



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House ·473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2206

**Enquiries:** Ms Trisha Pillay

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9406 **E-mail:** [tpillay@dffe.gov.za](mailto:tpillay@dffe.gov.za)

Mr Matteo Brambilla  
Soyuz 2 (Pty) Ltd.  
Postnet Suite 150  
Private Bag X3  
Roggebaai  
**CAPE TOWN**  
8012

**Telephone Number:** (021) 418 3940  
**E-mail Address:** [m.logan@redrocket.energy](mailto:m.logan@redrocket.energy)

### PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Brambilla

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: THE PROPOSED 480MW SOYUZ 2 WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) IN THE EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, of the decision, as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

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Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within twenty (20) days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

**Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:**

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: [appeals@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfpe.gov.za);

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko  
Arcadia  
Pretoria  
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at [https://www.dfpe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.dfpe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfpe.gov.za).

Yours faithfully

  
**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Date: 13/07/2023

cc:	Dr Alan Carter	Coastal and Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd. t/a CES	Email: <a href="mailto:a.carter@cesnet.co.za">a.carter@cesnet.co.za</a>
	Mr Derik Martin	Northern Cape Department: Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	E-mail: <a href="mailto:dmartin@ncpg.gov.za">dmartin@ncpg.gov.za</a>
	Ms Lelethu Thiso	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	Email: <a href="mailto:lthiso@emthanjeni.co.za">lthiso@emthanjeni.co.za</a>

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## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

## THE 480MW SOYUZ 2 WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) IN THE EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

### Pixley ka Seme District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2206
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Soyuz 2 (Pty) Ltd.
Location of activity:	Portion 3 of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127; Portion 4 of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127; Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of Farm Lemoenkloof No. 141; Portion 1 of Farm Lemoenkloof No. 141; Portion 0 of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127; Portion 5 (a portion of portion 1) of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127; Portion 9 (a portion of portion 1) of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127; Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127; Portion 3 of Farm No.145 Portion 0 of Farm No. 146; Portion 3 of Farm No. 144; Portion 0 of Farm Dreunfontein No. 126; Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm Dreunfontein No. 126; Portion 2 of Farm No. 123;

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	<i>Remaining Extent of Farm Eerste Geluk No. 121; Emthanjeni Local Municipality; Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality; Northern Cape Province.</i>
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This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

## Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

## Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

**SOYUZ 2 (PTY) LTD.**

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Matteo Brambilla

Postnet Suite 150

Private Bag X3

Roggebaai

**CAPE TOWN**

8012

Cell phone Number: 073 247 4524

E-mail Address: m.logan@redrocket.energy

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1, 2 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11:</u>  <i>“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.”</i></p>	<p>The Soyuz 2 Wind Farm will require the construction and operation of an on-site 33kV/132kV facility substation to facilitate the connection of the wind farm to the national grid.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12:</u>  <i>“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;                      (b) in front of a development setback; or                      (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.”</i></p>	<p>This relates to the proposed cabling routes, internal roads, substations, laydown areas, construction compound area, and operation and maintenance buildings which may be constructed within 32m of watercourses. The final siting of this infrastructure will be refined throughout the process.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19:</u>  <i>“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.”</i></p>	<p>This relates specifically to road and cable crossings that may be required during internal road construction and cable installation connecting the turbines as well as access road installation and upgrading for the WEF.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 24:</u>  <i>“The development of a road -                      (ii) with reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters.</i></p>	<p>The road network will need to be developed and upgraded (using all technically feasible existing farm roads where possible) to ensure that the delivery of turbine parts is possible and that maintenance teams are able to access each individual turbine throughout the lifespan of the project. A 12m road corridor may be temporarily impacted upon during the construction phase.</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28:</u>  <i>“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:                  (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.”</i></p>	<p>The total area of land to be developed for the Soyuz 2 Wind Farm is larger than 1ha and the land is currently used for agriculture. The total footprint of the proposed WEF will be approximately 150ha in extent (post-mitigation).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 48:</u>  <i>“The expansion of-                  (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; where such expansion 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.”</i></p>	<p>The road network will need to be upgraded (using all technically feasible existing farm roads where possible) to ensure that the delivery of turbine parts is possible and that maintenance teams are able to access each individual turbine throughout the lifespan of the project.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 56:</u>  <i>“The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre-                  (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres.”</i></p>	<p>The road network will need to be developed and upgraded (using all technically feasible existing farm roads where possible) to ensure that the delivery of turbine parts is possible and that maintenance teams are able to access each individual turbine throughout the lifespan of the project. A 12m wide road corridor may be temporarily impacted upon during the construction phase. It is also anticipated that the wind farm will have a total road network of up to 125km, which will include the lengthening of some roads by more than 1km.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 1:</u>  <i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more.”</i></p>	<p>The proposed WEF will include the construction of up to 75 turbines with a maximum output capacity of up to 480MW. This wind energy facility is classified as a renewable energy facility.</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 15:</u>  <i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	<p>The proposed development will include the clearing of indigenous vegetation. The total footprint of the proposed WEF will be approximately up to 150ha in extent (post-mitigation).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4:</u>  <i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</i>  <i>g. Northern Cape</i>  <i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i>  <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</i></p>	<p>The WEF is traversed by an Ecological Support Area as defined in the Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas Technical Report (2016). The road network will need to be developed and upgraded (using all technically feasible existing farm roads where possible) to ensure that the delivery of turbine parts is possible and that maintenance teams are able to access each individual turbine throughout the lifespan of the project. A 12m wide road corridor may be temporarily impacted upon during the construction phase.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12:</u>  <i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation.</i>  <i>g. Northern Cape</i>  <i>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans."</i></p>	<p>The WEF will result in the loss of indigenous vegetation in excess of 300 square metres. The WEF is traversed by an Ecological Support Area as defined in the Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas Technical Report (2016).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 14:</u>  <i>"The development of-</i>  <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i>  <i>where such development occurs-</i>  <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i>  <i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i>  <i>g. Northern Cape</i>  <i>(ii) Outside urban areas</i></p>	<p>This relates to the proposed cabling routes and internal roads which may be constructed within a watercourse. The combined physical footprint at the various water course crossings exceeds 10 square metres. The WEF is traversed by an Ecological Support Area as defined in the Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas Technical Report (2016).</p>



