

APPENDIX

K PRE- APPLICATION MEETING





MEETING NOTES

JOB TITLE	Secunda WEFs Environmental Authorisations
PROJECT NUMBER	41104073
DATE	14 July 2022
TIME	10h00
VENUE	MS Teams
SUBJECT	MDARDLEA Pre-Application Meeting
CLIENT	ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd
PRESENT	Ashlea Strong (AS) – WSP Megan Govender (MG) – WSP Kyle Swartz (KS) – ENERTRAG Sandhisha Jay Narain (SJM) – ENERTRAG Sindisiwe Mbuyane (SM) - MDARDLEA
APOLOGIES	Michael Barnes – ENERTRAG Okwethu-kuhle Fakude - MDARDLEA Whitney Tshimbana – MDARDLEA Babalwa Mqokeli – WSP

MATTERS ARISING

ACTION

NOTE: These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the discussion. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.	-
1.0 INTRODUCTIONS The attendees introduced themselves, starting with the WSP team. Apologies were noted from Babalwa Mqokeli from WSP, Michael Barnes from ENERTRAG and Okwethu-kuhle Fakude and Whitney Tshimbana from MDARDLEA.	-
2.0 PROJECT PRESENTATION Following the introductions, AS proceeded with the presentation of the proposed two Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) and associated 132kV overhead powerlines, near Secunda in Mpumalanga.	-

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www.wsp.com \\corp.pbwan.net\za\Central_Data\Projects\41100xxx\41104073 - Secunda WEF ESAs\41 ES\01-Reports\03-Pre-App Meeting\Meeting Minutes\41104073_20220728_Enertrag_Secunda WEF_Pre-App Meeting Minutes_Final.docx

MEETING NOTES

AS presented the project which covered the following:

- Overview of the Project;
- Typical Infrastructure and Location;
- Environmental Authorisation Process;
- Listed Activities;
- DFFE Screening Tool;
- Specialist Studies;
- Public Participation Plan;
- Timeframes; and
- Clarification Questions and Discussion.

The following key issues were raised during the presentation:

- There are two WEFs proposed - Mukondeleli and Impumelelo, which will each have a 132 KV grid connection. Electricity generated from these developments would be supplied to private off-takers and is not part of REIPPP.
- It was agreed that the competent authority for the project is the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA).
- The Mukondeleli WEF is the bigger project and more critical site. This application will be submitted first. There are two options for the powerline routes but the powerlines will be a separate application (Basic Assessment). The grid connection may be transferred to another party at a later stage, hence the reasoning behind keeping it a separate application so a Part 2 Amendment will not need to be undertaken.
- There may be an option of adding a BESS facility at each of the WEFs, but this hasn't been confirmed as yet. It will be removed from the application if it is no longer required.
- SM noted that the size of the internal roads needs to be known in order to determine if they trigger any listed activities. AS confirmed that the maximum size of 8 to 9 m wide with 50 m for turning, will be applied for the internal access roads so that the engineers can design the roads within this limit.
- Both WEFs will require a full Scoping & EIA because they are not inside a renewable energy development zone and therefore do not qualify for a Basic Assessment Process. Each WEF will have its own Full Scoping & EIA Process, and then Basic Assessments will be undertaken for the grid connection.
- SM clarified that hardcopies of the reports should be sent as the departments IT infrastructure does not always allow for downloading from external sites. One hardcopy should be sufficient and the Application Form should be sent with the Scoping Report. AS confirmed that an electronic copy will be sent using OneDrive or We Transfer; and a Hard Copy will also be sent via courier. The application form will accompany the Draft Scoping Report.

3.0 CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

AS noted that there will be four applications – two Full Scoping and EIAs for the WEFs and two Basic Assessments for the Grid Infrastructure, and enquired if the same Case Officer be allocated to all applications or will there be two different case officers? SM confirmed that there will be two case officers since it will be the same areas and similar projects but Whitney and Okwethu-kuhle have not dealt with Renewable Energy projects so she will assist them.

AS indicated that the EIA Reports and Basic Assessment Reports for the powerlines should be submitted at the same time. The suggested approach is to ask the specialists to write one report but split up the project description, infrastructure and impact assessment for the WEF and the powerlines. SM confirmed that the approach is acceptable as long as the impacts are separated and clearly indicated. The conclusions and recommendations for each infrastructure should also clearly be stipulated.

