



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2611
Enquiries: Mr Wayne Hector
Telephone: (012) 399 9410 E-mail: WHector@dfpe.gov.za

Dr Gideon Greyvenstein
Ukuqala Solar (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 66004
HIGHVELD
0169

Tel: (021) 667 4331
Cell: (082) 558 3917
E-mail: gideon@ennex.co.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Dr Greyvenstein

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 132KV THE UKUQALA GRID CONNECTION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM VETLAAGTE NO 4, DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

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

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

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

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

M. S

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@dfpe.gov.za ;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
PRETORIA
0083 or

By post: Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

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

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

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: *23/05/2023*

cc	Susanna Nel	Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd	Email: info@landscapedynamics.co.za
	Mr Abie Abrahams	DENC	Email: Abraham.denc@gmail.com
	Mr Isak Visser	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	Email: visser@emthanjeni.co.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

**THE CONSTRUCTION OF 132KV UKUQALA GRID CONNECTION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM VETLAAGTE NO 4, DE AAR,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2611
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Ukuqala Solar (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Within Remaining Extent of the Farm Vetlaagte No 4, De Aar, Remainder of the Farm Wagt en Bittje No 139, Portion 1 of the Farm Wagt en Bittje No 137, Portion 1 of the Farm Vetlaagte No 4, within Ward 8 of the Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Northern Cape 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.

M.S

Decision

The Department is satisfied, based on 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 –

UKUQALA SOLAR (PTY) LTD

with the following contact details –

Dr Gideon Greyvenstein

Ukuqala Solar (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 66004

HIGHVELD

0169

Tel: (021) 667 4331

Cell: (082) 558 3917

E-mail: gideon@ennex.co.za

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11:</u> <i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i> <i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; "</i></p>	<p>A 132kV overhead power line will be constructed outside urban areas.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12:</u> <i>"The development of</i> <i>(ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 m² or more;</i> <i>Where such development occurs –</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;."</i></p>	<p>Infrastructure of more than 100m² will be constructed within a watercourse and within 32m from a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19:</u> <i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse"</i></p>	<p>More than 10m³ will be deposited / removed from a watercourse for the construction of the access road.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 24</u> <i>The development of a road—</i> <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 main access road will be 12m in width and approximately 4km in length. Existing sections of this road will be upgraded and new sections will be constructed. An approximately 8m wide access road will be constructed along the line route for construction and maintenance purposes.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, item 27</u> <i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for</i></p>	<p>The substation, Operations and Maintenance building and laydown area will be constructed in an area exceeding 1hectares but less than 20</p>

<p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a Maintenance management plan</p>	<p>hectares. Indigenous vegetation of 1 hectare or more will be removed.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, item 28</u> Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</p>	<p>The substation will be constructed in an area of approximately 1 hectare and will be constructed on agricultural land.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, item 48</u> The expansion of (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or a) within a watercourse; c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p>	<p>Infrastructure (access road) of more than 100m² will be upgraded within a watercourse, and within 32m from a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, item 56</u> The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre— (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres; excluding where widening or lengthening occur inside urban areas.</p>	<p>The main access road will be 12m in width and approximately 8km in length. Existing sections of this road will be upgraded and new sections will be constructed.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, item 14</u> 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;</p>	<p>Infrastructure (access road) of more than 10m² will be constructed within a watercourse, within 32m from a water course and within an Ecological Support Area.</p>

MS

<p>c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</p> <p>g. Northern Cape</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, item 18</u></p> <p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>g. Northern Cape</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(ii) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland; or</p>	<p>The existing access road will be widened by more than 4 meters within a watercourse and within 100m from a watercourse.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated February 2023 at:

SG 21 Code:

C	0	5	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	9	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	5	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	5	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1

Coordinates of the 132kV power line:	Longitude	Latitude
Ukuqala Switching Station (centre)	30°40'38.11"S	24° 5'30.84"E
Approximate centre of the power line	30°40'56.83"S	24° 5'29.49"E
Vetlaagte MTS	30°41'17.19"S	24° 5'38.67"E

Eskom Switching Station	Longitude	Latitude
North-western corner	30°40'36.54"S	24° 5'28.95"E
Norther-eastern corner	30°40'36.25"S	24° 5'32.69"E
South-western corner	30°40'39.82"S	24° 5'29.29"E
South-eastern corner	30°40'39.49"S	24° 5'33.03"E

Operations & Maintenance Buildings	Longitude	Latitude
North-western corner	30°40'30.17"S	24° 5'28.33"E
Norther-eastern corner	30°40'29.79"S	24° 5'32.00"E
South-western corner	30°40'33.33"S	24° 5'28.63"E
South-eastern corner	30°40'33.01"S	24° 5'32.32"E

