



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2134

Enquiries: Ms Olivia Letlalo

Telephone: (012) 399 8815 **E-mail:** OLetlalo@dfffe.gov.za

Ms Mercia Grimbeek
ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Suite 104, The Albion Springs Office Park
183 Main Road, Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7701

Cell phone Number: 071 752 8033
Email Address: gideon.raath@enertraq.com

PER E-MAIL /MAIL

Dear Ms Grimbeek

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED CAMDEN UP TO 400KV GRID CONNECTION, COMMON COLLECTOR SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 1 AND 2 OF WELGELEGEN FARM NO. 322, PORTION 0 OF CAMDEN POWER STATION FARM NO. 329, PORTION 14 AND 20 OF MOOPLAATS FARM NO. 290, PORTION 2 AND 12 OF UITKOMST 292 NEAR ERMELO WITHIN MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN MPUMALANGA 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 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.

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

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 appeais@dffe.gov.za

Yours faithfully



Ms Milicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Date: 09/03/2023 .

cc:	Ms Ashlea Strong	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011 361 1392	Email: Ashlea.strong@wsp.com
	Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA)	Tel: 017 811 3951	Email: mbuvanesb@moa.Qov.za
	Hilda Maganya	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Tel: 017 809 3505	Email: hma_anyai'i'isukali_wa.gov.za
	Tebogo Mogakabe	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Tel: 017 801 7140	Email: tebogom@qsibande.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

Proposed Camden up to 400 kV Grid Connection. Common Collector Substation and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 and 2 of Welgelegen Farm No. 322. Portion 0 of Camden Power Station Farm No. 329 Portion 14 and 20 of Mooiplaats Farm No. 290, Portion 2 and 12 of Uitkomst 292 near Ermelo within Msukaligwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province

Gert Sibande District Municipality

Application Register Number:	74/12/76/3/3/2/2134
Applicant:	<i>ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>on Portion 1 and 2 of Welgelegen Farm No. 322, Portion 0 of Camden Power Station Farm No. 329, Portion 14 and 20 of Mooiplaats Farm No. 290, Portion 2 and 12 of Uitkomst 292 near Ermelo within Msukaligwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province</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 -

ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd

with the following contact details -

Ms Mercia Grimbeek

Suite 104, The Albion Springs Office Park

183 Main Road, Rondebosch

CAPE TOWN

7701

Cell phone Number: 071 752 8033

Email Address: gideon.raath@enertraq.com

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Activity 11(i):</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><i>or</i></p>	<p>The electrical grid infrastructure is located outside urban areas. The collector substation will be rated 132kV/400kV whereas the overhead powerline will be up to 400kV.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 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,</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs—</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; or</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 physical footprint of access/maintenance roads, electrical cabling and tower structures related to the electrical grid infrastructure will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. The total physical footprint for the infrastructure will not exceed 1800m².</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 14:</u></p> <p><i>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.</i></p>	<p>Fuel, transformer oil, cement and other chemical storage within the common collector substation will be greater than 80m³ but not exceeding 500m³.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 19:</u></p> <p><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>Access/maintenance roads and stormwater control infrastructure, as well as electrical cabling related to the electrical grid infrastructure will collectively require the excavation, infilling or removal of soil exceeding 10m³ from delineated watercourses on site. Such infilling or deposition will exceed the thresholds relevant to this listed activity and therefore triggering this activity.</p>

15

<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 24(ii):</u></p> <p><i>The development of a road—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.</i></p>	<p>The access roads required for the electrical grid infrastructure will be developed in an area where no reserve exists and will be approximately 9km in length and between 8 - 20m wide, to allow for larger component transport.</p>
<p><u>Listinc. Notice 1. Activity 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 construction of the common collector substation, as well as the Eskom Camden MTS upgrades will collectively require the clearance of approximately 8 hectares of indigenous vegetation.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 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 1 hectare.</i></p>	<p>The proposed project is considered a commercial/industrial development. The total area to be developed for the electrical grid infrastructure is approximately 19 hectares and occurs outside an urban area, which is currently used for agriculture.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 30:</u></p> <p><i>Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</i></p>	<p>The electrical grid infrastructure is located within and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Pan veld. Both ecosystems are confirmed to be listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection (as indicated in GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011). Since these ecosystems are listed as threatened it is assumed that various threatened or protected species will be found within the development area. The restricted activity of “cutting, chopping off, uprooting, damaging or destroying, any specimen” has been identified in</p>

