



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/851/2

**Enquiries:** Thando Booï

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9387 **E-mail:** TBooi@environment.gov.za

Mr Daniel Palm  
29 Solar (Pty) Ltd  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Mariendahl House  
Newlands on Main, 11 Main Rd  
Newlands  
**CAPE TOWN**  
7700

Telephone number: (087) 820 7430  
Email address: dan@evolution-africa.com

### **PER E-MAIL/ MAIL**

Dear Mr Palm

### **AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) ISSUED ON 05 SEPTEMBER 2016: SPLITTING OF EA: THE 29 SOLAR SHARED ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR DEALESVILLE WITHIN THE TOKOLOGO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE FREE-STATE PROVINCE**

With reference to the above EA amendment application, please be advised that the Department has decided to split the EA issued on 05 September 2016. The environmental authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA): the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties (I&APs), in writing within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of this EA, of the Department's 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, 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 abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

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

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

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

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

By email: [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za);

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Street  
Arcadia  
Pretoria  
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the NEMA, 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 any activity authorised in the EA until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at [https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Mr Vusi Skosana**  
**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**

Date: 23/04/2019

cc:	Ms Luanita Snyman-Van Der Walt	CSIR	Tel: (021) 888 2490	E-mail: <a href="mailto:LvdWalt1@csir.co.za">LvdWalt1@csir.co.za</a>
	Ms Grace Mkhosana	FS DEDTEA	Tel: (051) 400 4817	E-mail: <a href="mailto:mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za">mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za</a>
	Mr Kelehile Motlhale	Tokologo Local Municipality	Tel: (053) 541 0014	E-mail: <a href="mailto:kelehilem@gmail.com">kelehilem@gmail.com</a>



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 27(2) (a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations  
2014 as amended

The 29 Solar Shared electricity infrastructure near Dealesville within the Tokologo Local Municipality  
within the Free State Province

Lejweleputswa District Municipality

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/851/2</i>
<b>Last amended:</b>	<i>Second issue</i>
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	<i>29 Solar (Pty) Ltd</i>
<b>Location of activity:</b>	<i>Portion 3 of the Farm Brakfontein No. 636, Remaining Extent of the Farm Cornelia No. 1550, Remaining Extent of the Farm Doornhoek No. 37, Remaining Extent of the Farm Modderpan No. 750, Remaining Extent of the Farm Mooihoek No. 1551, Remaining Extent of the Farm Palmietfontein No. 140 and Portion 4 of the Farm Sterkfontein No. 639 within the Tokologo Local Municipality in the Free State 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, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

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, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 the Department hereby authorises –

### **29 SOLAR (PTY) LTD**

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Daniel Palm  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Mariendahl House  
Newlands on Main, 11 Main Rd  
Newlands  
**CAPE TOWN**  
7700

Telephone Number: (087) 820 7430  
Email Address: dan@evolution-africa.com

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to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 and Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 983, 984 and 985):

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 28:</u></p> <p><i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture 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 solar PV facility will be constructed approximately 5 km west of Dealesville within the Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.</p> <p>The land is currently zoned for agricultural purposes (mainly grazing). The proposed facility, which is considered to be a commercial/industrial development, will have an estimated footprint of approximately 300 ha.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Item 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 proposed 29 Solar Dealesville Development will have shared electricity infrastructure which consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 400 kV transmission lines</li> <li>• 132 kV transmission lines</li> <li>• Two 132/22/33 kV collector substations</li> <li>• One 400/132 kV Main Transmission Station (MTS)</li> </ul>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Item 15:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for –</i></p> <p><i>(i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan."</i></p>	<p>More than 20 ha of indigenous vegetation could possibly be removed for the construction of the proposed solar PV facility.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that required</i></p>	<p>The dominant vegetation type is Least Threatened Western Free State Clay Grassland. However, remaining, intact Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland is present on parts of the farms Modderpan 750 and</p>

<p><i>for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p><i>(a) In Free State</i></p> <p><i>(i) 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</i></p>	<p>Cornelia 1550. Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland is listed as being Endangered in section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA). This has been confirmed by the Fauna and Flora specialist study (Digby Wells Environmental, 2016 a). However, the Fauna and Flora study also indicated that the area has been transformed to some extent by agriculture, specifically the pressures of overgrazing.</p> <p>The Shared Electricity Infrastructure component specifications triggering this activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 132/22/33kV collector substations (x2): 120m x 120m = 14 400m<sup>2</sup> = 1.44ha; (x2) = 2.9ha</li> <li>• 400/132kV MTS: 200m x 300m = 60 000m<sup>2</sup> = 6ha</li> </ul>
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as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated May 2016 at:

**21 SG Code:**

Shared electrical infrastructure:

F	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	4
F	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	6	0	0	0	0	3

Centre points of Substations	Latitude	Longitude
Collector substation A	28° 39' 51.37" S	25° 41' 33.51" E
Collector substation B	28° 40' 7.97" S	25° 38' 52.37" E
Main transmission substation	28° 40' 43.81" S	25° 40' 59.21" E