WSP to ensure reports are submitted in both hard copy and electronically

4.0 DISCUSSION

SM noted that the Gert Sibande District Municipality needs to be involved, specifically the Environmental Manager Ms Tebogo Mogakabe. Ms Mogakabe's contact details were provided in the MS Teams Chat by SM (TebogoM@gsibande.gov.za). SM requested that WSP send her an email to clarify if she would prefer a hardcopy or electronic copy of the reports. Ms Mogakabe's can also confirm who the correct contact person is for the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. SM also noted that

WSP to add details to the database.

MEETING NOTES

Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency should be notified and if WSP require contact details this can be provided.

SM confirmed she is happy with the approach put forward.

AS concluded that the Mukondeleli WEF application will come through first and fairly quickly. When the final reports are submitted to MDARDLEA, a virtual meeting can be arranged to take the case officers through the report and assist with providing clarification.

APPENDIX A
MEETING PRESENTATION



MDARDLEA Pre-Application Meeting

Secunda WEFs Environmental Authorisations

14 July 2022

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Introductions

- **Developer:**
ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd:
 - Kyle Swartz
 - Sandhisha Jay Narain
 - Michael Barnes
- **EAP:**
WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd:
 - Ashlea Strong (Project Director)
 - Babalwa Mqokeli (Project Manager)
 - Megan Govender (Senior Environmental Consultant)
- **Authority:**
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA):
 - Sindisiwe Mbuyane



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Agenda

1. Overview of the Project
 - Background
 - Location
2. Overview and Confirmation of Permitting Processes
 - Listed Activities
 - Specialist Assessments as identified by DFFE Screening Tool
 - Specialist Studies commissioned
 - Specialist Studies not commissioned
 - Competent Authority
3. Public Participation Process
4. Timeframes
5. Questions and Discussions
6. Way Forward



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1. Overview of the Project

Background

ENERTRAG is proposing to develop two Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) and associated 132kV overhead powerlines, near Secunda in Mpumalanga. Each project will be applied for under a separate Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), as detailed below:

- Mukondeleli Wind RF (Pty) Ltd
 - Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (up to 200MW)
- Impumelelo Wind RF (Pty) Ltd
 - Impumelelo Wind Energy Facility (up to 200MW)
- ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd
 - Mukondeleli up to 132kV Grid Connection
 - Impumelelo up to 132kV Grid Connection

Electricity generated from these developments would be supplied to private off-takers*.

* The competent authority for the projects is the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA). Precedent set by DFFE – renewable energy projects not part of REIPPP, the CA would be Provincial MEC.

