



Feathers Environmental Services

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Merensky – Uchoba 132kV Power Line Second Route Deviation

Confirming statement for the construction and operation of the updated and amended Merensky-Uchoba 132kV Power Line Second Route Deviation provided by Landscape Dynamics on 17 May 2023

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (hereinafter referred to as *Eskom*) was granted an Environmental Authorisation (EA) by the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) now 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 to the deviation (assessed in April 2023) was provided for assessment.

This statement serves to confirm that:

The proposed change to the second route deviation as detailed in FIGURE 1 below, occurs within the 2km Project Area of Influence (PAOI) that was assessed during two, one-day field surveys conducted on 16 September 2022 and 20 January 2023 respectively (austral spring and summer seasons).

No changes to the findings of the *Merensky-Uchoba 132kV Power Line Second Route Deviation: Specialist Avifaunal Confirming Statement*, dated 20 April 2023 are required. The amended route does not occur within VERY HIGH or HIGH sensitivity areas. There are no areas that need to be avoided.

The new amended section to the proposed second route deviation is categorised as having a LOW avian sensitivity rating and require no avian collision mitigation in the form of bird flight diverters. The collision risk areas as delineated in the *Merensky-Uchoba 132kV Power Line Second Route Deviation: Specialist Avifaunal Confirming Statement*, dated 20 April 2023 remain unchanged (FIGURE 2).

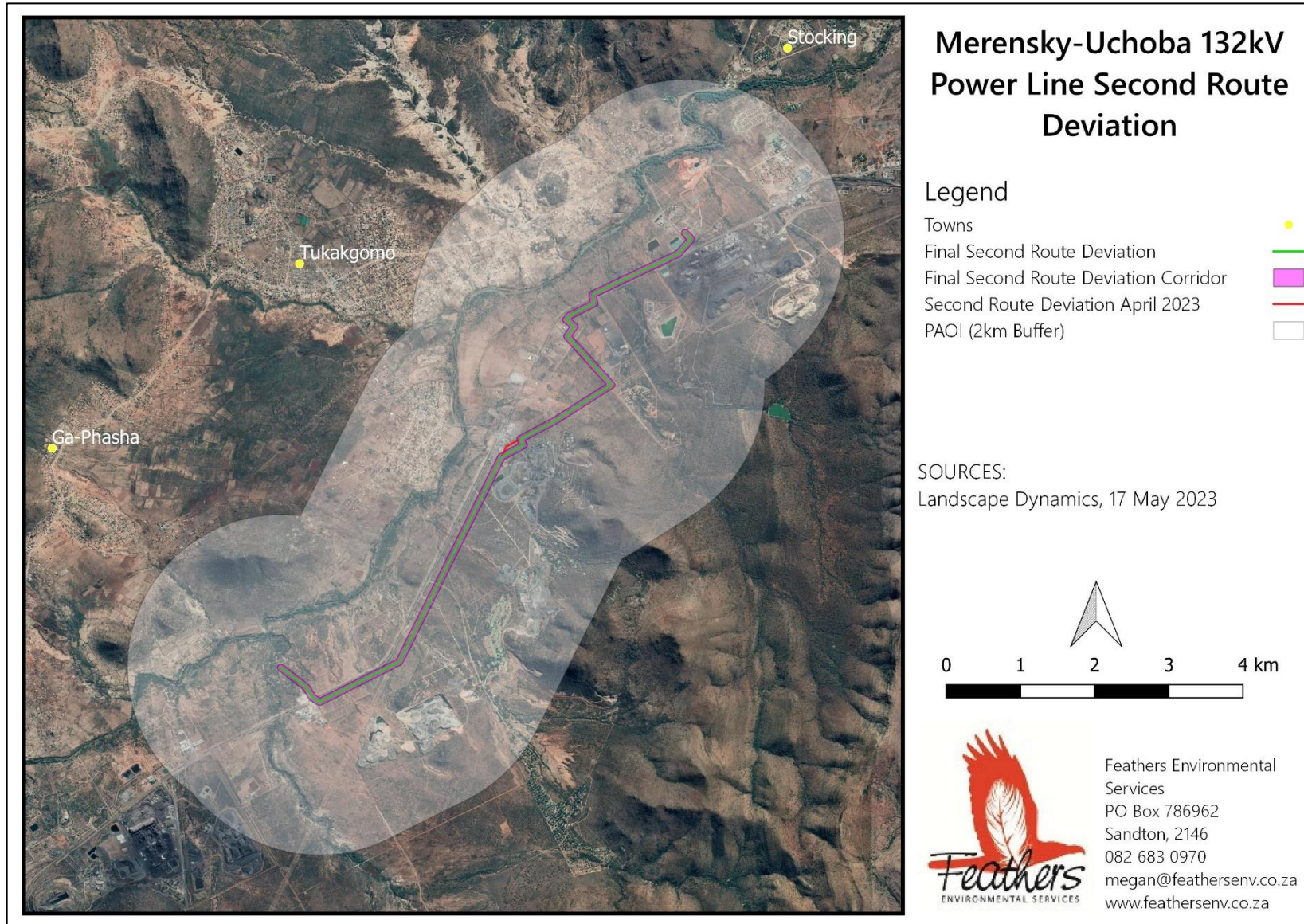


FIGURE 1: Regional map detailing the location of the amended section of the proposed Merensky-Uchoba 132kV Power Line Second Route Deviation located near Steelpoort in the Sekhukhune District Municipality, Limpopo Province

