

ENVIROGUARD ECOLOGICAL SERVICES CC

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Attention: Ms A Erasmus

2023-05-29

Landscape Dynamics
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Dear Ms Erasmus

MERENSKY-UCHOBA 132KV POWERLINE SECOND ROUTE DEVIATION (FINAL ROUTE, MAY 2023)

1. Declaration of interest

Enviroguard Ecological Services cc undertook a broad appraisal investigation into the ecological status of the abovementioned property on 18 October 2022. A once-off site visit was conducted to assess the general state of the vegetation ecological condition of the site.

Enviroguard Ecological Services cc and its members/co-workers have no vested interest in the property studied nor is it affiliated with any other person/body involved with the property and/or proposed development. Enviroguard Ecological Services cc is not a subsidiary, legally or financially of the proponent.

2. Indemnity

Although Enviroguard Ecological Services cc exercises due care and diligence in rendering services and preparing documents, the client takes full responsibility for this statement letter and its implementation and exempt Enviroguard Ecological Services cc and its associates and their sub-contractors from any legal responsibility based on the timing of the assessment, the result and the duration thereof, which has an influence on the credibility and accuracy of this report. Enviroguard Ecological Services cc accepts no liability, and the client, by receiving this document, indemnifies Enviroguard Ecological Services cc and its directors, managers, agents and employees against all actions, claims, demands, losses, liabilities, costs, damages, and expenses arising from or in connection with services rendered, directly or indirectly by Enviroguard Ecological Services cc and by the use of the information contained in this report.

3. Terms of reference

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (hereinafter referred to as Eskom) was granted an Environmental Authorisation (EA) by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) to construct a new Merensky-Uchoba 132kV steel monopole power line (approximately 18km in length) extending from the existing Merensky Main Transmission Substation (MTS) to the Merensky-Jane Furse-Uchoba 132kV power line T-off. Subsequent to this authorisation, Eskom need to consider an alternative routing and have proposed an approximate 10km deviation to the authorised route. On 17 May 2023, a small amendment namely an approximately 400 m long deviation located between 20-70 m east of the to the authorised route to the deviation (assessed in April 2023) was provided for assessment (Figure 1).

