



## 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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2626

Enquiries: Dr Danie Smit

Telephone: (012) 399 9394 E-mail: [dsmit@dffe.gov.za](mailto:dsmit@dffe.gov.za)

Ms Debbie Harding  
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited  
PO Box 606  
**KIMBERLEY**  
8301

Telephone Number: (053) 830 5774

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### PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Harding

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW 132KV GRID CONNECTION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE AUTHORISED EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR MURRAYSBURG, BEAUFORT WEST AND UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES AND CENTRAL KAROO AND PIXELY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES**

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 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 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@dffe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dffe.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](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@dffe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dffe.gov.za)

Yours faithfully



**Ms Milicent Solomons**  
**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**  
Date: 15/03/2023.

cc:	Ms Arlene Singh	Nala Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Email: <a href="mailto:arlene@veersgroup.com">arlene@veersgroup.com</a>
	Mr Zaahir Toefy	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	Email: <a href="mailto:Zaahir.Toefy@westerncape.gov.za">Zaahir.Toefy@westerncape.gov.za</a>
	Mr Mnyamezeli Jackson Penxa	Beaufort West Local Municipality	Email: <a href="mailto:jacksonp@beaufortwestmun.co.za">jacksonp@beaufortwestmun.co.za</a>
	Mr Bryan Fischer	Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	Email: <a href="mailto:Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za">Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za</a>
	Thembinkosi Zingange	Ubuntu Local Municipality	Email: <a href="mailto:Thzingange@yahoo.com">Thzingange@yahoo.com</a>

DFFE REFERENCE: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2626

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW 132KV GRID CONNECTION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE AUTHORISED EMOYENI WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR MURRAYSBURG, BEAUFORT WEST AND UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES AND CENTRAL KAROO AND PIXELY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES



## 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 construction of the new 132kV grid connection and associated infrastructure for the authorised Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities, near Murraysburg, Beaufort West and Ubuntu Local Municipalities and Central Karoo and Pixely Ka Seme District Municipalities,  
Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces

Central Karoo District Municipality & Pixely Ka Seme District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2626
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
Location of activity:	Within Ward 1 of Beaufort West Municipality and Ward 3 of Ubuntu Local Municipality, Central Karoo and Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, Northern and Western Cape Province

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 –

### **ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED**

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

with the following contact details –

Ms Debbie Harding  
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited  
PO Box 606  
**KIMBERLEY**  
8301

Telephone Number: (053) 830 5774

Email Address: [Debbie.harding@eskom.co.za](mailto:Debbie.harding@eskom.co.za)

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, 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>Three 33kV/132kV switching substations (collector stations) will be developed, adjacent to the authorised Umsinde-, Khangela- and Ishwati-Emoyeni WEF facility substations.</p> <p>The 132kV single or double circuit powerlines will be located within a 400m wide development corridor and will consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The establishment of a 132kV powerline within a 400m wide corridor that will extend from the Khangela switching station to the Ishwati switching station (~36km), and then onward for ~25km to the Eskom Gamma Substation.</li><li>• In addition, a further length of 132kV powerline (within a 400m wide corridor) will extend from the Umsinde switching station to the Khangela Application for Environmental Authorisation – April 2021 switching station for ~8km OR it may connect directly into the Khangela Ishwati powerline at the Khangela switching station.</li><li>• An extended powerline development corridor of approximately 1,91 km<sup>2</sup> wide has been assessed in the vicinity of the Gamma Substation that will enable the 132kV powerline to connect to either the south face</li></ul>