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1. Overview of the Project

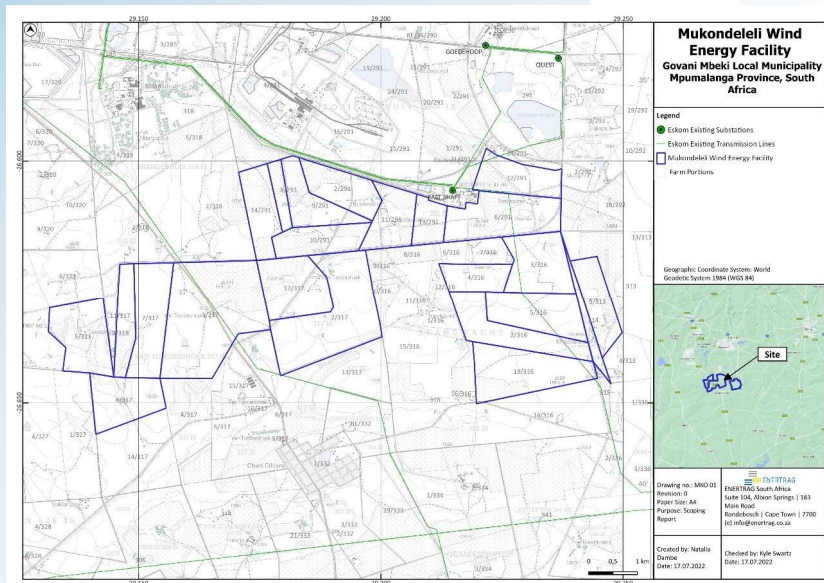
Location

	Mukondeleli WEF	Impumelelo WEF
Province	Mpumalanga	
District Municipality	Gert Sibande District Municipality	
Local Municipality	Govan Mbeki Municipality	Dipaleseng Local Municipality
Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bosjesspruit 291 (Portions 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14) - Brandwacht 316 (Portions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 13) - Knoppies 314 (Portion 0) - Knoppiesfontein 313 (Portion 9) - Tweefontein 321 (Portion 5) - Van Tondershoek (Portions 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11 12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Platkop 543 (Portions 2, 4, 5 and 9) - Mahemsfontein 544 (Portions 0, 7 and 8) - Hartbeestfontein 522 (Portions 6 and 25)



