



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: 14/16/12/3/3/1/2400

Enquiries: Ms Thulisile Nyalunga

Telephone: (012) 399 9405 E-mail: tnyalunga@dffe.gov.za

Mr Eric Khumalo
Pele Green Energy (Pty) Ltd
3 Centex Close
Brooklyn Place, Kramerville
SANDTON
2196

Telephone Number: 011 262 0515

E-mail Address: erick@pelegreenenergy.com / adhilam@pelegreenenergy.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Khumalo

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OVERHEAD POWER LINE FOR THE GROOTPOORT PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR POWER PLANT NEAR LUCKHOFF, LETSEMENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE 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 14 (fourteen) 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 stipulates 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 prescribe 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.

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 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@environment.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.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 07/02/2022

cc:	Ms Lisa Opperman	Environamics CC	Email: lisa@environamics.co.za
	Ms Grace Mkhosana	Free State DEDTEA	Email: mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za
	Mr Tshemedi Lucas Mkhwane	Letsemeng Local Municipality	Email: letse@letsemeng.gov.za



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

Development of an overhead power line for the Grootpoort Photovoltaic Solar Power Plant near
Luckhoff, Letsemeng Local Municipality, Free State Province

Xhariep District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2400</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Pele Green Energy (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Free State Province: Grootpoort 168 (Portion 1), Dundee 416 (Portions 0, 2 and 4), Excelsior 676, (Portion 0), Lombardsdam 81 (Portion 0), Naauppoort 417 (Portion 5), Ou Rondefontein 146 (Portion 2 and 4), Rondefontein 99 (Portion 1), Fauresmith Rd 1251, Fauresmith Rd 1252, within Ward 1 of the Letsemeng Local Municipality</i>

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 –

Pele Green Energy (Pty) Ltd

(hereafter referred to as the holder of the authorisation)

with the following contact details –

Mr Eric Khumalo

Pele Green Energy (Pty) Ltd

3 Centex Close

Brooklyn Place, Kramerville

SANDTON

2196

Telephone Number: 011 262 0515

Cellphone Number: (082) 722 4481

E-mail: erick@pelegreenenergy.com / adhilam@pelegreenenergy.com

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 11:</u></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;</i></p>	<p>The development of a 132kV single-circuit power line and 132kV Substation is required to enable the connection of the authorised Grootpoort Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Power Plant (DFFE ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/835) to the national grid network. A 200m wide and 8km long grid connection corridor was assessed for the placement of the power line route and substation. The power line will connect into the existing Canal Substation.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983, Item 12 (ii) (a) (c)</u></p> <p><i>The development of -</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square meters or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 meters of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p>	<p>The power line requires the development of a service road and pylon infrastructure which will be ~25ha in extent (250000 square meters). Surface water features, including wetlands and drainage channels, are present within the grid connection corridor that will need to be crossed by the service road (twin track gravel road up to 4m wide).</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983, Item, Item 19:</u></p> <p>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 meters from a watercourse;</p>	<p>The power line requires the development of a service road (twin track gravel road up to 4m wide). Surface water features, including wetlands and drainage channels, are present within the grid connection corridor that will need to be crossed by the service road. This will require the removal and moving of soils of more than 10 cubic meters.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983, Item 27</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation;</i></p>	<p>The development of the 132kV substation proposed as part of the project will require the clearance of 1 hectare of indigenous vegetation.</p>

<p><u>GN R. 985, Item 12 (b) (iv):</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of Indigenous vegetation</i></p> <p><i>b. Free State</i></p> <p><i>iv. Areas within a watercourse or wetland, or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.</i></p>	<p>The power line, substation and the associated service road (twin track gravel road up to 4m wide) will require more than 300 square meters of vegetation clearance. The power line requires the development of a service road and pylon infrastructure which will be ~25ha in extent (250000 square meters). The development of the 132kV substation for the project will require the clearance of 1 hectare (10000 square meters) of indigenous vegetation. Surface water features, including wetlands and drainage channels, are present within the grid connection corridor that will need to be crossed by the service road, and with power line pylon placement proposed to be located within 100m of the surface water features.</p>
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as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated November 2021 at:

Farm Name, Portions and 21 Digt SG Code:

Farm name/s, Portions and number/s	SG 21 Code
Grootpoort 168 (Portion 1)	F01100000000016800001
Dundee 416 (Portions 0, 2 and 4)	F01100000000041600000 F01100000000041600002 F01100000000041600004
Excelsior 676, (Portion 0)	F01100000000067600000
Lombardsdam 81 (Portion 0)	F01100000000008100000
Naauwpoort 417 (Portion 5)	F01100000000041700005
Ou Rondefontein 146 (Portion 2 and 4)	F01100000000014600002 F01100000000014600004
Rondefontein 99 (Portion 1)	F01100000000009900001
Fauresmith Rd 1251	F011000000000125100000
Fauresmith Rd 1252	F011000000000125200000

Coordinates for the development

Power Line Corridor		
A	29°50'56.50"S	24°40'25.12"E
B	29°51'11.65"S	24°40'34.73"E
C	29°51'19.46"S	24°40'42.94"E
D	29°51'38.70"S	24°40'51.74"E
E	29°53'58.76"S	24°42'17.28"E
F	29°54'27.07"S	24°42'30.04"E
G	29°54'31.80"S	24°42'15.08"
H	29°54'26.36"S	24°42'13.19"E
I	29°54'23.81"S	24°42'20.74"E
J	29°54'0.94"S	24°42'10.03"E
K	29°51'40.57"S	24°40'44.48"E
L	29°51'21.68"S	24°40'35.41"E
M	29°51'15.60"S	24°40'28.66"E
N	29°50'59.50"S	24°40'18.88"E
Substation		
A	29°50'56.17"S	24°40'14.53"E
B	29°50'55.56"S	24°40'17.21"E
C	29°50'58.32"S	24°40'18.47"E
D	29°50'58.57"S	24°40'15.96"E

- for the development of an overhead power Line for the Grootpoort Photovoltaic Solar Power Plant near Luckhoff, Letsemeng Local Municipality, Free State Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The infrastructure associated with the project includes the following

- A 132kV Substation with a footprint of approximately 1 hectare, located directly adjacent to the authorised on-site substation of the Grootpoort PV Solar Power Plant (DFFE ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/835);
- A 132 kV single-circuit overhead power line, approximately 8km in length from the new 132kV substation to the existing Canal Substation, to connect the authorised Grootpoort PV Solar Power Plant to the national grid; and
- A service road (twin track gravel road up to 4m wide).

The power line, substation and service road watercourse crossings will be developed within a 200m wide and 8km long grid connection corridor, located parallel to the R48 regional road.

Technical details table	
Type of technology	132 kV single-circuit overhead power line
Structure height	Power lines ~32m
Length of powerline	Approximately 8km
Grid connection corridor width	Approximately 200m
Substation capacity	132kv
Substation footprint	1 hectare
Servitude width	Approximately 31m
Surface area to be covered	Approximately 25 hectares
Service road	Twin track gravel road up to 4m wide
Minimum vertical clearance to buildings, poles and structures not forming part of the power line	3.8m
Minimum vertical clearance between the conductors and the ground	6.7m
Minimum distance between trees and shrubs and any bare phase conductor of the 132kV power line	4m, allowing for the possible sideways movement and swing of both the power line conductor and the tree or shrub

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of an overhead power Line for the Grootpoort Photovoltaic Solar Power Plant near Luckhoff, Letsemeng Local Municipality, Free State Province is approved within the 200m wide and 8km long grid connection corridor per the geographic coordinates and property details cited in the table above.
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.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. 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.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. 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

12. A final site layout plan for the power line (with micro-siting of the powerline route and pylon structures) and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. Once approved, the final site layout plan must be appended to Part C of the generic EMPr for the 132 kV overhead power line, to connect to the existing Canal Substation. The final site layout plan for the power line must indicate the following.
 - 12.1. The final delineation of the centreline of the power line within the approved 200m corridor;
 - 12.2. The specific position of the pylon structures and foundation footprints;
 - 12.3. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - 12.4. Any sensitive environmental features that will be affected by the power line; and
 - 12.5. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
13. A final site layout plan for the substation must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. Once approved, the final site layout plan must be appended to Part C of the generic EMPr for the substation.
14. The final site layout plans must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties, and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments prior to submission of the final site layout plans to the Department for written approval.
15. The generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) for the power line and substation, including the Alien Invasive Management & Rehabilitation Plan, submitted as part of the BAR dated November 2021, are approved.
16. The EMPs must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. They shall be seen as dynamic documents and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
17. Changes to the approved EMPs must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
18. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPs, should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

19. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 26 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.
20. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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

24. 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.
 - 24.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 24.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.

