



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/3275

Enquiries: Ms Thulisile Nyalunga

Megora PV (Pty) Ltd

Cellphone Number:
E-mail Address:

PER EMAIL

Dear

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 132KV OVERHEAD POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN THE PROPOSED MEGORA SOLAR PV FACILITY 2 AND THE PROPOSED MEGORA SOLAR PV FACILITY 1A (MEGORA EGI 2) NEAR MURRAYSBURG IN THE WESTERN 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 the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (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, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) which stipulates that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

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

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R5985 in Government Gazette No. 52269



Batho pele – putting people first

Departement van Bosbou, Visserye en die Omgewing • Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment • UmNyango wezamaHlathi, zokuThiya neBhoduluko • iSebe lezamaHlathi, ezokuloba nokusingqongileyo • Umnyango WazamaHlathi, Ezokudoba Nezemvelo • Kgoro ya Dithokgwa, Boreahapi le Tikologo • Lefapha la Meru, Botshwesi ba dithapi le Tikologo • Lefapha la Dikgwa, Dithapi le Tikologo • Litiko Letemahlatsi, Tintlanti Netendzawo • Muhasho wa zwa Vhusima-madaka, Vhureakhovhe na Mupo • Ndzwawulo ya Swihlathla, Vunjoveni na Mbango. The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessively for the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act, and/or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

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dated 13 March 2025 (National Appeal Regulations, 2025), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2025) 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 twenty (20) days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

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

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

By email: appeals@dffe.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.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal-authorisations> or request a copy of the documents at appeals@dffe.gov.za

Yours faithfully



Dr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 30/07/2026

cc.	Mr Paul Lochner	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	
	Mr Gavin Benjamin	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)	
	Mr Derrick Welgemoed	Beaufort West Local Municipality	

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forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Environmental Authorisation

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

The development of a 132 kV overhead power line and associated infrastructure between the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 2 and the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 1A (Megora EGI 2), near Murraysburg in the Western Cape Province

Central Karoo District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/3275
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Megora PV (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	Remainder of the Farm Badfontein No. 10 Ward 1: Ward ID: 10503001 Beaufort West Local Municipality Central Karoo District Municipality Western Cape Province

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

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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 –

MEGORA PV (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

[REDACTED]

Megora PV (Pty) Ltd

[REDACTED]

Cellphone Number

E-mail Address:

[REDACTED]

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

Activity number	Activity description
<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</i> <i>with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts."</i>	The proposed project will entail the construction of a 132 kV switching station. The switching station will extend approximately 1.5 ha in area. An overhead 132 kV power line will also be constructed to connect the proposed Megora PV 2 facility to a proposed collector station. The above infrastructure constitutes facilities for the distribution and transmission of electricity. The proposed project will be located on one farm portion, north of Murraysburg, in the Beaufort West Local Municipality (which falls within the Central Karoo District Municipality) in the Western Cape Province. Therefore, the proposed project will take place outside of an urban area.
<u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12</u> <i>"The development of</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(c) within 32 meters of a watercourse measured from the edge of a watercourse."</i>	The proposed Megora EGI 2 project will entail the construction of various infrastructure and structures (such as the switching station, 132 kV power line (including pylons and foundations), and a service road below the power line etc.). These developments will constitute infrastructure with a physical footprint of more than 100 m². Where service roads cross drainage features, crossing structures will be required. These infrastructure and structures will exceed a footprint of 100 m², and some occur within and within 32 m of rivers, drainage lines, impoundments, and wetlands, which have been delineated by the aquatic specialist