	of the Gamma Substation yard or approach from the east, depending on the available connection point at the time of the connection.
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, 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 metres or more, where such development occurs</i></p> <p><i>a) within a watercourse.</i></p> <p><i>c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>The double-circuit or single circuit overhead power lines, access tracks up to 7m wide, and water crossings will need to cross the several drainage lines in order to connect the Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities to the Gamma Substation yard.</p> <p>The access road to the Ishwati switching station will be up to 12m wide during construction and reduces to 6m wide during operation will allow for access to the Ishwati switching station for construction and maintenance activities.</p> <p>This will result in infringement within the watercourse and/or within 32m of the watercourse with a physical footprint greater than 100 square metres.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19</u></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic meters 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.</i></p>	<p>The development of the grid connection infrastructure and associated access tracks and water crossings will require the infilling or depositing of material and the extraction, removal or moving of soils of more than 10 cubic meters from watercourses during construction.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 27</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.</i></p>	<p>Clearance of vegetation will be required within the grid connection corridor during power line (pylon placement), access tracks and watercourse crossings that will exceed 1ha but will be less than 20ha.</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28 (ii)</u></p> <p><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:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1ha.</i></p>	<p>The proposed grid infrastructure that is intended to be developed will be greater than 1ha and is located outside of urban areas and will take place in areas used for agriculture.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4</u></p> <p><i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</i></p> <p><i>g. Northern Cape.</i></p> <p><i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape.</i></p> <p><i>ii. Area outside urban areas.</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Area containing indigenous vegetation.</i></p>	<p>Access tracks along the powerline routing will be developed to a width of up to 7m wide to allow for construction and maintenance activities. The development of the access track to the Ishwati switching station will be up to 12m wide during construction and reduced to 6m wide during operation.</p> <p>These access tracks are located within CBA and ESA areas and areas containing indigenous vegetation.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p><i>g. Northern Cape Province.</i></p> <p><i>ii. within critical biodiversity areas identified in in bioregional plans.</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape Province.</i></p>	<p>Clearance of vegetation will occur within the 400m grid connection corridor during power line, access track and watercourse crossing construction which is greater than 300 square metres and is located within CBA and ESA's.</p>

<p><i>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.</i></p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 14</u></p> <p><i>The development of –</i></p> <p><i>(xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres 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 setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>Excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</i></p> <p><b>g. Northern Cape</b></p> <p><i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><b>i. Western Cape</b></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p>	<p>The development of the new powerline, access tracks and water crossings will encroach onto watercourses and will be located within 32m of watercourses and is located within CBA's and ESA's.</p>



as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated January 2023.

**Farm Name and SG Codes:**

Property Details	SG Codes
Portion 1 of farm Klein Driefontein No. 152	C05200000000015200001
Remainder of Farm De Hoop No. 30;	C0520000000000300000
Portion 2 of Farm De Hoop No. 30	C0520000000000300002
Remainder of Farm Swavel Kranse No. 28	C05200000000002800000
Portion 2 of Farm Swavel Kranse No. 28	C05200000000002800002
Portion 4 (portion of portion 1) of Farm Driefontein 26	C05200000000002600004
Portion 6 of Farm Klipplaat No. 109	C06300000000010900006
Portion 4 (portion of portion 2) of Farm Klipplaat No. 109	C06300000000010900004
Portion 1 of the Farm Klipplaat No. 109	C06300000000010900001
Remainder Klipplaat No. 109	C06300000000010900000
Portion 1 of the Farm Uitvlugtfontein No. 265	C08000000000026500001
The Farm Riet Poort No. 9	C0520000000000900000
Remainder of Farm Driefontein No. 8	C0520000000000800000
Portion 3 of Farm Badfontein No. 10 (powerline alternative 1 route)	C0520000000001000003
Remainder of Farm Leeuwenfontein No. 6	C0520000000000600000
Portion 2 of Farm Leeuwenfontein No. 6	C0520000000000600002
Portion 4 (a portion of portion 1) of Farm Allemansfontein No.7	C0520000000000700004
Portion 2 (a portion of portion 1) of Farm Allemansfontein No.7	C0520000000000700002
The Farm Klein Los Kop No.5	C0520000000000500000
Remainder of the Farm Schietkuil No.3	C0520000000000300000

For the construction of a new 132kV grid connection and associated infrastructure for the authorised Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities, near Murraysburg, Beaufort West and Ubuntu Local Municipalities, within Central Karoo and Pixely ka Seme District Municipalities in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces, hereafter referred to as "the property". (coordinates attached as Appendix 2).