<p>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.”</p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 18:</u>  <i>“The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i>                  g. Northern Cape                  ii. Outside urban areas:                  (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;                  (ii) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.”</p>	<p>The proposed roads will be wider than 4m in certain areas. The WEF is traversed by an Ecological Support Area as defined in the Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas Technical Report (2016) and is within 100m from the edge of a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 23:</u>  <i>“The expansion of-</i>                  (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs-                  (a) within a watercourse;                  (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;                  g. Northern Cape                  ii. Outside urban areas                  (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The total area of land to be developed for the Soyuz 2 Wind Farm is larger than 10 square metres on land containing watercourses within a Critical Biodiversity Area.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated April 2023 at:

**SG 21 Digit Code:**

Farm Description	21 Digit SG Code
Portion 3 of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127	C01200000000012700003
Portion 4 of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127	C01200000000012700004
Remaining Extent (Portion 0) of Farm Lemoenkloof No. 141	C01200000000014100000
Portion 1 of Farm Lemoenkloof No. 141	C01200000000014100001
Portion 0 of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127	C01200000000012700000
Portion 5 (a portion of portion 1) of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127	C01200000000012700005
Portion 9 (a portion of portion 1) of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127	C01200000000012700009
Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm Twyfelhoek No. 127	C01200000000012700001
Portion 3 of Farm No. 145	C01200000000014500003
Portion 0 of Farm No. 146	C01200000000014600000
Portion 3 of Farm No. 144	C01200000000014400003
Portion 0 of Farm Dreunfontein No. 126	C01200000000012600000
Portion 1 of Farm Dreunfontein No. 126	C01200000000012600001
Portion 2 of Farm No. 123	C01200000000012300002
Remaining Extent of Farm Eerste Geluk No. 121	C01200000000121000000

**Coordinates: Soyuz 2 Turbine coordinates**

Turbine Number	Latitude	Longitude
B5-01	30°44'53"S	23°41'43"E
B5-02	30°45'6"S	23°41'25"E
B5-03	30°44'44"S	23°42'25"E
B5-04	30°45'4"S	23°42'20"E
B5-05	30°45'26"S	23°42'17"E
B5-06	30°45'46"S	23°42'23"E
B5-07	30°46'11"S	23°42'20"E
B5-08	30°45'52"S	23°41'55"E
B5-09	30°45'41"S	23°41'24"E
B5-10	30°46'5"S	23°41'21"E
B5-11	30°46'24"S	23°41'55"E
B5-12	30°47'4"S	23°42'36"E
B5-13	30°47'21"S	23°42'14"E

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B5-14	30°47'47"S	23°41'58"E
B5-15	30°48'3"S	23°41'45"E
B5-16	30°47'58"S	23°38'1"E
B5-17	30°47'54"S	23°38'33"E
B5-18	30°45'37"S	23°40'30"E
B5-19	30°45'49"S	23°40'11"E
B5-20	30°46'9"S	23°40'12"E
B5-21	30°46'5"S	23°39'13"E
B5-22	30°46'20"S	23°39'2"E
B5-23	30°47'4"S	23°39'36"E
B5-24	30°47'42"S	23°39'23"E
B5-25	30°48'0"S	23°39'11"E
B5-26	30°45'39"S	23°38'39"E
B5-27	30°45'48"S	23°38'13"E
B5-28	30°46'1"S	23°35'18"E
B5-29	30°46'14"S	23°34'56"E
B5-30	30°46'13"S	23°38'11"E
B5-31	30°46'33"S	23°38'25"E
B5-32	30°46'52"S	23°38'46"E
B5-33	30°46'36"S	23°37'57"E
B5-34	30°46'50"S	23°37'44"E
B5-35	30°47'16"S	23°37'57"E
B5-36	30°46'57"S	23°36'46"E
B5-37	30°47'13"S	23°36'39"E
B5-38	30°47'23"S	23°36'19"E
B5-39	30°47'43"S	23°36'15"E
B5-40	30°48'4"S	23°36'12"E
B5-41	30°48'25"S	23°36'7"E
B5-42	30°48'48"S	23°35'47"E
B5-43	30°49'12"S	23°35'29"E
B5-44	30°47'5"S	23°35'7"E
B5-45	30°47'35"S	23°34'38"E
B5-46	30°45'34"S	23°33'51"E