<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</i> <i>(i) a watercourse."</i>	The proposed project will entail the excavation, removal and moving of more than 10 m³ of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from nearby watercourses (i.e. rivers, drainage lines, and wetlands) on site. The proposed project may also entail the infilling of more than 10 m³ of material into the nearby aquatic features. The aquatic features have been delineated by the aquatic specialist. Specifically, the infrastructure traversing watercourses (such as the power line and service roads) will result in the accumulated infilling or depositing of more than 10 m³ of material into; and the excavation, removal and moving of more than 10 m³ of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from the delineated aquatic features.
<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> <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i> <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan."</i>	The proposed switching station will have a footprint of approximately 1.5 ha. Based on the findings of the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species Assessment (Appendix F.2 of this BA Report), the site occurs in Eastern Upper Karoo, Southern Karoo Riviere, Eastern Upper Karoo: Wash, and Upper Karoo Hardeveld vegetation types. As a result, approximately 1.5 ha of indigenous vegetation will be removed for the construction of the proposed switching station and associated infrastructure.
<u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28</u> <i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes, or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i>	The proposed EGI project will be developed outside of an urban area. It will be constructed on one farm portion north of Murraysburg in the Western Cape Province. The land earmarked for the development of the proposed EGI is currently used for agricultural purposes. The proposed EGI, which is considered a commercial/industrial development (and to be re-

<i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i>	zoned to special zoning), will have a footprint in excess of 1 ha (switching station footprint of approximately 1.5 ha, as well as service roads, and pylon foundations).
<u>Listing Notice 1, Item 48</u> <i>"The expansion of-</i> <i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100square metres or more; where such expansion 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>	The proposed project will require the upgrading of existing roads (for service roads to access the EGI), as well as watercourse crossing upgrades. The existing road expansion and upgrading, as well as upgrading of drainage crossings, will occur within drainage lines, watercourses, and wetlands, and within 32 m of these aquatic features, which have been delineated by the aquatic specialist. The total footprint of the upgrades and expansion to be undertaken on the existing roads is in excess of 100 m².
<u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4</u> <i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres within</i> <i>(i) Western Cape</i> <i>(ii) Areas outside urban areas:</i> <i>(aa) areas containing indigenous vegetation."</i>	Service roads up to 5 m wide (usually gravel jeep tracks) will be constructed below the power line for maintenance purposes. The proposed project will be located on one farm portion, north of Murraysburg, in the Beaufort West Local Municipality (which falls within the Central Karoo District Municipality) in the Western Cape province. The proposed project will take place outside of an urban area in the Western Cape, on sites that contain indigenous vegetation. Based on the findings of the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species Assessment the site occurs in Eastern Upper Karoo, Southern Karoo Riviere, Eastern Upper Karoo: Wash, and Upper Karoo Hardeveld vegetation types.

Listing Notice 3, Item 14

"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) within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse

(i) Western Cape

(i) Outside urban areas:

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

The proposed project will be located on one farm portion, north of Murraysburg, in the Beaufort West Local Municipality (which falls within the Central Karoo District Municipality) in the Western Cape province. The proposed Megora EGI project will entail the construction of various infrastructure and structures (such as the switching station, 132 kV power line (including pylons and foundations), and a service road below the power line etc.). Where service roads cross drainage features, crossing structures will be required. The infrastructure and structures will exceed a footprint of 10 m² and some may occur within the drainage lines, watercourses, and wetlands, and 32 m of these aquatic features, which have been delineated by the aquatic specialist. The proposed project will take place outside of an urban area in the Western Cape, on a site that contains ESAs and CBAs in terms of the 2023 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WC BSP) that was adopted on 13 December 2024 (in Gazette Extraordinary 9017). Based on the Aquatic Biodiversity and Species Assessment, a CBA is associated with the perennial riverine units, while ESA classified habitats are associated with the drainage lines, wetlands and non-perennial rivers of the area of influence. The proposed project intersects with ESA 1 (Aquatic), CBA (River) and CBA (Terrestrial). Based on the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species Assessment, the larger area includes CBA 1 (River, and Terrestrial), CBA 2 (Aquatic and Terrestrial), ESA 1 Aquatic, and ESA 2. The project infrastructure is located in areas