	<p>terms of NEM:BA and is therefore applicable to the vegetation clearance that will be required to construct the development.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 48(i)(a)(c):</u></p> <p><i>The expansion of—</i></p> <p><i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more,</i></p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p><i>where such expansion 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>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the electrical grid infrastructure will require the expansion of existing access and/or internal roads, culverts or similar drainage crossing infrastructure collectively exceeding 100m² or more beyond existing road or road reserves located within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. Expansion of ~ 3 000m² is required for the facility, thereby exceeding the threshold value, and triggering this activity.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 56(i)(ii):</u></p> <p><i>The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre—</i></p> <p><i>(i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres.</i></p>	<p>The electrical grid infrastructure is located within a rural area. Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads where no reserve exists and where such road is wider than 8 metres. Subject to detail design widening up to 14m, collectively exceeding 1km in will be required, thereby exceeding the threshold value and triggering this activity.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Activity 9:</u></p> <p><i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex.</i></p>	<p>The electrical grid infrastructure is located outside an urban area or industrial complex and will comprise overhead powerline infrastructure of up to 400kV exceeding 2km (total length of approximately 9km) in length, as well as substation infrastructure rated 132/400kV</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 4(f)(i)(aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(qq)</u></p>	<p>Internal access/maintenance roads required by the electrical grid infrastructure will be between 5m and</p>

<p><i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</i></p> <p><i>f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>/. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas,</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,</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>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation.</i></p>	<p>8m wide and exceed 1km in length. The exact values will be confirmed following detailed design.</p> <p>The electrical grid infrastructure is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and partly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities. The electrical grid infrastructure is located within the extent, and within 5km of the abovementioned private nature reserve.</p> <p>In addition and based on the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity. Furthermore, roads required for the electrical grid infrastructure will be located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of, Eastern High veld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA), 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). Similarly,</p>
--	--

6

	<p>roads required for the electrical grid infrastructure will be located within and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA).</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3, Activity</p> <p><u>10(f)(i)(aa)(bb)(cc) (ee)(qq)(hh)</u></p> <p><i>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres.</i></p> <p><i>f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas,</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,</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>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation; or</i></p> <p><i>(hh) Areas within a watercourse or wetland, or within 100 metres of a watercourse or wetland;</i></p>	<p>Fuel, transformer oil, cement and other chemical storage within the common collector substation will not exceed a combined capacity of 500m³, but individual component capacities will be between 30 - 80m³. The storage will occur within the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and partly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is in a separate process to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities. The storage is therefore currently both located within the extent, and within 5km of the abovementioned private nature reserve. In addition and based on the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity. Furthermore, storage above will be located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of, Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need</p>

	<p>of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the NEM:BA, Act No. 10 of 2004. Similarly, storage will be located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance within CBA and ESA as well as being located within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 12(f)(i)(ii)(iii)</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>(f) in Mpumalanga</i></p>	<p>The total area to be developed for the electrical grid infrastructure is approximately 19 hectares thereby exceed the activity threshold of indigenous vegetation clearance.</p> <p>The development occurs partly within Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld,</p>
<p><i>(l) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004,</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans"</i></p> <p><i>Hi. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning or proclamation in terms of NEMPAA.</i></p>	<p>both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the NEM:BA, Act No. 10 of 2004. Similarly, the development activity will be located within CBA and ESA, in excess of 300m². Further, development activity will partly occur on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). The clearing is therefore currently located within the extent of the abovementioned private nature reserve. It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is in a process to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p>

15.

Listing Notice 3, Activity 14(ii)(a)(c)(f)

(i)(aa)(bb)(dd)(ff)(hh)

The development of—

(ii) infrastructure or structures with a Physical footprint of 10 Square metres or more,

where such development 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,

f. Mpumalanga

/. Outside urban areas

(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,

(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas,

(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,

(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans,

(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation.

The physical footprint of access/maintenance roads, stormwater control infrastructure, substation and/or electrical cabling and tower structures related to the electrical grid infrastructure will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site, and will occupy ~1800m², subject to detailed design, within these regions.

In addition, the development activity is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and partly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.

The electrical grid infrastructure is therefore currently both located within the extent, and within 5km of the above-mentioned private nature reserve. In addition and based on the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity.

