DFFE Screening Tool has the relevant themes to verify.

Prior to commencing with a specialist assessment, the current use of the land and the potential environmental sensitivity of the site under consideration (as identified by the screening tool) must be confirmed by undertaking a site sensitivity verification.

Accordingly, Specialists must please provide a site sensitivity verification report containing the information outlined below:

1. INTRODUCTION

Beaufort West Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd ('Beaufort West Wind Farm') is proposing to install one (1) Radio Mast which will be placed on the authorised 132kV/400kV Linking Station (on the remaining extent of Portion 1 of Farm No. 15 of Trakas Kuilen - C06100000000001500001), located 60km south of the town of Beaufort West in the Prince Albert Local Municipality, within the Central Karoo District Municipality of the Western Cape Province.

Applicant	Project Name	Affected Property
Beaufort West Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd	Beaufort West Wind Farm Radio Mast	Portion 1 of Farm Trakas Kuilen De Braak No. 15

The radio mast is required by Eskom Holdings Ltd (Eskom) in order for the Linking Station to be able to communicate via Radio frequency to other Linking stations in the area. The radio mast will consist of a tapered steel lattice structure with either a square (4 leg) or triangular (3 leg). The radio mast will be up to 90 metres (m) in height and will be placed within the substation footprint for the authorised 33kV/132kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS) (i.e., will be built on top of the authorised MTS) (14-12-16-3-3-2-925-1 & 14-12-16-3-3-2-925-2) / (12-12-20-1784-2 & 12-12-20-1784-1).

With regards to technology alternatives, the specifications for the radio mast being proposed is based on Eskom requirements / standards. There are no design / technology alternatives for the radio tower as the applicant was provided with the Scope of Works (SoW) with specifications for the radio tower from Eskom and must adhere to this. It should be noted that there is no fibre on the existing Eskom line and no fibre alternatives, and therefore the requested mast needs to be a radio mast. There will be no guy wires used and the radio mast will be a self-supporting structure. In addition, Eskom advised that the mast needs to be at least 85 m in height.

Since the proposed project involves the installation of a radio mast on an already authorised MTS, all the relevant specialist studies have been undertaken during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in January 2017 (14-12-16-3-3-2-925). As mentioned, this authorisation was amended in August 2021 to split and assign each substation and powerline to each respective wind farm (Beaufort West 132KV-400KV Linking Station, 132KV Power Line and onsite 132KV Substation – 14-12-16-3-3-2-925-1 as amended and Trakas 132KV-400KV Linking Station, 132KV Power Line and onsite 132KV Substation – 14-12-16-3-3-2-925-2 as amended).

Further to the above, Beaufort West Wind Farm received Environmental Authorisations (EAs) in May 2022 for an additional 33/132 kV onsite Substation, one (1) Battery Energy Storge System (BESS), one (1) laydown area and one (1) Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Building (14/12/16/3/3/1/2464 as amended), as well as one (1) 132kV switching station yard of the onsite substation and associated 132kV powerline (14/12/16/3/3/1/2465 as amended). This new substation, powerline and BESS will be constructed to service the Beaufort West Cluster. Regarding the above mentioned EAs, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) authorised Alternative 2, however it was found that Alternative 1 is more technically feasible and as such Part 2 Amendments have been submitted to DFFE for consideration to change the authorised alternative. These applications were subjected to a 30-day Public Participation (14/12/16/3/3/1/2464/AM1) and (14/12/16/3/3/1/2465/AM1) and the final reports submitted to the DFFE for decision making on 5 October 2022.