Technical details of the proposed project will include:

Infrastructure	Details
Double- and/or Single- circuit powerline	Proposed overhead 132kV powerline will extend from the Khangela Onsite switching station to the Ishwati switching station and then onwards to the connection point at the Eskom Gamma substation station yard. A further length of overhead 132kV powerline will extend from the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF onsite switching station to the Khangela switching station (or will connect to the Khangela-Ishwati powerline).
Power line voltage	132kV
Development corridor width	A 400m wide grid connection corridor along the 132kV routing; an extended 1.91km <sup>2</sup> corridor adjacent to the Gamma Substation to allow for connection of the 132kV powerline from the east or the south face within the extended corridor to the Gamma Substation yard, this is dependent on the available point of connection at the time.
132kV Powerline ~69km in length (Preferred Alternative)	The powerline will start at Umsinde onsite switching station located within the authorised Umsinde Emoyeni WEF within a 400m wide assessment corridor and traverses in a north westerly direction towards the Khangela on-site switching station, then onwards towards the Ishwati onsite switching station, and further westwards to the Gamma Substation.
Connection to the Eskom Gamma Substation	An extended powerline development corridor of approximately 1.91 km has been assessed in the vicinity of the Gamma Substation, that will enable the 132kV powerline to connect to either the south face of the Gamma Substation yard or approach from the east, depending on the available connection bay available at the time of connection.
Umsinde Emoyeni switching station	132kV on-site switching station with a footprint of approximately 100m x 80m (~0.8ha) with an assessment footprint that encompasses a 300m radius.

Khangela Emoyeni switching station	132kV on-site switching station with a footprint of approximately 100m x 80m (~0.8ha) with an assessment footprint that encompasses a 300m radius.
Ishwati Emoyeni switching station	132kV on-site switching station with a footprint of approximately 120m x 100m (~1.2ha) with an assessment footprint that encompasses a 300m radius.
Powerline servitude	Up to 40m wide (or as per Eskom's requirements).
Tower Height	Up to 35m
Water crossings	Water crossings may require the construction of culverts or low water drifts in order to not impact on watercourses during the construction and operation of the powerline and access tracks.
Access Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access/service tracks (jeep track) up to 7m wide will be required along the length of the whole corridor of the 132kV powerline.</li> <li>The establishment of a new access road approximately 14km long from the existing public road from Richmond to the Ishwati switching station site. The proposed new access road will be unsealed and up to 12m wide during construction but will be reduced to a maximum of 6 m width during operation.</li> </ul>

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The construction of a new 132kV grid connection and associated infrastructure for the authorised Emoyeni Wind Energy Facilities, near Murraysburg, Beaufort West and Ubuntu Local Municipalities within Central Karoo and Pixely ka Seme District Municipalities in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces, is approved as per the geographic coordinates attached as Annexure 2.
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 affected. 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. The site layout plans as attached as Appendix B of the BAR dated January 2023 is approved.
13. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR dated January 2023 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
14. 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.
15. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
16. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

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

17. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 24 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.
18. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
19. 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.
20. 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.

21. 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**

22. 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.
  - 22.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
  - 22.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
  - 22.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
  - 22.4. 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**

23. 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.
24. 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.

25. 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.
26. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports 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.
27. 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.
28. 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**

29. 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**

30. 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**

31. 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**

32. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
33. Smaller feeder streams and drainage lines must have no-go buffer area of at least 35 m from the centre of these streams to ensure these aquatic ecosystems are not impacted by the proposed activities.
34. The existing road infrastructure must be utilised as far as possible to minimise the overall disturbance created by the proposed project.
35. Where new access routes need to be constructed through the watercourses, the disturbance of the channels must be limited to a single jeep track that minimises disturbance of cover vegetation and hardening of surfaces must be used.
36. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where powerlines cross avifaunal corridors. 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.
37. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
38. 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, SAHRA must be informed, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources must be made.
39. 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.
40. 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).
41. The holder of Environmental Authorisation must prevent the occurrence of nuisance conditions or health hazards.
42. No effluent must be discharged into any storm water drain or furrow, whether by commission or by omission.

### **General**

43. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 43.1. at the site of the authorised activity;



43.2. to anyone on request; and

43.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

44. 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: 15/03/2023.



**Ms Milicent Solomons**

**Acting 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 07 October 2022.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated January 2023.
- c) The recommendations made by the EAP in the BAR dated January 2023.
- 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 January 2023 and as appears below:

### **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 proposed grid infrastructure, and associated access tracks and crossings for the project is directly linked to the need for the 147 MW Umsinde Emoyeni and 147MW Khangela Emoyeni which were authorised as (DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/686) on 06 September 2018, and (DFFE REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/687) respectively and the Ishwati Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2351) authorised on 2 July 2015.
- c) The main purpose of the proposed project is to support the development of the wind energy facilities, specifically the grid infrastructure is required to connect with infrastructure coming from the Umsinde Emoyeni WEF and transmitting this along via the Khangela and Ishwati switching station all the way up to the authorised Gamma substation which connects to the National Grid.
- d) The BAR dated January 2023 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated January 2023 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.