- 24.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 24.4. 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

- 25. 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.
- 26. 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.
- 27. 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.
- 28. 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.
- 29. 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.
- 30. 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

- 31. 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

32. 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

33. 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

34. The power line (and pylons) must be appropriately placed within the approved grid connection corridor. The power line must be placed between the existing tar road (R48 Regional Road) and the existing 11kV power line which runs parallel to the road, if there is sufficient space to do so. Alternatively, the power line must be placed as close to the existing tar road (R48) as possible.
35. A preconstruction walk-through of the approved development footprint must be conducted by an ecologist and avifauna specialist to demarcate buffers and no-go areas, to inform the micro-siting of the pylons, and to ensure that sensitive habitats and species are avoided where possible. The pre-construction walkthrough must inform the final layout plan.
36. The entire extent of the power line must be fitted with appropriate bird diverters and flappers. The applicant must consult with the avifaunal specialist regarding the positions and designs of bird perching/nesting deterrents, power line markers, and the additional visibility markers at the four avifauna no-go zones.
37. The avifaunal specialist's recommendations on controls for no-go avifaunal sites must be adhered to.
38. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works.
39. A permit must be obtained from the relevant Department for the removal or destruction of indigenous, protected or endangered plant or animal species and a copy of such permit/s must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
40. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
41. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash

- concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate area must be halted, Heritage Western Cape must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist (depending on the nature of the finds) must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.
42. Construction must include 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.
43. 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).

General

44. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 44.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
- 44.2. to anyone on request; and
- 44.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
45. 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: 09/02/2022



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 02 August 2021.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated November 2021.
- c) The comments received from the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation, Eskom, Telkom and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated November 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMP.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated November 2021 and as appears below:

Name of Specialist	Title of specialist report/ s as attached in Appendix G	Date issued
AGES (Dr BJ Henning)	Terrestrial Biodiversity, Plant and Animal Species Impact Assessment	August 2021
AGES (Dr BJ Henning)	Wetland/Riparian Impact Assessment	August 2021
Agreenco (ASH Haagner)	Avifauna Impact Assessment	October 2021
CTS Heritage (Jenna Lavin)	Heritage screener (including Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessment)	July 2021
Phala Environmental Consultants (Johan Botha)	Visual Impact Assessment	August 2021

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 and desirability of the development. The powerline and substation will facilitate the connection of the authorised Grootpoort PV Solar Power Plant to the national grid, thereby facilitating the transmission of renewable energy and upliftment of the local community through social economic development initiatives. This will have a positive impact at a local, regional and national level. Without the development of the power line the operation of the Grootpoort PV Solar Power Plant will not be possible.
- c) The BAR dated November 2021 Identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the project.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated November 2021 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) 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.