B5-47	30°45'53"S	23°33'48"E
B5-48	30°46'21"S	23°33'32"E
B5-49	30°43'9"S	23°33'4"E
B5-50	30°41'49"S	23°33'11"E
B5-51	30°41'43"S	23°32'35"E
B5-52	30°42'3"S	23°32'15"E
B5-53	30°42'24"S	23°32'23"E
B5-54	30°42'41"S	23°32'9"E
B5-55	30°43'7"S	23°32'9"E
B5-56	30°43'32"S	23°32'23"E
B5-57	30°42'13"S	23°31'49"E
B5-58	30°42'30"S	23°31'21"E
B5-59	30°42'55"S	23°31'5"E
B5-60	30°43'22"S	23°31'34"E
B5-61	30°41'8"S	23°31'57"E
B5-62	30°41'1"S	23°31'21"E
B5-63	30°41'28"S	23°30'50"E
B5-64	30°40'59"S	23°30'23"E
B5-65	30°40'27"S	23°29'39"E
B5-66	30°41'24"S	23°30'6"E
B5-67	30°40'57"S	23°29'0"E
B5-68	30°41'40"S	23°29'41"E
B5-69	30°41'4"S	23°28'17"E
B5-70	30°41'38"S	23°28'52"E
B5-71	30°41'53"S	23°29'28"E
B5-72	30°42'9"S	23°30'5"E
B5-73	30°42'32"S	23°30'16"E
B5-74	30°42'54"S	23°30'37"E
B5-75	30°43'21"S	23°30'56"E

**Coordinates: List of infrastructure (BESS, construction camp, satellite camps, substation laydown and substations)**

Number	Infrastructure Type	Latitude	Longitude
S2_BESS 01	BESS	30°46'31"S	23°41'40"E
S2_BESS 01	BESS	30°46'34"S	23°41'34"E
S2_BESS 01	BESS	30°46'41"S	23°41'38"E
S2_BESS 01	BESS	30°46'38"S	23°41'44"E
S2_BESS 02	BESS	30°48'22"S	23°35'54"E
S2_BESS 02	BESS	30°48'22"S	23°35'46"E
S2_BESS 02	BESS	30°48'30"S	23°35'47"E
S2_BESS 02	BESS	30°48'30"S	23°35'55"E
S2_BESS 03	BESS	30°41'21"S	23°29'18"E
S2_BESS 03	BESS	30°41'15"S	23°29'15"E
S2_BESS 03	BESS	30°41'18"S	23°29'7"E
S2_BESS 03	BESS	30°41'24"S	23°29'10"E
S2_CC 01	Construction Camps	30°46'59"S	23°41'44"E
S2_CC 01	Construction Camps	30°46'52"S	23°42'1"E
S2_CC 01	Construction Camps	30°46'44"S	23°41'57"E
S2_CC 01	Construction Camps	30°46'52"S	23°41'40"E
S2_CC 02	Construction Camps	30°48'49"S	23°35'29"E
S2_CC 02	Construction Camps	30°49'3"S	23°35'20"E
S2_CC 02	Construction Camps	30°49'7"S	23°35'28"E
S2_CC 02	Construction Camps	30°48'53"S	23°35'38"E
S2_CC 03	Construction Camps	30°40'1"S	23°28'37"E
S2_CC 03	Construction Camps	30°40'15"S	23°28'46"E
S2_CC 03	Construction Camps	30°40'11"S	23°28'55"E
S2_CC 03	Construction Camps	30°39'57"S	23°28'45"E
S2_SC 01	Satellite camps	30°45'9"S	23°41'53"E
S2_SC 01	Satellite camps	30°45'10"S	23°41'54"E
S2_SC 01	Satellite camps	30°45'11"S	23°41'50"E
S2_SC 01	Satellite camps	30°45'10"S	23°41'50"E
S2_SC 02	Satellite camps	30°45'50"S	23°40'23"E
S2_SC 02	Satellite camps	30°45'50"S	23°40'22"E

S2_SC 02	Satellite camps	30°45'47"S	23°40'24"E
S2_SC 02	Satellite camps	30°45'48"S	23°40'25"E
S2_SC 03	Satellite camps	30°47'45"S	23°39'36"E
S2_SC 03	Satellite camps	30°47'46"S	23°39'35"E
S2_SC 03	Satellite camps	30°47'44"S	23°39'32"E
S2_SC 03	Satellite camps	30°47'43"S	23°39'33"E
S2_SC 04	Satellite camps	30°47'54"S	23°38'6"E
S2_SC 04	Satellite camps	30°47'53"S	23°38'8"E
S2_SC 04	Satellite camps	30°47'56"S	23°38'9"E
S2_SC 04	Satellite camps	30°47'57"S	23°38'7"E
S2_SC 05	Satellite camps	30°47'30"S	23°35'51"E
S2_SC 05	Satellite camps	30°47'30"S	23°35'49"E
S2_SC 05	Satellite camps	30°47'27"S	23°35'49"E
S2_SC 05	Satellite camps	30°47'27"S	23°35'51"E
S2_SC 06	Satellite camps	30°46'28"S	23°38'2"E
S2_SC 06	Satellite camps	30°46'27"S	23°38'0"E
S2_SC 06	Satellite camps	30°46'24"S	23°38'2"E
S2_SC 06	Satellite camps	30°46'25"S	23°38'3"E
S2_SC 07	Satellite camps	30°46'36"S	23°38'52"E
S2_SC 07	Satellite camps	30°46'35"S	23°38'50"E
S2_SC 07	Satellite camps	30°46'32"S	23°38'52"E
S2_SC 07	Satellite camps	30°46'33"S	23°38'53"E
S2_SC 08	Satellite camps	30°46'0"S	23°33'49"E
S2_SC 08	Satellite camps	30°45'59"S	23°33'49"E
S2_SC 08	Satellite camps	30°46'0"S	23°33'53"E
S2_SC 08	Satellite camps	30°46'1"S	23°33'52"E
S2_SC 09	Satellite camps	30°41'2"S	23°30'34"E
S2_SC 09	Satellite camps	30°41'3"S	23°30'34"E
S2_SC 09	Satellite camps	30°41'4"S	23°30'31"E
S2_SC 09	Satellite camps	30°41'3"S	23°30'30"E
S2_SC 10	Satellite camps	30°42'52"S	23°30'47"E
S2_SC 10	Satellite camps	30°42'53"S	23°30'47"E
S2_SC 10	Satellite camps	30°42'54"S	23°30'44"E