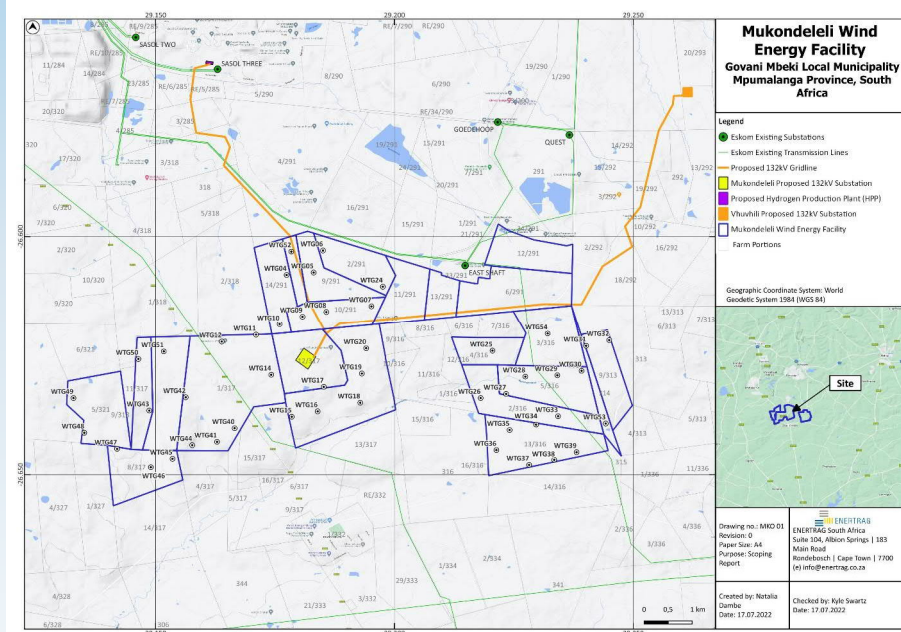
1. Overview of the Project

Mukondeleli WEF Locality Map



1. Overview of the Project

Mukondeleli WEF
Pre-liminary Layout



1. Overview of the Project

Mukondeleli WEF



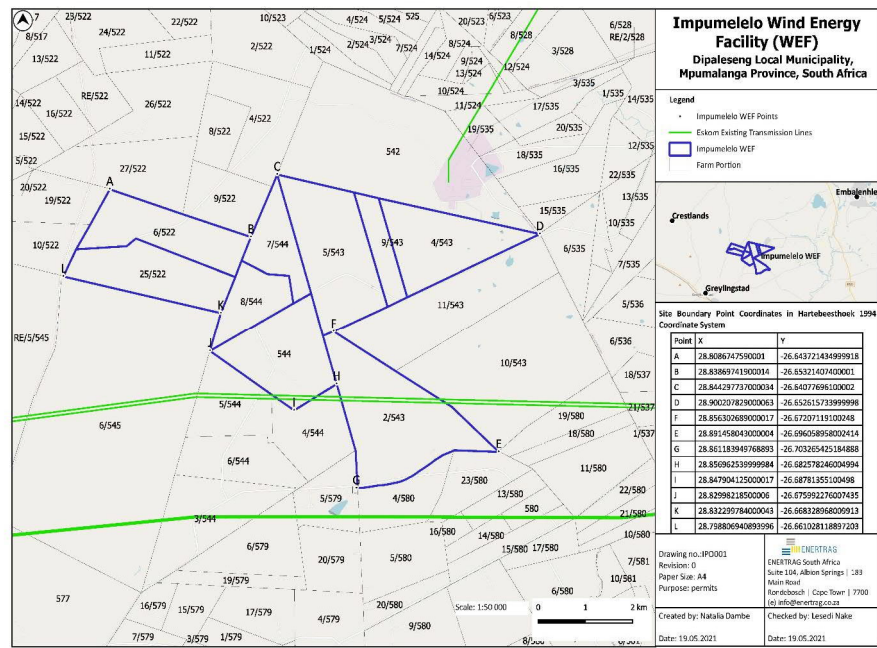
Typical Infrastructure

- Extent – 3 100 ha
- Capacity – up to 200MW
- Number of Turbines – up to 54
- Hub Height – up to 200m
- Rotor Diameter – up to 200m
- Hardstand areas – approximately 1 500m²
- Temporary construction laydown & storage area
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) Building – approximately 500m² (including O&M, workshop and stores)
- Batching Plant
- Internal roads and cables
- Onsite substation with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Grid connection powerlines – up to 132 kV

MB [2]

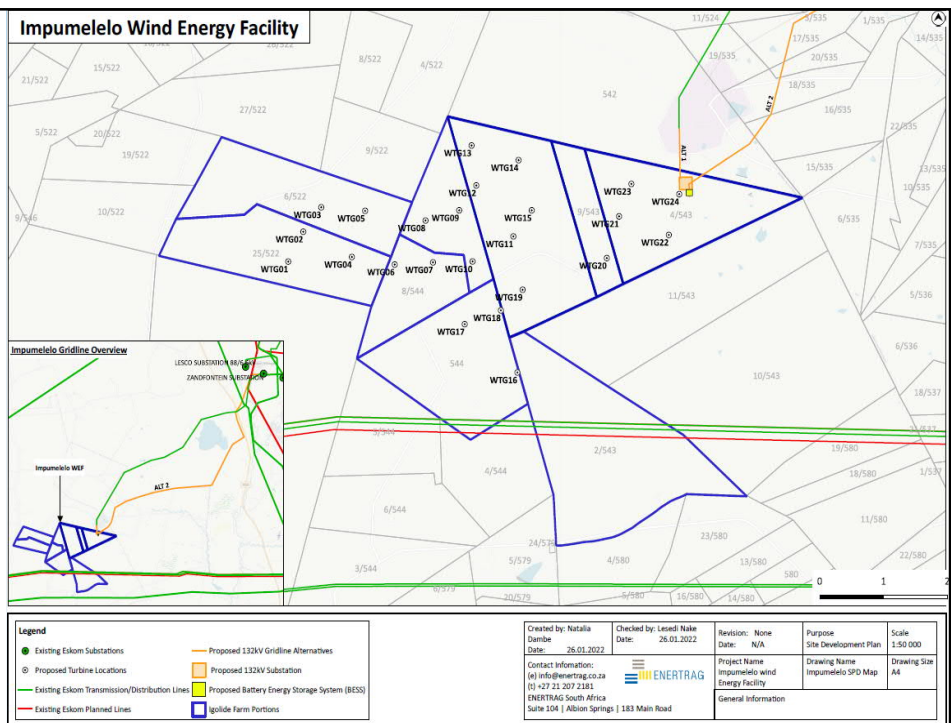
1. Overview of the Project

Impumelelo WEF Locality Map



Overview of the Project

Impumelelo WEF Pre-liminary Layout



MB [2]2 Locality Map

Mqokeli, Babalwa, 2022/07/11

1. Overview of the Project

Impumelelo WEF

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Typical Infrastructure

- Extent – 2800 ha
- Capacity – up to 200MW
- Number of Turbines – up to 26
- Hub Height – up to 200m
- Rotor Diameter – up to 200m
- Hardstand areas – approximately 1 500m²
- Temporary construction laydown & storage area
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) Building – approximately 500m² (including O&M, workshop and stores)
- Batching Plant
- Internal roads and cables
- Onsite substation with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Grid connection powerlines – up to 132 kV

