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30 June 2022

Attention: Mrs A Erasmus
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Dear Annelize

WAG N BIETJIE 400KV MAIN TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION (MTS): UPDATED 36HA LAYOUT WITH ACCESS ROAD – AQUATIC SPECIALIST COMMENT

An aquatic Specialist Report for the proposed Wag 'n Bietjie MTS Project was compiled in January 2022. After the completion of the report, a new Eskom requirement was received that requires the site of the Wag 'n Bietjie MTS Substation to be 36 ha in extent instead of the 10 ha initially assessed. There is also an access road that now forms part of the project components and requires consideration. Figure 1 shows the aquatic sensitivity mapping for the project, shown together with the proposed project change in substation footprint for the proposed site and its alternative and the proposed access road.

The expanded footprint does not affect watercourse and its recommended buffer. The access road will need to cross this watercourse and a more significant watercourse and its buffer such that the potential aquatic ecosystem impact remains of low significance. The access road will make use of an existing road and will not result in any significant increase in impact on the watercourse.

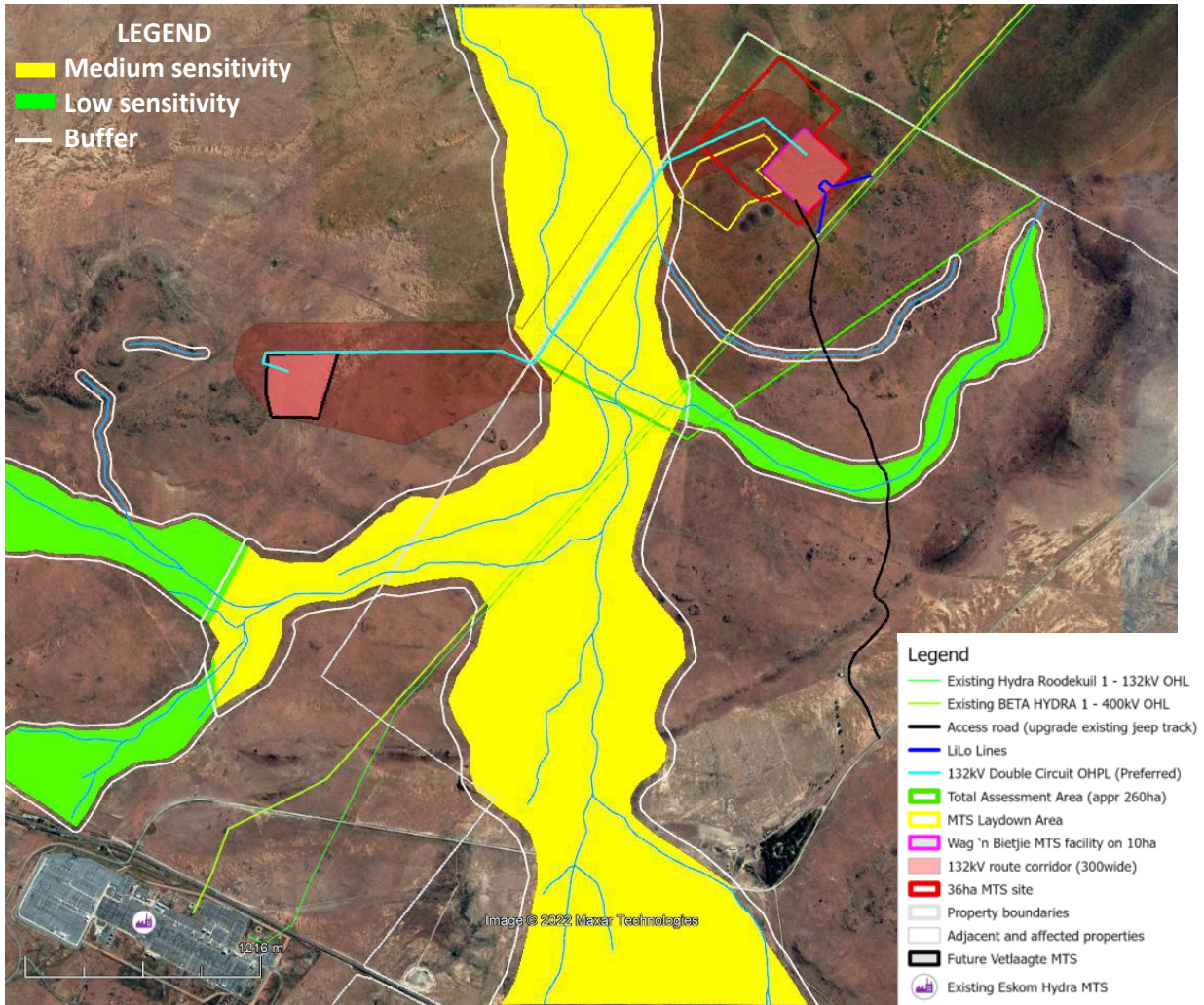


Figure 1. Google Earth image showing the mapped aquatic sensitivities

I hereby confirm the following:-

- The 36ha (instead of the previously indicated 10ha) on which the Wag 'n Bietjie MTS will be placed was assessed during the site visit (the total assessment area was 257ha) and has been addressed in the specialist report provided. Additional comment is provided above.
- The impact associated with the access road to the Wag'n Bietjie MTS, which now forms part of the project components, is as follows:
 - A large portion of the access route has been assessed as part of the site investigation. The additional approximately 3km portion of the road which falls outside the previously assessed area is an existing gravel road that will only be upgraded for the purpose of the Wag 'n Bietjie MTS.
 - The proposed route falls within an area of low sensitivity and is therefore likely to result in insignificant negative impacts on the aquatic ecosystems in the area and does not change the impact ratings determined by the Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist Assessment.

- Considering the fact that the road is existing and will only be upgraded, the proposed access road is considered acceptable from an aquatic ecosystem perspective and can be approved following the implementation of relevant mitigation measures described in the aquatic specialist report.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Belcher', written in black ink.

Toni Belcher