	classified as a CBA 1 (Terrestrial), CBA 1 (River), ESA 1 (Aquatic), and ESA 2.
<u>Listing Notice 3, Item 23</u> <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) Western Cape <i>(i) Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</i>	The proposed project will be located on one farm portion, north of Murraysburg, in the Beaufort West Local Municipality (which falls within the Central Karoo District Municipality) in the Western Cape province. The proposed project will require the upgrading of existing roads (for service roads to access the EGI), as well as watercourse crossing upgrades. The existing road expansion and upgrading, as well as upgrading of drainage crossings, will occur within drainage lines, watercourses, and wetlands, and within 32 m of these aquatic features, which have been delineated by the aquatic specialist. The total footprint of the upgrades and expansion to be undertaken on the existing roads is in excess of 10 m². The proposed project will take place outside of an urban area in the Western Cape, on a site that contains ESAs and CBAs in terms of the 2023 WCBSP. Based on the Aquatic Biodiversity and Species Assessment, a CBA is associated with the perennial riverine units, while ESA classified habitats are associated with the drainage lines, wetlands and non-perennial rivers of the area of influence. The proposed project intersects with ESA 1 (Aquatic), CBA (River) and CBA (Terrestrial). Based on the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species Assessment, the larger area includes CBA 1 (River and Terrestrial), CBA 2 (Aquatic and Terrestrial), ESA 1 Aquatic, and ESA 2. The project infrastructure is located in areas classified as a CBA 1 (Terrestrial), CBA 1 (River), ESA 1 (Aquatic), and ESA 2.

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated June 2026:

Affected farm portion and 21 Digit Surveyor General codes

Affected farm portions	21 Digit Surveyor General codes
Remainder of Farm Badfontein No. 10	C05200000000001000000

Coordinates associated with the proposed development footprint.

Coordinates			
Coordinates of the Overhead power line			
	Start	23,78670092	31° 49' 10.74" S
	Middle	23,74757085	31° 46' 36.04" S
	End	23,76646938	31° 47' 49.62" S
Coordinates of the On-site switching station			
	1	31° 49' 10.55" S	023° 47' 11.15" E
	2	31° 49' 7.49" S	023° 47' 14.52" E
	3	31° 49' 10.74" S	023° 47' 17.5" E
	4	31° 49' 13.67" S	023° 47' 14.19" E

-for the development of a 132kV overhead power line and associated infrastructure between the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 2 and the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 1A (Megora EGI 2) near Murraysburg in the Western Cape., hereafter referred to as "the property"

Technical details of the proposed development

Infrastructure	Component	Dimensions / Specifications
Overhead power line	Capacity	132 kV
	Foundation	The size of the footprint area will range from 0.6 m x 0.6 m to 1.5 m x 1.5 m. The minimum working area required around a structure position is 20 m x 20 m.
	Pylon	Steel monopole or lattice towers
	Tower type	Self-supporting and Angle Strain towers
	Height	17.4 m – 21 m

	Servitude length	Approximately 7 km
	Servitude width	The registered servitude will be up to 50 m wide or where multiple adjacent power lines occur, in line with guideline and requirements for 132 kV power lines stipulated in the 2011 Eskom Distribution Guide Part 19. Guideline and requirements for 132 kV power lines (Extracted from Eskom Distribution Guide Part 19, 2011) The entire servitude will not be cleared of vegetation. Vegetation clearance within the servitude will be undertaken in compliance with relevant standards and specifications. A 400 m wide corridor (i.e., 200 m on either side of center line) was assessed by specialists, in order to identify sensitivities and features that need to be avoided.
	Proximity to grid connection	This proposed 132 kV overhead power line will facilitate the connection of the proposed Megora PV 2 to the National grid, via the proposed Megora PV 1A on-site substation and the adjacent proposed Collector Substation (to be assessed separately as part of the proposed Megora EGI 1 project).
Associated infrastructure		
Service roads	It is anticipated that a service road of approximately 4 m wide (usually only jeep tracks) below the power line will be required. There are a number of existing gravel farm roads (some just jeep tracks) with widths ranging between 4 m and 5 m located around and within the proposed power line assessment corridor. Surrounding existing farm tracks may also be utilised where needed pending agreements with landowners.	
Switching station	A 132 kV facility switching substation complex will be located within the site, adjacent to the facility substation, and will have a height of up to 18 m. The area of switching station relevant to the proposed power line is approximately 1.5 ha.	
Construction period	Approximately 18-24 months	