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1. Overview of the Project

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Key Considerations


- The Project Area falls within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA). The CBA and ESA include both terrestrial and aquatic themes.
- The Project Area falls within National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Areas
- The Project Area Falls within the Air Quality Highveld Priority Area.
- The Project Area falls within Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors: Phase 8 Rompco



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2. Permitting Processes




Environmental Authorisation Processes

- Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Processes:
 - Mukondeleli Wind Energy Facility (up to 200MW).
 - Impumelelo Wind Energy Facility (up to 200MW)
- Basic Assessment Process:
 - Mukondeleli up to 132kV Grid Connection
 - Impumelelo up to 132kV Grid Connection
- Water Use Licence
 - Water Use Licences and/or General Authorisations will be applied for as required

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2. Permitting Processes



Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

LISTED ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY
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; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more; excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is— (a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure; (b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length; (c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and (d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.	The projects (WEFs) will require a 132kV Powerline to evacuate power to the end user. The transmission lines are outside of the urban edge.
Activity 12 (ii), (a) and (c): The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse	The powerlines will require the erection of tower structures, which may require a construction area of approximately 100m ² . There is the potential that a tower structure or access road will transverse a watercourse (or drainage line).
Activity 14 <i>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.</i>	The Facilities will require storage and handling of dangerous goods, including fuel, cement and chemical storage onsite, that will be greater than 80m ³ but not exceeding 500m ³ .
Activity 19 The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse	The powerlines will require the erection of tower structures and access roads. There is the potential that a tower structure or access road will transverse a watercourse (or drainage line) which will require excavation of removal of soil or sand from the watercourse.

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2. Permitting Processes



Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

LISTED ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY
<p>Activity 24</p> <p>The development of a road—</p> <p>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres;</p>	<p>Internal access roads required by the Facility will be between 5m and 6m wide, and exceed 1km in length. Where required for turning circle/bypass areas, however, access or internal roads may be up to 20m to allow for larger component transport.</p>
<p>Activity 28</p> <p>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</p> <p>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;</p>	<p>The WEFs are considered a commercial and/or industrial development, located on several farm portions outside an urban area, used for agricultural purposes. The total area to be developed for the WEFs is greater than 1 hectare).</p>
<p>Activity 30</p> <p>Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</p>	<p>The WEFs are located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of ecosystem confirmed to be listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection (Vulnerable and Endangered).</p>
<p>Activity 48(i)(a)(c)</p> <p>The expansion of—</p> <p>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or</p> <p>where such expansion occurs—</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p>	<p>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the expansion of existing access and/or internal roads, culverts or similar drainage crossing infrastructure collectively exceeding 100m² or more beyond existing road or road reserves located within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site.</p>

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2. Permitting Processes



Listed Activities – Listing Notice 2

LISTED ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY
<p>Activity 1:</p> <p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs:</p> <p>(a) within an urban area; or</p> <p>(b) on existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>The proposed energy generation projects (i.e., Impumelelo and Mukondeleli) will generate more than 20MW of electricity output from a renewable resource.</p>
<p>Activity 15:</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>Both generation facilities will each result in the clearance of at least 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.</p>

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2. Permitting Processes

* Additional Listing Notice 3 Activities may be identified and included in the application forms



Listed Activities – Listing Notice 3

LISTED ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY
Activity 4: The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. (i) Mpumalanga- (ii) areas outside urban areas (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; (cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority	The powerline alignments and energy generation facilities traverse Critical Biodiversity Areas and fall within National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy Focus Areas. Access roads (of approximately 5 to 6m in width) will be required.
Activity 12 (i) (i) and (ii): 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. Mpumalanga ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;	The powerline alignments and energy generation facilities traverse Critical Biodiversity Areas and fall within National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy Focus Areas. The construction of the on-site substations will require the clearance of more than 300m ² of indigenous vegetation.
Activity 14 (i) (a) and (c) (i) (i) (bb) and (ff): The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more: where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;. Mpumalanga i. Outside urban areas: (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.	The powerline alignments and energy generation facilities traverse Critical Biodiversity Areas and fall within National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy Focus Areas. There is the potential that a tower structure or access roads will transverse a watercourse (or drainage line).