## 2. 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 January 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 BAR dated January 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 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: coordinates

Preferred Powerline Alternative		
	Latitude	Longitude
Start (on-site substation at Umsinde Emoyeni WEF site)	31°51'13.38"S	24° 1'25.58"E
Point 2	31°50'14.37"S	24° 0'50.32"E
Point 3	31°48'43.59"S	23°57'55.92"E
Start (on-site substation at Khangela Emoyeni WEF site)	31°48'43.05"S	23°57'42.71"E
Point 4	31°50'14.63"S	23°55'28.86"E
Point 5	31°49'13.74"S	23°53'33.39"E
Point 6	31°49'7.26"S	23°52'39.52"E
Point 7	31°47'31.74"S	23°49'11.72"E
Point 8	31°45'32.28"S	23°45'29.58"E
Point 9	31°43'29.18"S	23°45'1.23"E
Point 10	31°42'48.88"S	23°40'11.59"E
Point 11 (Ishwati Collector Sub)	31°42'24.42"S	23°39'30.33"E
Point 12	31°42'34.31"S	23°38'58.91"E
Point 13	31°43'9.01"S	23°38'11.49"E
Point 14	31°43'54.78"S	23°35'20.23"E
Point 15	31°40'58.19"S	23°25'27.11"E
End (Extended 1,91km <sup>2</sup> development corridor to (Gamma Substation) Preferred Alternative from the east	31°40'46.22"S	23°24'46.55"E
End (Extended 1,91km <sup>2</sup> development corridor to Gamma Substation) Preferred Alternative from the south	31°40'56.04"S	23°24'40.11"E

**Water Crossing Points along the 132kV Powerline within a 400m wide corridor and gravel access track approximately 7m wide from the Umsinde Emoyeni switching station and extended 1.91 km corridor to the Gamma Substation (Preferred Alternative):**

Gamma Substation to Ishwati Switching Station					
Watercourse Crossing	GPS Coordinates		Watercourse Crossing	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
1	31° 40.895'S	23° 25.233'E	16	31° 43.839'S	23° 35.129'E
2	31° 41.036'S	23° 25.743'E	17	31° 43.889'S	23° 35.303'E
3	31° 41.303'S	23° 26.688'E	18	31° 43.853'S	23° 35.487'E
4	31° 41.551'S	23° 27.579'E	19	31° 43.738'S	23° 35.826'E
5	31° 41.647'S	23° 27.969'E	20	31° 43.660'S	23° 36.141'E
6	31° 41.776'S	23° 28.327'E	21	31° 43.518'S	23° 36.634'E
7	31° 41.815'S	23° 28.474'E	22	31° 43.458'S	23° 36.905'E
8	31° 42.067'S	23° 29.346'E	23	31° 43.453'S	23° 36.987'E
9	31° 42.354'S	23° 30.316'E	24	31° 43.389'S	23° 37.208'E
10	31° 42.405'S	23° 30.479'E	25	31° 43.261'S	23° 37.699'E
11	31° 42.538'S	23° 30.925'E	26	31° 43.238'S	23° 37.813'E
12	31° 42.772'S	23° 31.654'E	27	31° 43.229'S	23° 37.905'E
13	31° 43.233'S	23° 33.111'E	28	31° 43.178'S	23° 38.061'E
14	31° 43.362'S	23° 33.570'E	29	31° 43.082'S	23° 38.300'E
15	31° 43.536'S	23° 34.080'E	30	31° 42.930'S	23° 38.518'E

Ishwati Switching Station to Khangela Switching Station					
Watercourse Crossing	GPS Coordinates		Watercourse Crossing	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
31	31° 42.866'S	23° 40.290'E	58	31° 47.823'S	23° 49.804'E
32	31° 43.284'S	23° 41.134'E	59	31° 47.901'S	23° 49.951'E
33	31° 43.688'S	23° 41.937'E	60	31° 48.006'S	23° 50.198'E
34	31° 42.898'S	23° 41.616'E	61	31° 48.066'S	23° 50.364'E
35	31° 43.027'S	23° 42.364'E	62	31° 48.259'S	23° 50.708'E
36	31° 44.009'S	23° 42.534'E	63	31° 48.621'S	23° 51.486'E