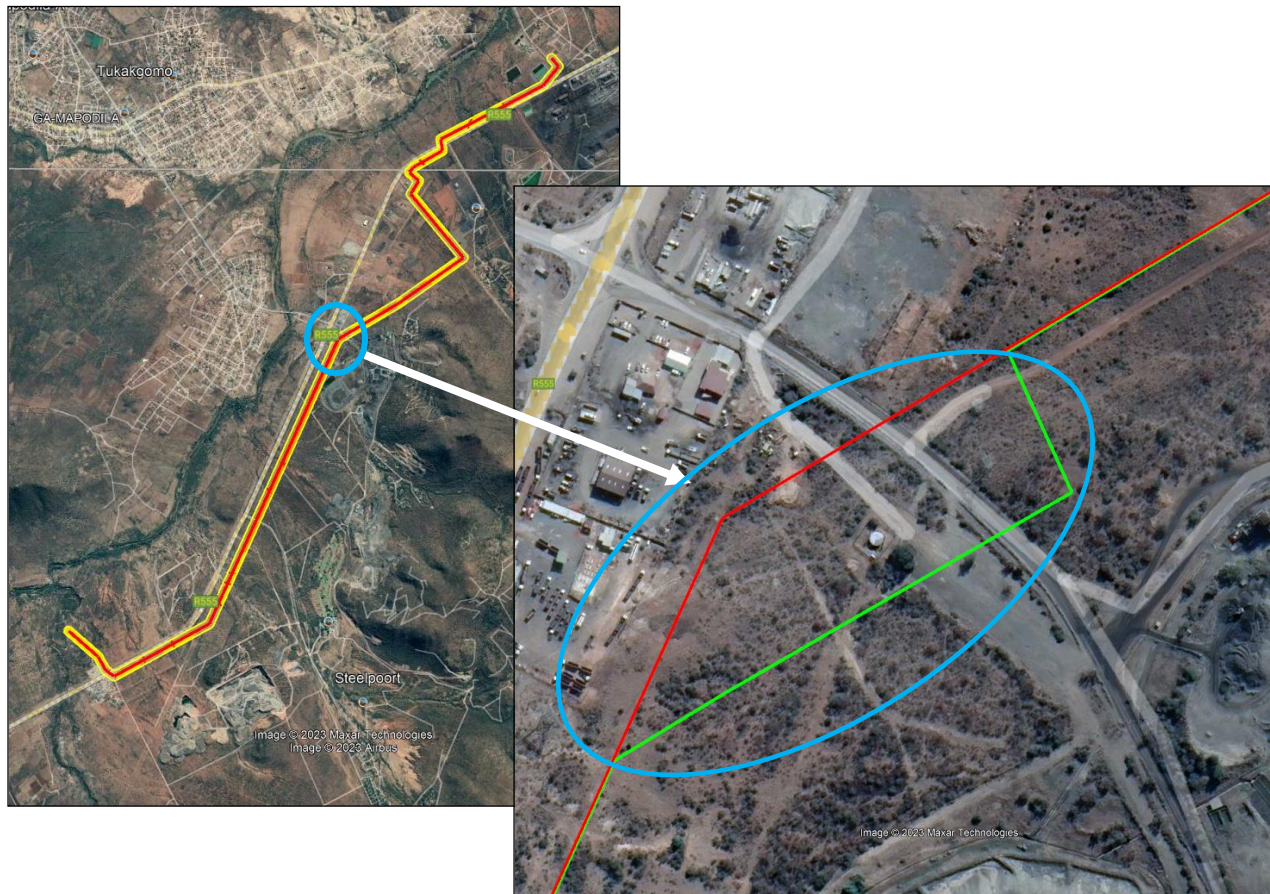


Figure 1. Location of the approved route (top left photo) and the small deviation (red line = original route; green line = 400 m deviation)

4. Results of assessment of small deviation

The proposed change to the second route deviation as discussed in section 3 and indicated in Figure 1, occurs within the 200 m buffer area surveyed on 29 March 2023.

No changes to the findings of the “Ecological Assessment of the Proposed Merensky-Uchoba 132kV Deviation 2, 2023” Specialist Confirming Statement dated April 2023 are evident. The amended route does not occur within VERY HIGH or HIGH sensitivity Terrestrial or Watercourse areas. There are no areas that need to be avoided. All the vegetation units present within the 100 m corridor of the deviation have been described in the report and the new amended section to the proposed second route deviation is categorised as having a LOW, VERY LOW and MEDIUM sensitivity rating (Figure 2) with the necessary mitigation measures recommended in the report.

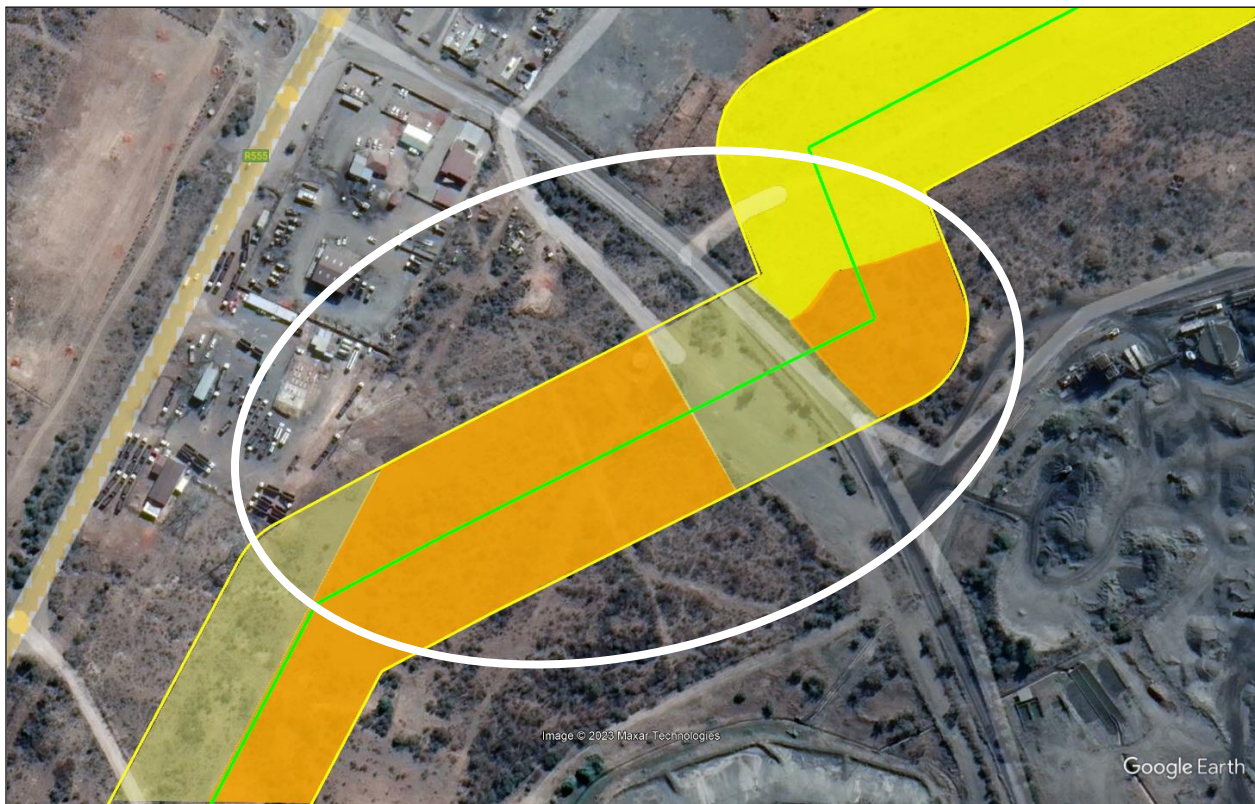


Figure 2. Vegetation units of the proposed deviation route (Orange=Medium; Yellow=Low; Light yellow=Very low) (Image obtained from Google Earth 2023).

Regards

Prof LR Brown
Enviroguard Ecological Services cc