S2_SC 10	Satellite camps	30°42'52"S	23°30'44"E
S2_SC 11	Satellite camps	30°43'15"S	23°31'22"E
S2_SC 11	Satellite camps	30°43'15"S	23°31'20"E
S2_SC 11	Satellite camps	30°43'12"S	23°31'21"E
S2_SC 11	Satellite camps	30°43'12"S	23°31'22"E
S2_SC 12	Satellite camps	30°42'9"S	23°32'29"E
S2_SC 12	Satellite camps	30°42'9"S	23°32'28"E
S2_SC 12	Satellite camps	30°42'6"S	23°32'29"E
S2_SC 12	Satellite camps	30°42'6"S	23°32'31"E
S2_SLD 01	Substation laydown	30°46'44"S	23°41'48"E
S2_SLD 01	Substation laydown	30°46'43"S	23°41'51"E
S2_SLD 01	Substation laydown	30°46'40"S	23°41'49"E
S2_SLD 01	Substation laydown	30°46'41"S	23°41'46"E
S2_SLD 02	Substation laydown	30°48'15"S	23°35'53"E
S2_SLD 02	Substation laydown	30°48'13"S	23°35'52"E
S2_SLD 02	Substation laydown	30°48'13"S	23°35'49"E
S2_SLD 02	Substation laydown	30°48'16"S	23°35'49"E
S2_SLD 03	Substation laydown	30°41'26"S	23°29'3"E
S2_SLD 03	Substation laydown	30°41'29"S	23°29'4"E
S2_SLD 03	Substation laydown	30°41'28"S	23°29'7"E
S2_SLD 03	Substation laydown	30°41'25"S	23°29'6"E
S2_SS 01	Substation	30°46'47"S	23°41'41"E
S2_SS 01	Substation	30°46'44"S	23°41'48"E
S2_SS 01	Substation	30°46'38"S	23°41'44"E
S2_SS 01	Substation	30°46'41"S	23°41'38"E
S2_SS 02	Substation	30°48'22"S	23°35'54"E
S2_SS 02	Substation	30°48'15"S	23°35'53"E
S2_SS 02	Substation	30°48'16"S	23°35'45"E
S2_SS 02	Substation	30°48'22"S	23°35'46"E
S2_SS 03	Substation	30°41'20"S	23°29'0"E
S2_SS 03	Substation	30°41'26"S	23°29'3"E
S2_SS 03	Substation	30°41'24"S	23°29'10"E
S2_SS 03	Substation	30°41'18"S	23°29'7"E

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**Coordinates: Road Points**

Name	Latitude	Longitude
R1 - start	30°47'7"S	23°36'14"E
R111 - middle	30°47'23"S	23°39'29"E
R223 - end	30°45'26"S	23°42'14"E

**Coordinates: Overhead power line**

Name	Latitude	Longitude
OHL1 - start	30°46'44"S	23°41'39"E
OHL154 - middle	30°45'57"S	23°37'21"E
OHL307 - end	30°48'17"S	23°35'56"E

- for the 480MW Soyuz 2 Wind Energy Facility in the Emthanjeni Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The Soyuz 2 WEF will comprise of the following:

- A maximum of 75 turbines with a generating capacity of 480MW in total with a development footprint of up to 215ha (pre-rehabilitation) and up to 150ha (post-rehabilitation).
- Specifications of the wind turbines is as follows:
  - Turbine hub height: 160m.
  - Turbine top tip height: 260m.
  - Turbine rotor diameter of up to 200m.
  - Turbine blade length of up to 100m
- Turbine foundations and hardstands: The concrete turbine foundations of up to 1024m<sup>2</sup> each with a combined footprint of up to 7.68ha and a further 37.5ha for all turbine crane and blade hardstands.
- Main construction camp areas with a combined footprint of up 36.75ha during construction. To be fully rehabilitated.
- Satellite laydown areas with a combined footprint of up to 6ha during construction. To be fully rehabilitated.
- Internal and Access Roads:
  - Access roads to the site and between project components inclusive of stormwater infrastructure will be up to 12m in width.
  - Temporary clearing of up to 50m may be required in areas where cut and fill may be required as well as for the construction of the bell mouth road junction, turning circles and temporary passing lanes.

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- New roads required: Up to 95km.
- Existing roads which may need to be upgraded (inclusive of access roads): Up to 50km.
- Permanent roads will be up to 12m wide inclusive of stormwater infrastructure and underground cabling. Roads will be wider where bell mouth junctions and turning circles are required. The WEF will have a total road network (inclusive of access roads) of about 145km.
- Substations:
  - Three Substations with the capacity of 132kV each.
  - Development footprint of up to 6ha.
  - Substation laydown areas for the electrical contractor up to 2.4ha.
- Battery Energy Storage Systems:
  - Technology: Solid State (Li-Ion).
  - Development footprint of up to 5ha.
- Overhead Power lines:
  - OHL length of approximately 61km.
  - Servitude width of up to 31m.
  - Pylon spacing between 100m - 300m.
  - Operational & Maintenance Buildings to includes Control Centre, Offices, Warehouses, Workshop, Canteen, Staff Lockers, Gate House, and Security etc. with a footprint of up to 6ha.
  - Concrete Batching Plants to be located at the construction camp area and the satellite laydown areas.