Furthermore, the development activity will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site, or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the

	<p>delineated watercourses on site, which infrastructure will be located within Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the NEM:BA, (Act No. 10 of 2004). Finally, the development activity will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site, located within CBA and ESA.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 15(d)(ii)</u></p> <p><i>The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning, on or after 02 August 2010.</i></p> <p><i>d. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>ii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies.</i></p>	<p>The electrical grid infrastructure is considered a commercial and/or industrial development, and will occupy approximately 19 hectares (subject to detailed design) within several farm portions outside an urban area, currently zoned for agriculture, while being partly located on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which is a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities. The electrical grid infrastructure is therefore currently located within the extent of the above-mentioned private nature reserve</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 18(f)(i)(aa)(bb)</u></p>	
<p><u>(cc)(ee)(gg)</u></p>	<p>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the electrical grid infrastructure will require the</p>

<p><i>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i></p> <p><i>f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas,</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,</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>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation.</i></p>	<p>widening of existing access and/or internal roads by more than 4 metres or in excess of 1km within the Mpumalanga Province and outside urban areas. Subject to detail design widening up to 14m, collectively exceeding 1km in length, will be required, thereby exceeding the threshold value, and triggering this activity.</p> <p>Such widening will occur partly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities. The development activity is therefore currently both located within the extent, and within 5km of the above-mentioned private nature reserve. In addition and based on the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity. Furthermore, such widening will occur within Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the NEM:BA, Act No.</p>
---	--

	<p>10 of 2004. Finally, such widening will be located within CBA and ESA.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3, Activity 23(ii)(a)(c)(f)(i) (aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(gg) <i>The expansion of—</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more, where such expansion 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>f. Mpumalanga</i> <i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</i> <i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas,</i> <i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority,</i> <i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans,</i> <i>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation.</i></p>	<p>The physical footprint of access/maintenance roads, stormwater control infrastructure, substations and/or electrical cabling and tower structures related to the electrical grid infrastructure will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site and will require expansion of ~ 3 000m² within these areas, subject to detail design, thereby exceeding the threshold value and triggering this activity.</p> <p>In addition, development activity occurs partly on Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen) , which are a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>The development activity contemplated is therefore currently both located within the extent, and within 5km of the above-mentioned private nature reserve. In addition and based on the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, development activity will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site, or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site, which infrastructure will be located within Eastern Highveld Grassland and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, both ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the NEM:BA, Act No. 10 of 2004. Finally, the development activity will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site, located within CBA and ESA.</p>
--	---

as described in the final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) dated 02 November 2022:

21 Digit SG Codes

T	0	I	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
T	0	I	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	2
T	0	I	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	9	0	0	0	0	0
T	0	I	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	0	0	0	0	1	4
T	0	I	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	2	0	0	0	0	2
T	0	I	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	2	0	0	0	1	2
T	0	I	T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	0	0	0	0	2	0

Co-ordinate Points of the Properties for the listed activities

Vertex	Latitude	Longitude
Common Collector Substation Alternative 2 (Preferred)		
A2-1	26°38'44.08"S	30° 4'10.50"E
A2-2	26°38'47.63"S	30°4'14.25"E
A2-3	26°38'57.67"S	30° 4'3.08"E
A2-4	26°38'54.03"S	30° 3'59.66"E
Camden MTS Expansion		
MTS1	26°37'2.19"S	30° 5'8.98"E

45

MTS2	26°36'58.19"S	30° 5'32.14"E
MTS3	26°37'2.91"S	30° 5'30.75"E
MTS4	26°37'7.08"S	30° 5'9.88"E
Up to 400kV Powerline Alignment Alternative 2 (Preferred direct line option) Approximately 4.5km		
A2-A	26°38'43.1T"S	30° 4'10.20"E
A2-B	26°38'35.8T"S	30° 4'32.43"E
A2-C	26°37'53.90"S	30° 4'45.82"E
A2-D	26°37'24.4T"S	30° 4'43.72"E
A2-E	26°36'59.67"S	30° 4'59.51"E
A2-F	26°36'58.98"S	30° 5'6.73"E
A2-G	26°37'5.84"S	30° 5'16.50"E
LILO Grid Alternative 1 (preferred LILO alternative) Approximately 1.5km		
LILO-1-A	26°38'46.28"S	30° 4'9.82"E
LILO-1-B	26°38'47.93"S	30° 4'29.21"E