<b>132 kV transmission line route:</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
A(start at Collector substation A (East))	28° 39' 53.353" S	25° 41' 33.173" E
B	28° 40' 15.006" S	25° 41' 33.171" E
C	28° 40' 24.358" S	25° 40' 53.464" E
D	28° 40' 30.099" S	25° 40' 55.079" E
E	28° 40' 35.140" S	25° 40' 50.891" E
F (end at MTS)	28° 40' 39.198" S	25° 40' 56.758" E
<b>Collector Substation B (West) to MTS</b>		
A (Start of collector substation A (East))	28° 40' 10.000" S	25° 38' 52.945" E
B	28° 40' 46.906" S	25° 39' 11.232" E
C	28° 40' 56.851" S	25° 40' 16.159" E
D	28° 40' 42.351" S	25° 40' 52.918" E
E (end at MTS)	28° 40' 42.844" S	25° 40' 53.822" E
<b>400KV line route</b>		
Start point at (MTS)	28° 40' 48.415" S	25° 41' 2.815" E
End point (at Eskom Perseus Hydra 400 kV line)	28° 40' 51.152" S	25° 41' 6.885" E

- for the 29 Solar Shared electricity infrastructure near Dealesville within the Tokologo Local Municipality in the Free State Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Shared electricity infrastructure will comprise of the following:

- Two 132/22kV collector substations;
- One 400kV/132kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS); and
- 400kV overhead transmission lines looping in to the National Electricity Grid via existing Eskom 400kV transmission lines.

Technical details of the proposed electricity infrastructure:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
<b>Electricity Infrastructure</b>	
132/22/33kV collector substations (x2)	Footprint area: 120m x 120m = 14 400m <sup>2</sup> = 1.44ha; Height: 21m
132/400kV (MTS)	Footprint area: 200m x 300m = 60 000m <sup>2</sup> = 6ha; Height: 25m
132kV transmission lines	Height: 35m Length: 6.5km
400kV transmission lines	Height: 35m Length: 138m

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The 29 Solar Shared electricity infrastructure near Dealesville within the Tokologo Local Municipality in the Free State Province described above is hereby approved.
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 five (05) years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
  - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
  - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
11. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
  - 11.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
  - 11.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
  - 11.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014.

### **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. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 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 Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Application for EA is hereby approved. This EMPr must be implemented and strictly adhered to.

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

14. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 20 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.
15. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
16. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. 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.
17. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.982. 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.
18. The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The holder must notify the Department of its intention to amend the EMPr at least 60 days prior to submitting such amendments to the EMPr to the Department for approval. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R. 982.

## Monitoring

19. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced independent 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.
  - 19.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
  - 19.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
  - 19.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
  - 19.4. 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

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982.
23. 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.
24. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 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.

25. 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**

26. 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**

27. 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**

28. 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**

29. All areas of very high ecological sensitivity must be excluded from the development.
30. An avifauna Red Data survey must be conducted prior to the clearing of any habitat associated with the site.
31. A 200m buffer must be placed around the Palmietfontein Pan and 100m buffer around all the other wetland and pans.
32. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.
33. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be allowed into sensitive and buffer areas without the express permission of and supervision by the ECO, except for rehabilitation work in these areas.

34. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
  35. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
  36. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
  37. Before the clearing of the site, the appropriate permits must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for the removal of plants listed in the National Forest Act and from the relevant provincial department for the destruction of species protected in terms of the specific provincial legislation. Copies of the permits must be made available to this Department on request.
  38. Construction activities must be restricted to demarcated areas to restrict the impact on sensitive environmental features.
  39. All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous vegetation. Reclamation activities must be undertaken according to the EMPr.
  40. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.
  41. No discharge of effluents or polluted water must be allowed into any rivers or wetland areas.
  42. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use license being in place from the Department Water and Sanitation.
  43. Cleared alien vegetation must not be dumped on adjacent intact vegetation during clearing but must be temporarily stored in a demarcated area.
  44. Disturbed areas must be rehabilitated as soon as possible after construction and no exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes; only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised to enhance the conservation of existing natural vegetation on site.
  45. Signs must be placed along construction roads to identify speed limits, travel restrictions, and other standard traffic control information. To minimize impacts on local commuters, consideration must be given to limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time.
  46. All construction vehicles must adhere to a low speed limit to avoid collisions with susceptible species such as snakes and tortoises.
  47. Internal access roads must be located to minimize stream crossings. All structures crossing streams must be located and constructed so that they do not decrease channel stability or increase water velocity.
  48. Roads must be designed so that changes to surface water runoff are avoided and erosion is not initiated.
  49. A designated access to the site must be created and clearly marked to ensure safe entry and exit.
  50. Signage must be erected at appropriate points warning of turning traffic and the construction site.
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51. Liaison with land owners/farm managers must be done prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan agricultural activities.
52. No unsupervised open fires for cooking or heating must be allowed on site.
53. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options where appropriate. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).
54. The holder of this authorisation must provide sanitation facilities within the construction area and along the road so that workers do not pollute the surrounding environment. These facilities must be removed from the site when the construction phase is completed as well as associated waste to be disposed of at a registered waste disposal site.
55. The holder of this authorisation must take note that no temporary site camps will be allowed outside the footprint of the development area as the establishment of such structures might trigger a listed activity as defined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
56. Foundations and trenches must be backfilled with originally excavated materials as much as possible. Excess excavation materials must be disposed of only in approved areas or, if suitable, stockpiled for use in reclamation activities.
57. Dust abatement techniques must be used before and during surface clearing, excavation, or blasting activities.
58. A pre-construction survey of the final development footprint must be conducted to ascertain the identity and exact number of individuals of protected species affected by the proposed development. Prior to the commencement of construction, a rescue and rehabilitation operation for these species which could survive translocation must be conducted.
59. Any vegetation clearing that needs to take place as part of maintenance activities, must be done in an environmentally friendly manner, including avoiding the use of herbicides and using manual clearing methods wherever possible.
60. Regular monitoring for erosion must take place to ensure that no erosion problems are occurring at the site as a result of the roads and other infrastructure. All erosion problems observed must be rectified as soon as possible as outlined in the erosion management plan within the EMPr.
61. Excavations must be inspected regularly in order to rescue trapped animals.
62. Top soil and subsoil must be stockpiled separately and replaced according to the correct profile i.e. topsoil replaced last. Stockpiles must not be situated such that they obstruct natural water pathways and drainage channels.

63. Top soil stockpiles must not exceed 2m in height, stockpiles older than 6 months must be enriched before they can be used to ensure the effectiveness of the topsoil.
64. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities must be removed to a safe location by a suitably qualified person.
65. Any significant archaeological sites that cannot be avoided with a buffer of at least 20 m must be mitigated well in advance of the start of construction. It should be noted that it is permissible for transmission lines to span archaeological sites, but any associated service roads and the facility access roads must avoid them.
66. 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 must be made.
67. The collection, hunting, or harvesting of any plants or animals at the site is strictly forbidden.
68. Electric fencing must not have any strands within 30cm of the ground, which should be sufficient to allow smaller mammals, reptiles and tortoises to pass through (tortoises retreat into their shells when electrocuted and eventually succumb from repeated shocks), but still remain effective as a security barrier.
69. All new power lines must be marked with bird flight diverters along their entire length. To create a net benefit, where possible, the new lines must run parallel to existing marked lines so as to reduce the collision risk posed by the older lines.
70. All pylons to be constructed must make use of "bird friendly" monopole structures, fitted with a bird perch, as per Eskom standard guidelines.

## **General**

71. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 71.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
  - 71.2. to anyone on request; and
  - 71.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

72. 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: 23/04/2019



Mr Vusi Skosana

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**



## 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 04 November 2015.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated May 2016.
- c) The comments received from the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Department of Economic Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, the South Africa Heritage Resources Agency, the Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport, Eskom, and interested and affected parties as included in the EIAr dated May 2016.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated May 2016 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Fauna and Flora Assessment	Digby Wells Environmental	February 2016
Soil and Agricultural potential Assessment	John Lanz- Soil Scientist	February 2016
Heritage Impact Assessment	ASHA Consulting	February 2016
Paleontological Desktop Study	Palaeo Field Services	January 2016
Visual Impact Assessment	Henry Holland	February 2016
Wetland Assessment Report	Digby Wells Environmental	February 2016
Avifaunal Impact Study	Digby Wells Environmental	February 2016
Geohydrological Impact Assessment	Geohydrological and Spatial Solutions International (Pty)	February 2016
Socio-economic impact assessment	Dr Hugo van Zyl	March 2016

- f) Amendment application and the final amendment report dated December 2018.
- g) Mitigation measures as proposed in the Amendment Report and EMPR dated December 2018.

## **2. Key factors considered in making the decision**

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity in the national grid.
- c) The EIAr dated May 2016 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr dated May 2016.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated May 2016 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 EIAr dated May 2016 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.



## environmental affairs

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Environmental Affairs  
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Mr. Vusi Skosana  
Director: Strategic co-ordination planning and support

Dear Mr. V Skosana

### **APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 17 APRIL 2019 UNTIL 30 APRIL 2019.**

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as the Acting Chief Director: integrated environmental authorisations for the period 17 April 2019 until 30 April 2019 whilst Mr. Sabelo Malaza is on annual leave and away on business (Australia IAIA conference).

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

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

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

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all your assistance on behalf of the department.

Yours sincerely,

  
Mr Ishaam Abader

DDG : LACE

Date: 15/04/2019

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I ~~ACCEPT~~ / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~ appointment  
as Acting Chief Director: integrated  
environmental authorisations

Signed: 

Date: 17/04/2019