Technical details for the proposed Soyuz 2 WEF

Component	Description / dimensions
Location of the site	Approximately 23km South of Britstown
The total area of the site	38 000ha
Total disturbance footprint	Construction Phase: 215ha Operational Phase: 150ha (Permanent)
Maximum generation capacity for facility	480MW
Number of Turbines	75
Hub Height from ground level	Up to 160m
Rotor top tip height	Up to 260m
Blade Length	Up to 100m
Rotor Diameter	Up to 200m
Turbine Foundation and Hardstand	<u>Turbine hardstand</u> ➤ 37.5ha for all turbine crane and blade hardstands.

	<p><u>Turbine foundation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The concrete turbine foundations of up to 1024m<sup>2</sup> each with a combined footprint of up to 7.68ha.</li> </ul>
Main Construction Camp Areas	<p>A combined footprint of up 36.75ha during construction. To be fully rehabilitated.</p>
Satellite Laydown Areas	<p>A combined footprint of up to 6ha during construction. To be fully rehabilitated.</p>
Internal and Access Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Access roads to the site and between project components inclusive of stormwater infrastructure will be up to 12m in width.</li> <li>➤ Temporary clearing of up to 50m may be required in areas where cut and fill may be required as well as for the construction of the bell mouth road junction, turning circles and temporary passing lanes.</li> <li>➤ New roads required: Up to 95km.</li> <li>➤ Existing roads which may need to be upgraded (inclusive of access roads): Up to 50 km.</li> <li>➤ Permanent roads will be up to 12m wide inclusive of stormwater infrastructure and underground cabling. Roads will be wider where bell mouth junctions and turning circles are required. The WEF will have a total road network (inclusive of access roads) of about 145km.</li> </ul>
Substations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Three Substations with the capacity of 132kV each.</li> <li>➤ Development footprint of up to 6ha.</li> <li>➤ Substation laydown areas for the electrical contractor up to 2.4ha.</li> </ul>
Battery Energy Storage Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Technology: Solid State (Li-Ion).</li> <li>➤ Development footprint of up to 5ha.</li> </ul>
Overhead Power lines	<p>OHL length of approximately 61km. Servitude width of up to 31m. Pylon spacing between 100m - 300m.</p>
Operational and Maintenance Buildings	<p>To includes control centre, offices, warehouses, workshop, canteen, staff lockers, gate house, and security etc. with a footprint of up to 6ha.</p>

Concrete Batching Plants	Concrete batch plants to be located at the construction camp area and the satellite laydown areas.
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## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The development of the 480MW Soyuz 2 Wind Energy Facility in the Emthanjeni Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, as described above, is hereby approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
  - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
  - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

### **Commencement of the activity**

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

### **Management of the activity**

13. A final site layout plan for the WEF, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this Environmental Authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout plan must be submitted to the Department for written approval, prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout plan. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout plan must indicate the following:
  - 13.1. The position of the wind turbines and associated infrastructure;
  - 13.2. Cable routes (where they are not along internal roads);

- 13.3. Internal roads indicating width and length;
  - 13.4. Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables;
  - 13.5. All sensitive features e.g. Critical Biodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Areas, heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels, nesting and roosting sites, etc. that will be affected by the facility and associated infrastructure;
  - 13.6. Substation(s), inverters and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
  - 13.7. Battery Energy Storage Systems including their entire footprint;
  - 13.8. Power line routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
  - 13.9. All existing infrastructure on the site, such as roads;
  - 13.10. Soil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material);
  - 13.11. Buildings, including accommodation; and,
  - 13.12. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
14. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the substations, submitted as part of the final EIAr dated March 2023, is approved. The final site layout plan of the on-site substations must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
  15. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the power line, submitted as part of the final EIAr dated March 2023, is approved. The final site layout plan of the power line must be appended to Part B of the generic EMPr.
  16. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the WEF, submitted as part of the EMPr is **not approved** and must be amended to include measures, as dictated by the final site layout plan and micro-siting, and the provisions of this Environmental Authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this Environmental Authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity.
  17. The EMPr amendment must include the following:
    - 17.1. Open Space Management Plan
    - 17.2. Watercourse and Wetland Management Plan
    - 17.3. Faunal Relocation Plan
    - 17.4. Botanical Search and Rescue
    - 17.5. Site Clearing Plan
    - 17.6. Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Plan
    - 17.7. Alien Vegetation Management Plan
    - 17.8. Fire Management Plan
    - 17.9. Traffic, Transportation and Road Maintenance Management Plan

- 17.10. Stormwater Management Plan
  - 17.11. Erosion Management Plan
  - 17.12. Waste Management Plan
  - 17.13. Emergency Response Plan
  - 17.14. Post-Construction Avifaunal Monitoring Programme
  - 17.15. A storm water and wash water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off;
  - 17.16. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion. This plan must ensure to include drainage features that will be infilled and or excavated;
  - 17.17. The requirements and conditions of this Environmental Authorisation;
  - 17.18. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist reports as included in the final EIAR dated April 2023; and,
  - 17.19. The final site layout plan.
- 18. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
  - 19. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
  - 20. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAR be discovered.

#### **Frequency and process of updating the EMPr**

- 21. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 32 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr.
- 22. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.

23. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
24. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
25. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

## Monitoring

26. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this Environmental Authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
27. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
28. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
29. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
30. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

### **Recording and reporting to the Department**

31. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this Environmental Authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department at [Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za).
32. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department at [Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za).
33. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
34. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
35. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
36. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

### **Notification to authorities**

37. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

### **Operation of the activity**

38. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.



## Site closure and decommissioning

39. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

## Specific conditions

40. Up to 75 turbines are approved.
41. Areas identified by the VERA model as High and Medium for Verreaux's Eagle Sensitivity in the Avifaunal Impact Assessment (Appendix E2, Figure 6) are considered "No-Go" areas, no Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) are to be located in these areas. All turbines must be placed in a manner that the rotor swept area falls outside these areas.
42. The WTGs positioned near the edge of the medium sensitivity areas identified by the VERA model must be adjusted so that the rotor swept area falls outside of those areas (i.e. WTGs 25, 26, 37, 38, 41, 46, 49, 55, 70, 71 and 73).
43. No WTGs are to be located within areas identified as High Avifaunal Sensitivity (Appendix E2, Figure 6). All turbines must be placed in a manner that the rotor swept area falls outside these areas.
44. Blade painting or shut-down-on-demand must be applied to those WTGs positioned within (including blade-tip) Medium Avifaunal Sensitivity areas not identified by the VERA model.
45. The final placement of the approved turbines must follow a micro siting procedure involving a walk-through and identification of any sensitive areas by ecological (terrestrial and aquatic), avifaunal, bat, surface water, palaeontology, and heritage specialists.
46. Once the final walkthrough by the relevant specialists have been completed, the final adjustments to the layout plan must be made based on the specialist micro-siting recommendations. Any "No-Go" Areas (areas that shall be excluded from any construction activity or general access by the construction team) within the development sites or servitudes shall be clearly indicated on maps and included with the micro-siting reports or attached to the EMPr.
47. Exclusion of sensitive ecological, fauna, flora, avifaunal, bat, surface water and heritage areas from construction activities must inform micro siting of all development activities.
48. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the "no-go" areas.
49. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.

50. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

#### Terrestrial Ecology and Vegetation

51. Longitudinal washes and river habitat in Dwarf Succulent Karoo must be avoided as far as possible, if unavoidable utilise area already disturbed e.g. roads.
52. Should any reptile species of conservation concern, e.g. Karoo Dwarf Tortoise (*Chersobius boulengeri*) (EN), be encountered and if in harm's way during construction and operation, these must be moved out of harm's way to the nearest appropriate habitat.
53. Monitoring of construction activities must be done to ensure that personnel remain within the demarcated development footprint.
54. Site access control and monitoring of personnel on site must be done to ensure that people remain within the operational areas of the wind farm.
55. The designs of the roads and other infrastructure must seek to minimise faunal impacts and allow fauna to pass over, through or underneath these features as appropriate.
56. A log must be kept detailing all fauna-related incidences or mortalities that occur on site, including roadkill, electrocutions etc. during construction and operation. These must be reviewed annually and used to inform operational management and mitigation measures.
57. A search and rescue for reptiles and other vulnerable species during construction, before areas of intact vegetation are cleared must be done. Such search and rescue should be conducted by relevant experts with experience in search and rescue of the faunal groups concerned.
58. All laydown areas, construction sites etc with waste disposal bins, should be provided with lockable bins that are tamper proof by baboons, monkeys and other fauna.
59. No excavated holes or trenches should be left open for extended periods as fauna may fall in and become trapped.
60. The design must ensure that there is no electrical fencing around substations (and associated battery facilities) or other features within 30cm of the ground as tortoises become stuck against such fences and are electrocuted to death. Alternatively, a guard wire set at 20cm can be used to keep larger tortoises away from the fence.

### Bats and Avifauna

61. No WTGs are to be placed within areas identified as high sensitive areas as illustrated in the Bat Impact Assessment (Appendix E3, Figure 2). These areas must be considered as “No-Go” areas.
62. The following three WTGs positions B5-23, B-55 and B-56 are situated within 100m (maximum blade length under consideration) of high bat sensitive areas (Figure 2 of the Bat Impact Assessment). These turbines must be micro-sited to avoid overlapping with such sensitive areas, should the maximum blade length be utilised.
63. Blade feathering must be implemented from the start of operation, as this mitigation has no impact on energy production.
64. Appropriate types of lighting must be used to avoid attracting insects, and hence, bats. These includes downward facing low-pressure sodium and warm white LED lights.
65. A suitable operational phase bat monitoring programme, by an appropriately qualified bat specialist, particularly in the first two years of project operation must be done. Thereafter, this monitoring programme must be repeated in the fifth year, and every five years thereafter for the lifespan of the facility. All monitoring must be undertaken in accordance with the most relevant/recent operational phase bat monitoring and threshold guidelines available at the time. The monitoring and data analysis must be conducted to a high standard so that there is confidence in the estimated numbers of actual bat fatalities.
66. Bat fatalities must be mitigated adaptively by consulting the latest SABAA guideline or the best available relevant scientific information. Adequate financial provision should be made to permit effective monitoring, management, and mitigation of bat fatalities throughout the life of the WEF.
67. The annual operational bat monitoring results must be reported to the South African Bat Assessment Association, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, and the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment.
68. Laydown and other temporary infrastructure must be placed outside of Medium and High avifaunal sensitivity areas, preferably within previously transformed areas.
69. If any avifaunal Species of Conservation Concern are confirmed to be breeding (e.g. if a nest site is found), construction activities within 500m of the breeding site must cease, and an avifaunal specialist is to be contacted immediately for further assessment of the situation and instruction on how to proceed.
70. A post-construction programme must be conducted by an avifaunal specialist (following the Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group guidelines) to (i) assess turbine-related fatalities and (ii) confirm that all aspects have been appropriately handled and in particular that road and hard stand verges do not provide additional substrate for raptor prey species. It is essential that the new wind farm does not create favourable conditions for such mammals in high-risk areas.