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of a 132kV overhead power line and associated infrastructure between the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 2 and the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 1A (Megora EGI 2) near Murraysburg in the Western Cape Province, is hereby 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 affected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any transfer or change of ownership rights of this environmental authorisation.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If the commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site. The continuation of any such activities after the lapsing of the above-mentioned period may trigger one or more listed and/or specified activities, including activity 32 of LN1. Such continuation without the required environmental authorisation will constitute an offence or offences in terms of section 49A(1)(a) read with section 24F(1)(a) of NEMA.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2025;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2025, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

12. The site layout plan attached in the final BAR (Appendix C) for the development of a 132kV overhead power line and associated infrastructure between the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 2 and the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 1A (Megora EGI 2) near Murraysburg in the Western Cape Province is hereby approved.
13. The Generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) for the powerline and substation submitted as part of the BAR dated June 2026 (Appendix H2) for the development of a 132kV overhead power line and associated infrastructure between the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 2 and the proposed Megora Solar PV Facility 1A (i.e., Megora EGI 2) near Murraysburg in the Western Cape Province are approved and must be implemented and adhered to.

14. The generic EMPs for the substation and powerline must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. They shall be seen as dynamic documents and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
15. Changes to the approved EMPs must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
16. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPs should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMP

17. The EMP must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 24 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMP.
18. The updated EMP must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
19. The updated EMP 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 EMP must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMP to the Department for approval.
20. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMP which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMP, the Department may request such amendments to the EMP as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMP sufficiently provides for avoidance, management, and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
21. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMP 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 EMP or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

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

Recording and reporting to the Department

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

Notification to authorities

29. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.
30. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must notify the Competent Authority of any alienation, transfer, or change of ownership rights of the property on which the activity is to take place.

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 proposed development footprint and overhead powerlines must avoid all known Verreaux's Eagles nests by a minimum of 1 km.
34. A nesting platform must be constructed in consultation with the EWT away from the authorised and proposed powerlines within the breeding pair's core territory.
35. Vegetation rehabilitation of disturbed areas must be implemented and monitored and consider the restoration of avifaunal habitats.
36. The footprint of disturbance must be kept to a minimum surrounding the development footprint, during construction and be demarcated. Construction activities must be limited to the proposed development footprint as much as possible.
37. Non-SCC ground nesting birds must be allowed to passively vacate the area if they are encountered during construction.

38. An avian species specialist must train the ECO in the identification of the SCCs (identified as potentially present in the area in this report), if required, and the presence, location and behaviour thereof during any site visits must be reported to an avian species specialist following each site visit.
39. A walkthrough of the site must be conducted by the ECO for the project within 30 days prior to any activities taking place, in order to confirm that no avian SCC are breeding within the development footprint. If any potential breeding activity of suspected avian SCC is observed, this must be reported, with photographic evidence, if possible, to an avian species specialist prior to any construction activities occurring.
40. Should any SCC be found breeding within the development footprint at any point during construction, all works within 250m of the breeding site must be halted, and an avian species specialist must be contacted for further instruction.
41. The applicant must ensure that all electrical infrastructure is designed and constructed using bird-friendly insulated designs in accordance with the latest applicable Eskom Technical Standards and the recommendations of the Avifaunal Impact Assessment, in order to minimise the risk of bird collisions and electrocutions.
42. The applicant must minimise perching opportunities for birds within the facility by installing appropriate anti-perching devices, netting, or other effective deterrent measures where required.
43. The applicant must ensure that outdoor lighting required for the operation of the facility is minimised to the maximum extent practicable in order to reduce impacts on avifauna.
44. The applicant must ensure that bird flight diverters are installed along the entire length of all overhead powerlines.
45. All fencing must be in line with the BirdLife South Africa Fences & Birds Guidelines 6 and the EMPr must include all recommended mitigation measures in these guidelines
46. All water reservoirs and open water must be covered with netting or mesh to avoid birds drowning.
47. A post-construction monitoring plan covering the PV site and grid connection must be implemented. Any fatalities of SCC must be reported by the environmental manager to the consulting specialist, Birdlife SA, and the Competent Authority.
48. Should any SCC be found breeding within the site boundary at any point during operation of the facility, the area must be cordoned off and the avian species specialist must be contacted for further instruction.
49. The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for this project must be informed that the Teekloof and Balfour Formations of the Adelaide Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) have a Very High Palaeontological Sensitivity. The Palaeozoic bedrocks in the study area are largely concealed due to poor exposure, primarily visible along major drainage lines and some steeper hillslopes.