2. Permitting Processes



DEA Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities

	Very High Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		Both Projects		
Animal Species Theme		Both Projects		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	Both Projects			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme		Both Projects		
Avian Theme				Both Projects
Bats Theme		Both Projects		
Civil Aviation Theme			Both Projects	
Defence Theme			Impumelelo	Mukondeleli
Flicker Theme	Both Projects			
Landscape Theme	Both Projects			
Palaeontology Theme	Both Projects			
Noise Theme	Both Projects			
Plant Species Theme		Impumelelo	Mukondeleli	
Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) Theme		Both Projects		
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	Both Projects			

2. Permitting Processes



DEA Screening Tool Specialist Assessments

Specialist Study	Impumelelo WEF	Mukondeleli WEF
Agricultural Impact Assessment	X	X
Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment	X	X
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment	X	X
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	X	X
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	X	X
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	X	X
Avian Impact Assessment	X	X
Civil Aviation Assessment	X	X
Defence Assessment	X	X
RFI Assessment	X	X
Noise Impact Assessment	X	X
Flicker Assessment	X	X
Traffic Impact Assessment	X	X
Geotechnical Assessment	X	X
Socio-Economic Assessment	X	X
Plant Species Assessment	X	X
Animal Species Assessment	X	X

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2. Permitting Processes



Specialist Studies Commissioned

Specialist Assessment	Comment
Agricultural Impact Assessment	An Agricultural Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact on heritage and archaeological resources. An Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact on Palaeontological resources. A Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Visual Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact sensitive visual receptors. A Visual Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken. The Visual impact Assessment will consider impacts related to flicker.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect CBA and NPAES Focus Areas. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will include both fauna and flora aspects.
Aquatic Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact water resources. An Aquatic Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken.
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on birds as a result of the projects, an Avifauna Assessment will be undertaken.
Bat Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on bats as a result of the projects, an Avifauna Assessment will be undertaken.
Social Impact Assessment	A detailed social assessment will be undertaken.
Noise Impact Assessment	Due to potential impacts on sensitive receptors with regards to noise generated from the wind turbines, a Noise Assessment will be undertaken.
Geotechnical Assessment	A desktop geotechnical assessment will be undertaken.
Traffic Assessment	A desktop traffic assessment will be undertaken
Risk Assessment	A High Level Safety and Environmental Risk Assessment for the BESS will be undertaken.

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2. Permitting Processes

Specialist Studies NOT Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Geotechnical	A detailed Geotechnical Assessment will not be undertaken as part of the S&EIA Process as this will be undertaken during the design phase.
RFI	The South African Weather Service (SAWS) and relevant telecommunications stakeholders will be engaged with as part of the Public Participation Process. A compliance statement will be compiled by the EAP for the RFI Theme and included in the EIA Reports.
Civil Aviation	The Civil Aviation Authority will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought. An Application for the Approval of Obstacles will also be submitted to SACAA once preferred bidder status is obtained. Compliance statements will be prepared by the EAP and included in the EIA Reports.
Defence	The Department of Defence will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Projects, and comment will be sought. A compliance statement will be prepared by the EAP and included in the Impumelelo EIA Report.



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3. Public Participation Process

Public Participation Plan

- A Consolidated Public Participation Process is proposed for all applications
- Site notices:
 - English, Afrikaans and Zulu
 - Onsite and in the surrounding areas
- Compilation and management of I&AP Database
- Written notification:
 - Owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site
 - Municipality Ward Councillor
 - District Municipality
 - Relevant State Departments
- Advertisement (English, Afrikaans and IsiZulu in local newspaper)
- Draft Reports Review for 30 days
 - WSP on request
 - Online on the WSP website
 - Hard copies placed at local Public Library
- No provision has been made for face-to-face public meetings – Projects may be presented to the Waterval Forum (Catchment Management Forum).



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4. Timeframes

Timeframes

- Authority Timeframes
 - Does not fall within a Strategic Transmission Corridor (GN 113)
 - Does not fall within a REDZ (GN 114)
 - Authority decision making timeframe is 107 days



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5. Questions and Discussion

Specific Clarification:

- i. Combined specialist reporting: WEF + Grid – is this approach acceptable to the MDARDLEA?
- ii. Given the number of EA Applications - Will the same Case Officer be allocated to all applications?



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6. Way forward