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37	31° 43.178'S	23° 43.374'E	64	31° 48.904'S	23° 52.183'E
38	31° 43.261'S	23° 44.255'E	65	31° 49.041'S	23° 52.498'E
39	31° 43.293'S	23° 44.328'E	66	31° 49.190'S	23° 52.867'E
40	31° 44.504'S	23° 43.539'E	67	31° 49.215'S	23° 53.392'E
41	31° 44.270'S	23° 45.237'E	68	31° 49.404'S	23° 53.891'E
42	31° 44.826'S	23° 44.149'E	69	31° 49.442'S	23° 53.813'E
43	31° 45.124'S	23° 44.700'E	70	31° 49.598'S	23° 54.228'E
44	31° 44.812'S	23° 45.526'E	71	31° 49.640'S	23° 54.290'E
45	31° 45.537'S	23° 45.494'E	72	31° 49.691'S	23° 54.376'E
46	31° 45.845'S	23° 46.109'E	73	31° 49.860'S	23° 54.672'E
47	31° 45.739'S	23° 45.958'E	74	31° 50.021'S	23° 54.889'E
48	31° 45.629'S	23° 45.691'E	75	31° 50.088'S	23° 55.079'E
49	31° 46.235'S	23° 46.853'E	76	31° 50.152'S	23° 55.217'E
50	31° 46.547'S	23° 47.440'E	77	31° 49.854'S	23° 56.055'E
51	31° 46.717'S	23° 47.775'E	78	31° 49.748'S	23° 56.220'E
52	31° 46.785'S	23° 47.899'E	79	31° 49.677'S	23° 56.303'E
53	31° 47.088'S	23° 48.482'E	80	31° 49.532'S	23° 56.461'E
54	31° 47.290'S	23° 48.698'E	81	31° 49.124'S	23° 56.975'E
55	31° 47.414'S	23° 48.959'E	82	31° 48.830'S	23° 57.425'E
56	31° 47.492'S	23° 49.051'E	83	31° 48.558'S	23° 57.715'E
57	31° 47.708'S	23° 49.547'E	84	31° 48.759'S	23° 57.831'E

Khangela Switching Station to Umsinde Switching Station		
Watercourse Crossing	GPS Coordinates	
	Latitude	Longitude
83	31° 48.558'S	23° 57.715'E
84	31° 48.759'S	23° 57.831'E
85	31° 48.886'S	23° 58.233'E
86	31° 49.101'S	23° 58.643'E
87	31° 49.438'S	23° 59.251'E
88	31° 49.489'S	23° 59.362'E
89	31° 49.750'S	23° 59.910'E
90	31° 50.062'S	24° 00.493'E

91	31° 50.317'S	24° 00.890'E
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**Proposed New Access Road Co-ordinates to the authorised Ishwati Substation site:**

	Latitude	Longitude
Start (off the existing unnamed gravel road)	31° 44.203'S	23° 46.714'E
Middle	31° 42.906'S	23° 42.942'E
End (Authorised Ishwati Substation site)	31° 42.407'S	23° 39.506'E

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## forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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Enquiries: Devinagie Bendeman Telephone: 012 399 9337 E-mail: vbendeman@dfre.gov.za

Ms. Milicent Solomons  
Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Dear Ms. Solomons

### **APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTERGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS (ACTING), FROM 01 MARCH UNTIL 31 MARCH 2023**

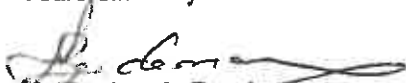
I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as Acting Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations from 01 March until 31 March 2023.

All correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations during must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations during the above-mentioned period.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1998), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standards, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of the legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Yours Sincerely

  
Ms. Devinagie Bendeman

Deputy Director-General: Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring


Date: 22 February 2023



**Batho pele** - putting people first

The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I ☒ ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~  
appointment as Acting Chief Director:  
Intergrated Environmental Authorisations  
Signed: 

Date: 27/02/2023