71. A bird fatality threshold and adaptive management policy must be designed by an ornithologist for the site, prior to construction. This policy should form an annexure of the operational EMP for the facility. This policy should identify most importantly the number of bird fatalities of priority species which will trigger a management response, appropriate responses, and timelines for such responses.
72. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where the internal power lines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g. grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams). The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged. Additional areas of high sensitivity along the preferred alignment must also be identified by the avifaunal specialist for the fitment of anti-collision devices. These devices must be according to Eskom's Transmission and EWT's Guidelines.

#### Aquatic Ecology and Vegetation

73. At least three of the proposed access roads crossings must be realigned/amended to avoid and/or reduce impacts to watercourses as recommended by the aquatic specialists. The layout plan must be amended to illustrate the proposed layout amendment as described in the River and Wetland Ecosystem Specialist Report (Figure 6.2: Proposed layout amendments).
74. Suitable stormwater management systems must be installed along roads and other areas and monitored during the first few months of use. Any erosion/sedimentation must be resolved through additional interventions as mentioned in the Stormwater Management Plan.
75. Where large cut and fill areas are required, these must be stabilised and rehabilitated during the construction process, to minimise erosion and sedimentation.
76. No surface storm water from the site must be directly discharged into the river/streams or wetlands. Energy dissipaters, gabion mattress, erosion control structures and water pollution mitigation measures must be constructed and implemented.
77. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works and operational activities. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
78. A search and rescue plan must be developed for any TOPs or species of conservation concern that have the likelihood of occurring in the study area. This plan will need to be updated once the pre-construction walk-through referred to above has been completed.
79. Final walk-through to locate Species of Conservation Concern that can be trans-located or avoided must be undertaken with an experienced and qualified ecologist.
80. Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or nationally protected species.

81. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
82. Workers must be made aware of the importance of not destroying or damaging the vegetation along rivers and wetland areas and this awareness must be promoted throughout the construction phase.

#### Visual

83. A CAA-approved warning system which only requires the red lights to come on when an aircraft is in the vicinity (on demand warning lights) must be used to reduce the night-time impacts to the sense of place.
84. The holder of this authorisation must reduce visual impacts during construction by minimising areas of surface disturbance, controlling erosion, using dust suppression techniques, and restoring exposed soil as closely as possible to their original contour and vegetation.
85. A lighting engineer must be consulted to assist in the planning and placement of light fixtures to reduce visual impacts associated with glare and light trespass.
86. Lighting of main structures (turbines) and ancillary buildings must be designed to minimise light pollution without compromising safety, and turbines must be lit according to Civil Aviation Regulations.

#### Historical / cultural / paleontological resources

87. One of the following mitigation measures must be applied for the high-density scatter of MSA artefacts of medium significance (S2WEF01) at the site:
  - i. If the sites are to be destroyed, initiate Phase 2 Assessments (documentation, surface scatter collection, specialist stone tool analysis, permitting) and obtain the necessary destruction permits from the relevant Heritage Resources Authorities prior to site impact and destruction.
  - ii. If the sites are to be retained, demarcate a 50m "No-Go" development buffer with a fence or construction barricade. Project infrastructure must be redesigned to avoid encroachment on the site or the "No-Go" buffer.
88. One of the following mitigation measures must be applied for the "veewagters" or livestock outpost of medium significance (S2WEF07):
  - i. If the sites are to be destroyed, initiate Phase 2 Assessments (documentation, site mapping, surface artefact collection and site sampling, permitting) and obtain the necessary destruction permits from the relevant Heritage Resources Authorities prior to site impact and destruction.
  - ii. If the sites are to be retained, demarcate a 50m "No-Go" development buffer with a fence or construction barricade. Project infrastructure must be redesigned to avoid encroachment on the site or the "No-Go" buffer.

89. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660/ nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA.
90. If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA.
91. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils, or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources must be made.
92. The Chance Fossil Finds Procedure must be implemented for the duration of construction activities.

#### Traffic

93. All vehicles should adhere to a low-speed limit on site to avoid collisions with susceptible species. Heavy vehicles should be restricted to 30km/h and light vehicles to 40km/h.
94. Existing road infrastructure must be used as far as possible for providing access to the proposed turbine positions. Where no road infrastructure exists, new roads must be placed within existing disturbed areas or environmental conditions must be taken into account to ensure that minimum amount of damage is caused to natural habitats.
95. Signage must be erected at appropriate points warning of turning traffic and the construction site.
96. Signs must be placed along construction roads to identify speed limits, travel restrictions, and other standard traffic control information to minimize impacts on possible faunal species.
97. Road borders must be regularly maintained to ensure that vegetation remains short and that they therefore serve as an effective firebreak.

#### Noise

98. The holder of this authorisation must ensure that the equipment is well maintained and fitted with the correct and appropriate noise abatement measures.
99. Construction staff must be trained in actions to minimise noise impacts.
100. A complaint register, keeping a full record of the complaint, must be kept by the applicant. Investigations must be done for any reasonable and valid noise complaint if registered by a receptor staying within 2000m from the location where construction activities are taking place, or where night-time construction activities are required, or where an operational WTG are located.