- for the proposed Camden up to 400kV grid connection, common collector substation and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 and 2 of Welgelegen Farm No. 322, Portion 0 of Camden Power Station Farm No. 329, Portion 14 and 20 of Mooiplaats Farm No. 290, Portion 2 and 12 of Uitkomst 292 near Ermelo within Msukaligwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The proposed project will thus comprise the following key components:

- Construction of 1 x up to 400kV transmission line (either single or double circuit) between the Camden Renewable Energy Complex and the Camden MTS. The powerline has a 500m assessment corridor (250m on either side of the centre line) to allow for micro-siting. A Loop-In-Loop-Out corridor alternative has been assessed, which will include two connecting powerlines (LILO) into the existing Eskom Camden-Incandu 400kV transmission powerline line towards the south-west of the project site.
- Establishment of the common collector substation (with a footprint of approximately 5ha) at the Renewable Energy Complex which includes but is not limited to:
 - J A high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple 132kV and 400kV feeder bays and transformers, with infrastructure to allow for step-up to 400kV as required.
 - J Standard substation electrical equipment, i.e., transformers, busbars, office area, operation and control room, workshop, and storage area, feeder bays, transformers, busbars, stringer strain beams, insulators, isolators, conductors, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors, relays, capacitor banks, batteries,

wave trappers, switchyard, metering and indication instruments, equipment for carrier current, surge protection and outgoing feeders, as may be needed.

J The control building, telecommunication infrastructure, oil dam(s) etc,

J Workshop and office area within the collector substation footprint,

J Fencing around the substation,

s All the access road infrastructure to and within the substation

J Expansion of the Camden MTS Substation (with a footprint of approximately 1ha), including standard substation electrical equipment as may be needed (feeder bays, transformers, busbars, stringer strain beams, insulators, isolators, conductors, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors, relays, capacitor banks, batteries, wave trappers, switchyard, metering and indication instruments, equipment for carrier current, surge protection and outgoing feeders, as may be needed).

The proposed Camden up to 400kV grid connection will comprise of the following key components:

Infrastructure	Description/ Dimensions
Up to 400k V transmission line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Either single or double circuit, between the Camden Renewable Energy Complex and the Camden Power Station MTS. In the case of the Loop-In-Loop-Out alternative, dual (2) connecting lines of similar specification are proposed. ■ Servitude width for 1 x up to 400kV transmission line (single and double circuit) is 55m, or 60m for Loop-In-Loop-Out options. ■ Height of 1 x 400kV power line structure is on average 48m but may reach up to 50m for dual circuit or in exceptional circumstances depending on the complexity and slope of the terrain. ■ Minimum conductor clearance is between 8.1 and 12.6m. ■ Span length between pylon structures is typically up to 100 - 250m apart, depending on complexity and slope of terrain. <p>Up to 400kV (single or double circuit) design may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cross rope suspension, ■ Intermediate or suspension towers, ■ Inline and angle strain self-supporting towers, ■ Guyed "V" Structure; or ■ Similar powerline design at 400kV specification; and ■ For up to 400kV structures footprint sizes may vary depending on design type up to 110m² (10.5m by 10.5m), with concrete

145

	<p>foundations of up to 80m² and depths reaching up to 3.5m typically depending on the number and design of the foundations (to be determined during the detailed design engineering phase). The actual number of structures required will vary according to the final route alignment determined.</p>
<p>Up to 132kV transmission line</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The servitude width for 1x up to 132kV transmission line is 32m. A 500m corridor was assessed (250m on either side of the centre line) to allow for micro-siting. In the case of the Loop-In-Loop-Out alternative this servitude will apply to each of the two connecting power lines. ■ The maximum height for an up to 132kV powerline structure is 40m. Up to 132kV (single or double circuit) design will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Intermediate self-supporting monopole, ■ Inline or angle-strain self-supporting monopole, ■ Suspension self-supporting monopole, ■ Triple pole structure, ■ Steel lattice structure; or ■ Similar powerline design at 132kV specification, ■ The above designs may require anchors with guy-wires or be anchorless. For up to 132kV structures, concrete foundation sizes may vary depending on design type up to 80m² (10m by 8m), with depths reaching up to 3.5m typically in a rectangular 'pad' shape; and ■ A working area of approximately 100m x 100m is needed for each of the proposed structures to be constructed.
<p>Common collector substation (Approx.5Ha)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple 132kV and 400kV feeder bays and transformers, with infrastructure to allow for step-up to 400kV as required. ■ Standard substation electrical equipment, including but not limited to transformers, busbars, office area, operation and control room, workshop, and storage area, feeder bays, stringer strain beams, insulators, isolators, conductors, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors, relays, capacitor banks, batteries, wave trappers, switchyard, metering and indication instruments, equipment for