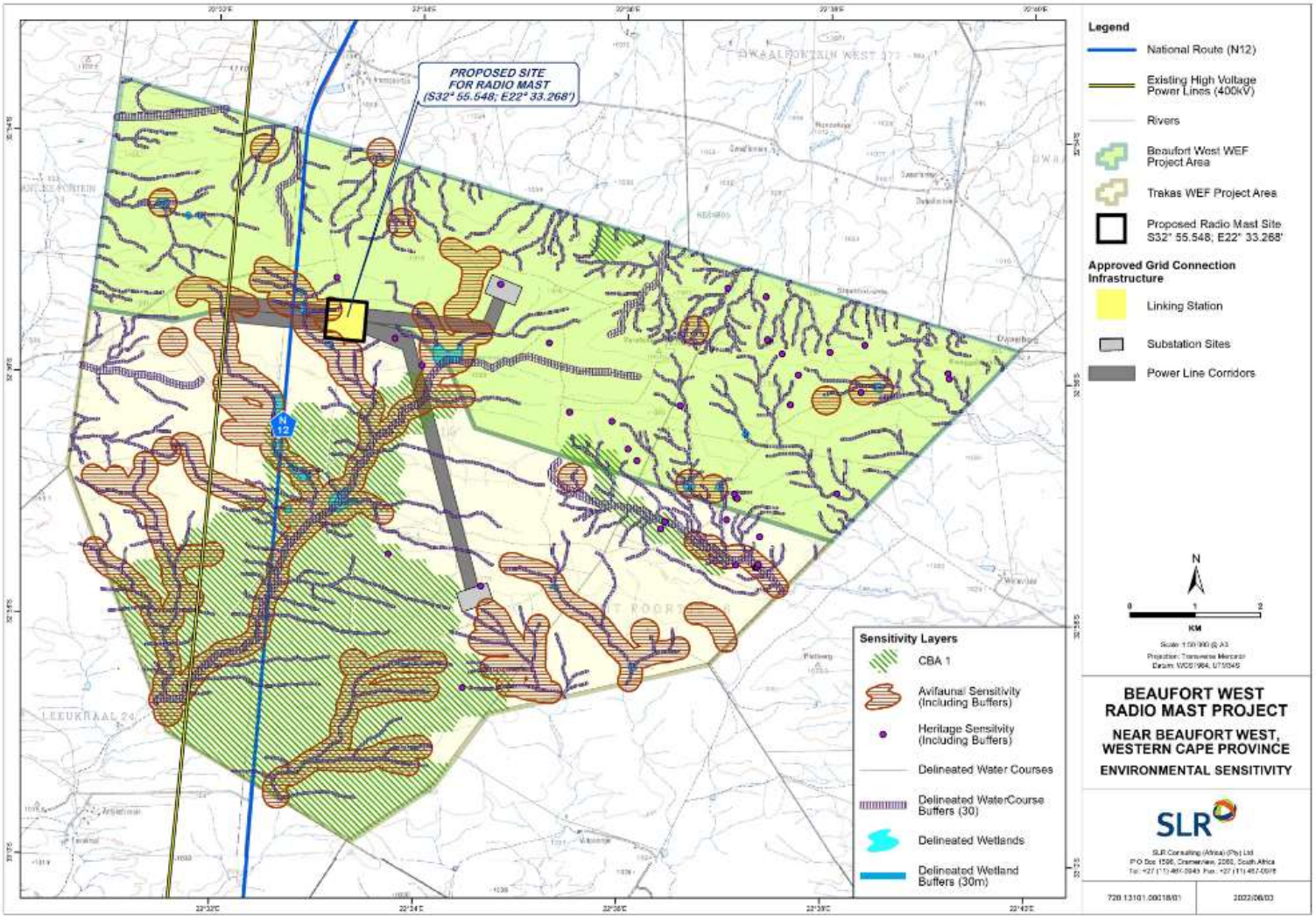

Figure 1-1: A map showing the proposed location of the radio mast (within the authorise Linking Station footprint) in relation to environmental sensitivities

2. TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Technical Component	Approximate Dimensions	
Beaufort West Wind Farm Radio Mast		
Location of the site (corner point)	32°55'23.85"S	22°33'28.30"E
	32°55'22.49"S	22°33'5.43"E
	32°55'41.75"S	22°33'3.79"E
	32°5'43.33"S	22°33'26.62"E
Application site area	+/- 2 hectares	
Affected Farm Portions	Portion 1 of Farm Trakas Kuilen De Braak No. 15	
SG Codes	C06100000000001500001	
Infrastructure	In terms of infrastructure services, no additional services are required for the proposed radio mast and the intention is to use the already authorised buildings for ablutions, water, electricity etc.	

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations [4 December 2014, Government Notice (GN) R982, R983, R984 and R985, as amended], various aspects of the proposed development may have an impact on the environment and are considered to be listed activities. These activities require environmental authorisation (EA) from the Provincial Competent Authority (CA), namely the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (WC DEADP), prior to the commencement thereof. One (1) application for EA for the proposed development will be submitted to the WC DEADP, in the form of a Basic Assessment (BA) process in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended). [INSERT SPECIALIST NAME] has been commissioned to verify the sensitivity of the Beaufort West Radio Mast site under these specialist protocols.

In accordance with GN 320 and GN 1150 (20 March 2020)[1] of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended), prior to commencing with a specialist assessment, a site sensitivity verification must be undertaken to confirm the current land use and environmental sensitivity of the proposed project area as identified by the National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool (i.e., Screening Tool).

3. SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION METHODOLOGY

The specialist must:

Provide a description of how the site sensitivity verification was undertaken, for example:

The environmental sensitivity of the proposed development area for the "[insert specialist theme]" was established through the following methodology:

- *desktop analysis, using satellite imagery;*

[1] GN 320 (20 March 2020): Procedures for The Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on Identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation

- *preliminary on-site inspection; and*
- *any other available and relevant information.*

4. OUTCOME OF SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

Provide a description of the sensitivities identified by the Screening Tool for the relevant theme.

Compare the findings of the tool with the findings of the site verification exercise to:

- *confirm or dispute the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity, as identified by the screening tool (such as new developments or infrastructure, the change in vegetation cover or status etc.);*
- *include a motivation and evidence (e.g., photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity.*

5. CONCLUSION

Provide a brief statement confirming that the site sensitivities identified in the specialist study have been verified.