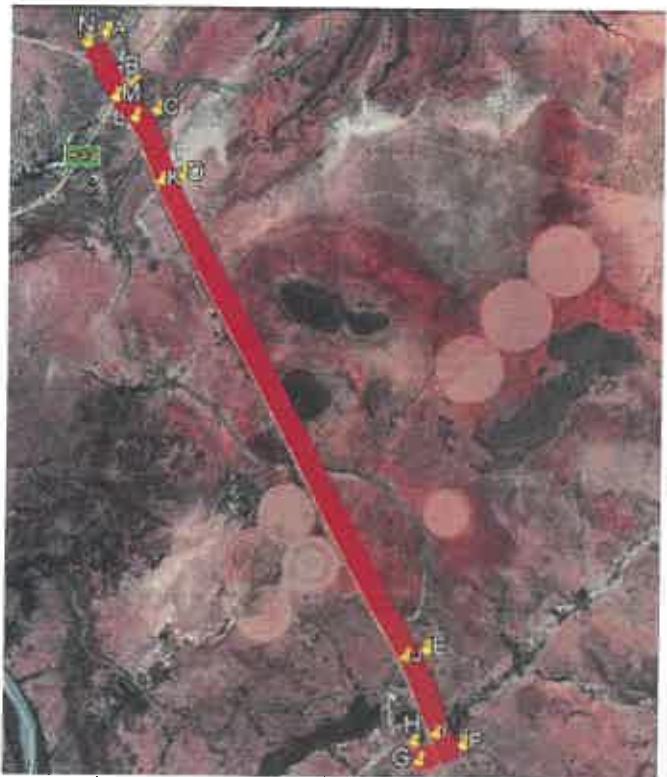
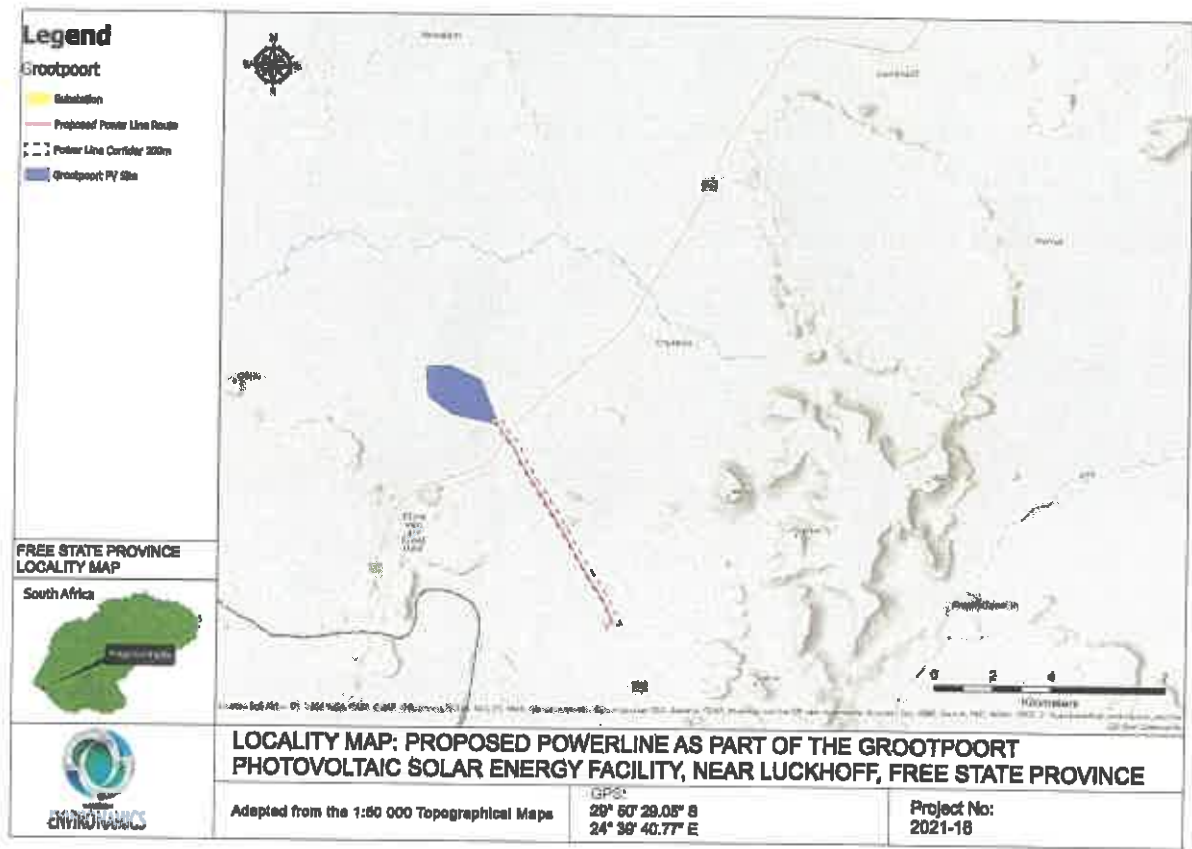
3. Findings

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 BAR dated November 2021 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 BAR dated November 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR 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.

Annexure 2: Locality Plan



Map indicating coordinate points as related to the Coordinates Table above.