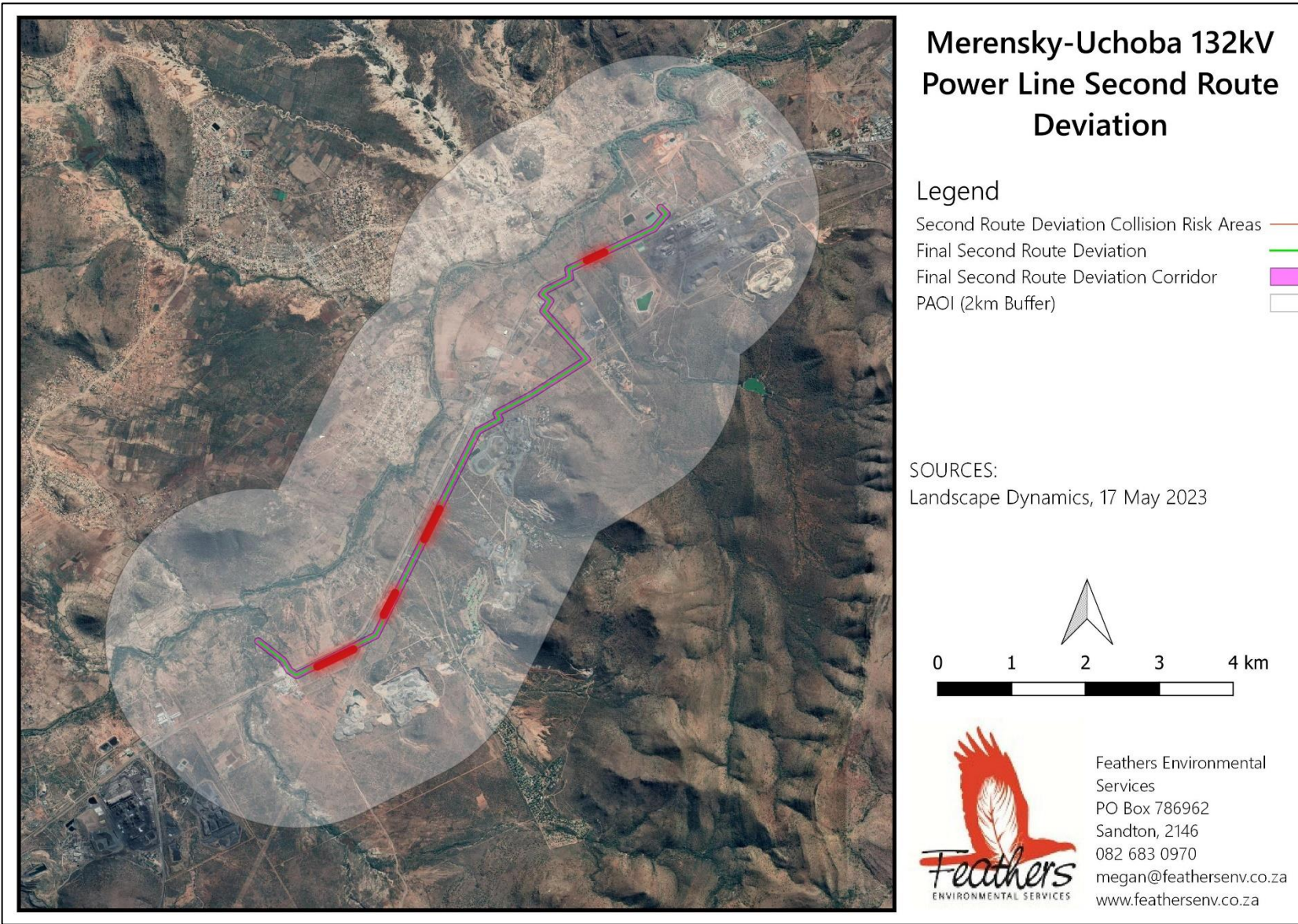


FIGURE 2 : Collision risk areas – ephemeral drainage lines and open grassland habitat. These areas will require collision mitigation in the form of bird flight diverters