Access Road	Longitude	Latitude
Southern point at the Hydra MTS	30°42'38.05"S	24° 5'9.12"E
Approximate centre of the access road	30°41'14.23"S	24° 5'30.14"E
Northern point at the laydown area	30°40'18.06"S	24° 5'27.67"E

- for the construction of the 132kV Ukuqala Grid Connection and associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Vetlaagte No 4, De Aar, Remainder of the Farm Wagt en Bittje No 139, Portion 1 of the Farm Wagt en Bittje No 137 and Portion 1 of the Farm Vetlaagte No 4, within Ward 8 of the Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The proposed development entails the construction of the 132kV Ukuqala grid connection and associated infrastructure. The technical details of the proposed development are as described below:

Technical details of the proposed grid infrastructure

Component	Description / dimensions
Development footprint (permanent infrastructure)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eskom Switching Station Operations & Maintenance Buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100m x 100m (1 hectare) 100m x 100m (1 hectare)
Capacity of the Eskom Switching Station and power line	- 132kV power line of approximately 1.5km

MS

	- The power line will evacuate the electricity generated by the Ukuqala Solar PV facilities to the approved Vetlaagte MTS
Associated infrastructure at the Eskom Switching Station	- Lighting - Fencing - Buildings required for operation (i.e., ablutions required for maintenance staff)
Grid connection	- Approximately 1.5km 132kV power line evacuating energy generated by the facility to connect to the national grid.
Access roads	- Main access road of 12m wide and approximately 5.3km in length. Existing sections will be upgraded and new sections will be constructed. - A section of this road will follow the power line route and will be within the approved servitude as much as possible.
Internal roads (switching station)	Internal access roads of approximately 6m wide
Temporary infrastructure total area	Temporary infrastructure (including laydown areas, staff accommodation, temporary security building and concrete batching plant) will be required during the construction phase and will form part of a Balance of Plant area. The total area of the temporary infrastructure will be approximately 10ha. All temporary infrastructure will be rehabilitated following the completion of the construction phase, if not required for the operational phase.
Temporary Services	During the construction phase, temporary sanitation facilities will be provided (i.e. chemical toilets / conservancy tanks) and effluent will be regularly serviced by a licensed company / disposed of at a registered sewage waste disposal site at De Aar.
Storage of dangerous substances	Storage of dangerous goods in facilities of a combined capacity of less than 80m ³ . The substances required to be stored will include diesel, transformer oil, fuel, etc. and will be utilized during both the construction and operational phases of the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During construction, diesel is required for construction vehicles as well as generators for the construction camp and commissioning whilst waiting for the Eskom grid connection works to be completed

M.S

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During operations, diesel is required for Operations & Maintenance vehicles at the PV plants but also required for backup Diesel generators at the substations. The Generator supply auxiliary power to the substation's protection and communications systems, should there be outages on the grid. This is an Eskom requirement together with a battery room at the substations to function as UPS for these critical systems. |
|--|--|

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The construction of the 132kV Ukuqala Grid Connection and associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Vetlaagte No 4, De Aar, Remainder of the Farm Wagt en Bittje No 139, Portion 1 of the Farm Wagt en Bittje No 137 and Portion 1 of the Farm Vetlaagte No 4, within Ward 8 of the Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Northern Cape 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 must only be conducted 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 (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

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

Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity must 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. The layout map attached as Appendix A of the final BAR dated February 2023 is hereby approved.
14. The Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR dated February 2023 is approved and 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 with 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 basic assessment 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. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
34. 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.
35. All declared aliens must be identified and managed in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983).
36. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power line cross avifaunal corridors, as recommended by the Ecological specialist.
37. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be used.
38. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures as specified in the BAR dated February 2023 must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.

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.
41. 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).
42. All recommendations and mitigation measures recommended in the specialist studies must be adhere to and be included in the EMPr.

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: 23/05/2023


Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & 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 amended application form dated 07 March 2023.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated February 2023.
- c) The comments received from SAHRA, Department of Water & Sanitation, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: IEA, Eskom and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated February 2023.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the GEMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated February 2023 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment	Dr David Hoare Pr.Sci.Nat. (Botany, Ecology)	16 February 2022
Aquatic Impact Assessment	Blue Science	January 2022
Avifaunal Impact Assessment	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Limited-January 2022	January 2022
Heritage Impact Assessment	CTS Heritage	December 2021
Agricultural and Soil Compliance Statement	Johann Lanz	20 December 2021
Archaeological Impact Assessment	CTS Heritage in association with Savvanah	November 2021

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 BAR dated February 2023 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed grid connection which considers environmentally sensitive areas.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated February 2023 and the specialist studies have been indicated.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

3. Findings

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

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated February 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 proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed curtails the identified impacts.
- d) 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.