## General

101. The recommendations of the EAP in the EIAR dated April 2023 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
102. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 102.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
  - 102.2. to anyone on request; and
  - 102.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
103. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 13/07/2023



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**

**Chief Director : Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

## Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

### 1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 10 March 2023.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated April 2023.
- c) The comments received from the DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation Directorate and Interested and Affected Parties as included in the EIAr dated April 2023.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr dated April 2023 and March 2023 respectively.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated April 2023 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date issued
Agricultural Assessment	TerraAfrica	February 2023
Avifaunal Specialist Assessment Report	ARCUS	March 2023
Bat Monitoring and Impact Assessment Report	ARCUS	March 2023
Botanical Report	Biodiversity Africa	February 2023
Faunal Impact Assessment Report	Biodiversity Africa	February 2023
River and Wetland Ecosystem Specialist Report	CES and Verdant Environmental	April 2023
Heritage Impact Assessment Report	CES	April 2023
Noise Impact Assessment	EARES	March 2023
Palaeontological Impact Assessment	BANZI Environmental	April 2023
Social Impact Assessment	CES	February 2023
Transport Impact Assessment	JG AFRIKA	February 2023
Visual Impact Assessment	Nuleaf Planning and Environmental (Pty) Ltd	March 2023



## 2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- c) The EIAr dated April 2023 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated April 2023 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

## 3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIAr dated April 2023 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the EIAr dated April 2023 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAr and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The Environmental Authorisation is accordingly granted.

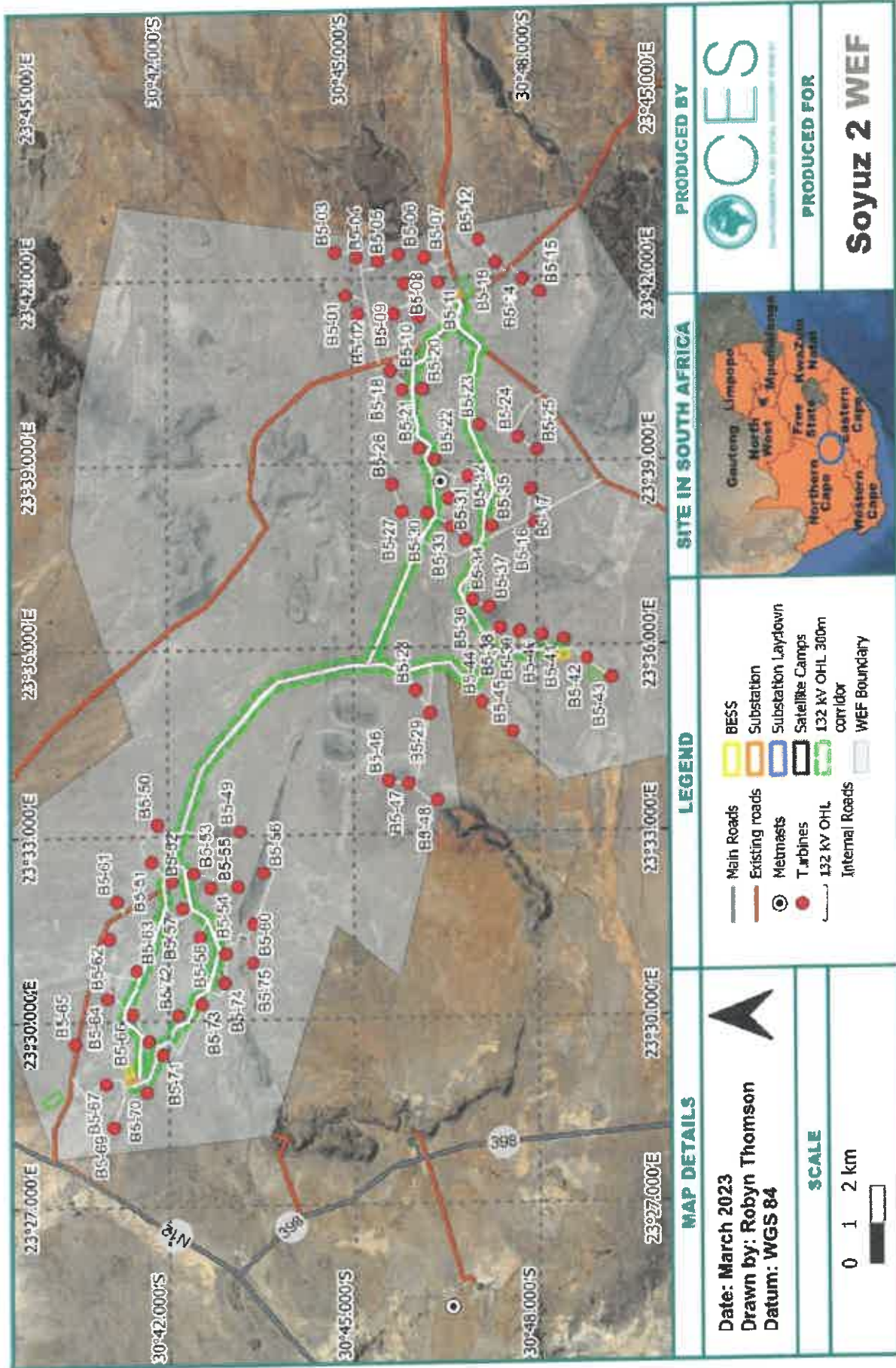


Figure 2-1: Soyuz 2 WEF Layout Map.

*MS*