	<p>carrier current, surge protection and outgoing feeders, as will be needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The control building, telecommunication infrastructure, oil dam(s) etc, ■ Workshop and office area within the collector substation footprint, ■ Fencing around the substation ■ All the access road infrastructure to and within the substation ■ Expansion of the Camden MTS Substation (with a footprint of approximately 1ha), including standard substation electrical equipment as will be needed (feeder bays, transformers, busbars, stringer strain beams, insulators, isolators, conductors, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors, relays, capacitor banks, batteries, wave trappers, switchyard, metering and indication instruments, equipment for carrier current, surge protection and outgoing feeders, as will be needed). ■ Associated infrastructure including but not limited to lighting, fencing, and buildings required for operation (ablutions, office, workshop and control room, security fencing and gating, parking area, concrete batching plant (if required), waste storage/disposal and storerooms).
<p>Access Road Length of internal Roads: Width of roads</p>	<p>Internal access roads required will be in an area without reserve and will be approximately 9km in length and 8 - 20m wide, to allow for larger component transport.</p>

145.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The 500m corridor for the preferred Camden up to 400kV grid connection, common collector substation and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 and 2 of Welgelegen Farm No. 322, Portion 0 of Camden Power Station Farm No. 329, Portion 14 and 20 of Mooiplaats Farm No. 290, Portion 2 and Portion 12 of Uitkomst 292 near Ermelo within Msukaligwa Local Municipality of Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates 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 for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (10) 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 copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to the registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. This final layout must be within the 500m approved corridor. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - 13.1. Camden up to 400k V grid connection,
 - 13.2. Common collector substation,
 - 13.3. Onsite substation and the coordinates,
 - 13.4. All infrastructure coordinates,
 - 13.5. The proposed internal road (length and width),

- 13.6. Construction laydown areas, buildings, and their coordinates,
- 13.7. All sensitive features i.e., Martial Eagle nest, graves or cemetery, receptors, CBA, wetlands, and
- 13.8. AH“no-go” and buffer areas.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the EIAR is not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map. The EMPr must be made available for comments by 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. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.
15. 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.
16. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. 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

18. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 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.
19. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. 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.
21. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated because 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.

22. 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

23. 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.
- 23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 23.4. 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

24. 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.
25. 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.
26. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. 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

33. Construction must only commence once the Protected Area status (Proclaimed Private Nature Reserve: Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) has been changed or deproclaimed for the directly affected properties (i.e. Portion 1 and 2 of Farm No. 322 Welgelegen).
34. A walkthrough survey as recommended by the terrestrial and avifaunal specialists must be conducted prior construction. This must be undertaken after rainfall to allow emergence of any species of potential

445

concern. The survey must also cover all footprint areas, including final road alignments. The outcome of the walkthrough must inform the final layout, and this must be included in the EMPr.

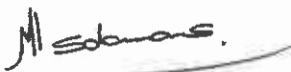
35. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works.
36. A permit must be obtained from the relevant authorities for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or provincially protected species prior construction.
37. The entire power line length must be fitted with bird flight diverters, as recommended by the Avifaunal specialist.
38. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
39. All excavations into bedrock must be monitored by a suitably qualified palaeontologist and a report on the outcomes of the monitoring activities must be submitted to SAHRA on completion of the development of the facility.
40. 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.
41. Hazardous substances must be stored in a bunded and designated area to avoid accidental leakage into the environment.
42. 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

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: *c 13.acs*



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 24 February 2022.
- b) The email dated 01 March 2023 clarifying listed activities.
- c) The email from Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency dated 01 March 2023 confirming the withdrawal of Langcarel Private Nature Reserve as a declared Nature Reserve under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940).
- d) The acceptance of final scoping report issued on 19 May 2022.
- e) The information contained in the final EIAr dated 02 November 2022.
- f) The comments received from all interested and affected parties as included in the final EIAr dated 02 November 2022.
- g) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr for the facility and the generic EMPs dated 02 November 2022.
- h) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final EIAr.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was considered 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 ties in with the national government policies, plans, and programmes which have relevance to energy planning and production.
- c) The final EIAr dated 02 November 2022 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final EIAr dated 02 November 2022 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 final EIAr dated 02 November 2022 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 proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) 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.

