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Department:
**Rural, Environment and Agricultural
Development**
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Attention: **Mmatlala Rabothata**
Department of Environmental Affairs
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PRETORIA
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Dear Sir/madam

COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED RUSTENBURG STRENGTHENING PHASE 2 MARANG B: CONSTRUCTION OF +/- 2 KM KV POWERLINES BY LOOPING IN AND OUT OF THE EXISTING BIGHORN-MARANG/MEDUPI MARANG/MARANG-MIDAS 400KV POWER LINE AND 400/132KV MARANG SUBSTATION WITHIN RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE.

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (BAR) submitted in respect of the above-mentioned proposed development and received by this Department on 02 December 2014 has reference.

Following the review of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report the Department has identified that all issues have been addressed adequately within the report. In this regard, this Department recommends that:-

- a) The preferred route and site for the proposed construction of Rustenburg strengthening phase 2 (Marang B) is supported due to the close proximity of the existing substation and the proposed one. The proposed substation must be located more towards the existing substation than the community at Boitekong Township.
- b) Power lines must be marked with bird flight diverters where they cross over streams or rivers.
- c) All the proposed mitigation measures as outlined in the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and in the draft Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) must be implemented and adhered to at all time.
- d) The applicant must appoint a suitably experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the duration of the construction phase who will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation measures and recommendations referred to in the draft EIAR are implemented, and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.

- e) The proposed development site must be suitably demarcated prior to the construction commencing and construction must be restricted to the demarcated areas to minimise damage to areas which are outside the development footprint.
- f) All plant species of conservation importance must be removed from the demarcated area (if cannot be incorporated into the development) prior to construction commencing and must either be relocated outside of the construction area or donated to the South African National Biodiversity Institute in consultation with Biodiversity Management and Conservation Directorate of this Department.
- g) Removal of protected trees must be done in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and permission or approval must be obtained prior to the removal of such trees.
- h) The recommendations of the specialists including Biodiversity, Air Quality and Heritage Impact Assessments attached as Appendix E in the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report, must be adhered to.
- i) Archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than Sixty (60) years are protected by National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999). Should any archaeological artefacts be exposed during earth moving activities, construction in the vicinity of the finding must be stopped and the South African Heritage Resource Agency must be notified immediately (**within 48 hours**). Under no circumstances shall any artefacts be destroyed. Such an archaeological site must be marked and fenced off.
- j) Ablution facilities must be provided to the workers during the construction phase. They must be serviced regularly to ensure proper operation, and must be emptied at the municipal sewage treatment plant to prevent any possible pollution. No "long drop" toilets will be allowed and space or surrounding bush must not be used as toilets under any circumstances.
- k) The applicant must ensure that the development site is cleared of invasive alien plants and an alien plant eradication programme must be developed and implemented to prevent re-infestation.

Please contact this Department if you have any queries regarding this correspondence.

Yours Faithfully


Ms. P. Krisjan
Director: Environmental Quality Management
North-West Province: Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development

Date: 19/12/2014

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