50. The applicant must ensure that accountable supervisory personnel receive training from a suitably qualified palaeontologist in the identification and recognition of palaeontological resources (fossil heritage) prior to the commencement of the relevant construction activities.
51. If palaeontological heritage is uncovered during surface clearing or excavations, the Chance Finds Protocol included in this report must be implemented immediately. Fossil discoveries must be protected in situ (if possible), and the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) or site manager must report the find to the relevant heritage authority, namely the Heritage Western Cape (HWC, 3rd Floor, Protea Assurance Building, 142 Longmarket Street, Cape Town City Centre, Cape Town 8000; Private Bag X9067, Cape Town 8000; Tel: +27 (0)21 483 9598; Fax: +27 (0)21 483 9845; Web: www.hwc.org.za), so that appropriate mitigation measures, including the recording and collection of fossils by a qualified specialist, can be carried out.
52. Before any fossil material can be collected from the development site, the specialist involved must apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be housed in an official collection (museum or university), while all reports and fieldwork must meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies proposed by SAHRA (2012).
53. If significant archaeological material is uncovered during development, work in the immediate area must be halted and the find reported to ECO. The ECO must inform HWC of any such discovery so that the find can be assessed by an archaeologist and arrangements made to mitigate it, if necessary. Such finds may require inspection or collection/excavation by an archaeologist. Such heritage is the property of the state and will need to be curated in a suitable, designated repository.
54. Should previously unknown human remains be encountered, work in the vicinity of the find must cease, the remains must be left in situ but made secure, and HWC must be notified immediately so that mitigatory action can be determined and be implemented.
55. The applicant must ensure that the 1:100-year floodlines are delineated and mapped for the proposed development prior to the commencement of the relevant activities.
56. A suitable stormwater management plan (SWMP) must be developed for the project. This plan must include details of erosion control measures and management. The SWMP must consider suitable attenuation strategies, where deemed necessary by the professional.
57. The implementation of a non-native invasive flora species management plan must be compiled and implemented for the duration of the development construction activities as well as for 24 months following completion of the construction activities.
58. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, reuse, 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

59. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 59.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 59.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 59.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible websites.
60. 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 the authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 30/07/2021


Dr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

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

- The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 05 March 2026.
- The information contained in the BAR dated June 2026.
- The comments received from Interested and Affected Parties as included in the BAR dated June 2026.
- Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMP.
- The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated June 2026 and as appears below:

Name of Specialist	Title of specialist reports	Date issued of Report
Johann Lanz & David Lakey	Agriculture and soil	1 December 2025
Tarryn Martin	Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species	20 October 2025
Russell Tate	Aquatic Biodiversity and Species	October 2025
Anja Albertyn & Miqayla Stofberg	Avifauna Impact Assessment	February 2026
Kamogelo Rakale and Kerry Schwartz	Visual Impact Assessment	24 February 2026
Elize Butler	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	February 2026
John Gribble	Heritage Impact Assessment	11 February 2026
Dr Hugo van Zyl and Holly Johnson	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	20 February 2026
Iris Sigrid Wink	Traffic Impact Assessment	May 2026
Hardy Luttig	Desktop Geotechnical	22 February 2026
Hardy Luttig	Geohydrology	22 February 2026

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 project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- c) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated June 2026 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- d) 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 June 2026 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the BAR dated June 2026 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction, and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

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

Annexure 2: Locality Plan

