



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1059

Enquiries: Ms Makhosi Yeni

Telephone: (012) 399 9400 **E-mail:** MYeni@environment.gov.za

Mrs Annah Kawadza
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
P.O. Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Telephone Number: (011) 8004057
Email Address: Kawadza@eskom.co.za

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mrs Kawadza

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 983/984 FOR THE PROPOSED NEW MULALO (SOL B) 400/132kV MAIN TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION (MTS) AS WELL AS INTEGRATION OF TRANSMISSION AND THE DISTRIBUTION LINES WITHIN GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the 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

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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

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 or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Majaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Date: 24/10/2016

cc:	Mr S Zulu	Senkosi Environmental cc	Tel: (012) 329 7569	Email: info@senkosi.com
	Mr S Marebane	Mpumalanga DEDET	Tel: (017) 819 1155/2828	Email: Stmarebane@mp.gov.za
	Mr N Ross	Govan Mbeki Local Municipality	Tel: (017) 620 6000	Email: etsecunda@govanmbeki.gov.za



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

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

**The proposed New Mulalo (Sol B) 400/132kv Main Transmission Substation (MTS) as well as
integration of transmission and the distribution lines in Mpumalanga Province**

Gert Sibande District Municipality

Application Reference Number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/1059</i>
Last amended:	<i>First Issue</i>
Applicant:	<i>Eskom Holdings SOC Limited</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Mpumalanga Province: Within Portion 2 of farm Brandspruit 318 IS, portion 3 of farm Brandspruit 318 and Portion 8 of Bosjesspruit 219 IS within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality of Gert Sibande District Municipality</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 as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED

with the following contact details –

Mrs Annah Kawadza
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
P.O. Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Telephone Number: (011) 800 4057
Cell phone Number: (082) 324 5870
Email Address: KawadzA@eskom.co.za

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

Listed activities, EIA Regulations 2014, as amended	Activity/ Project description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 19 (i):</u></p> <p><i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from-</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>The footprint of the proposed substation is 64 hectares and a number of substation sites are situated close to watercourses, therefore; it is anticipated that more than 5 cubic metres of soil and sand could be removed from these watercourses.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 24 (ii):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) a road 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 project will involve the construction of access roads that can accommodate large vehicles transporting transformers and other electrical equipment to the proposed substation sites. These roads could be between 1 and 3 km in length.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 28 (ii):</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 total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.</i></p>	<p>The substation sites are situated on land currently used for agriculture and the footprint of the substation is larger than 1 hectare. The footprint of the substation site will be 64 hectares</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 31 (v) (a) (b):</u></p> <p><i>"The decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure for-</i></p> <p><i>(v) any activity regardless the time the activity was commenced with, where such activity:</i></p> <p><i>(a) is similarly listed to an activity in (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) above; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) is still in operation or development is still in progress"</i></p>	<p>Decommissioning of existing 132kV power lines between the existing Sol substation and Sasol 2 substation. The length of power lines to be decommissioned is approx. 4 km.</p>

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<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 56 (ii)</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre-</i> <i>(i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or</i> <i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres"</i></p>	<p>Existing access roads could be expanded to accommodate large vehicles that will transport transformers and other electrical equipment to the proposed substation sites.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Activity 9</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex."</i></p>	<p>The proposed loop-in-loop-out power lines will have a capacity of 400 kilovolts. The power lines are between 5 and 13 km in length.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Activity 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> <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i> <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan."</i></p>	<p>The footprint of the substation is 64 hectares.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 3 (a) (b) (f) (i) (cc):</u></p> <p><i>"The construction of masts or towers of any material or typed used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes in the Free State, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Northern Cape Provinces, outside urban areas (cc) in sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; where the mast:</i> <i>(a) is to be placed on a site not previously used for this purpose;</i> <i>and</i> <i>(b) will exceed 15 metres in height</i> <i>but excluding attachments to existing buildings and masts on rooftops."</i></p>	<p>The construction of a 60m high telecommunication mast on the new substation which could be situated close to wetlands.</p>

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<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 4 (f) (i) (cc)</u></p> <p><i>"The construction of a road wider than 4 meters with a reserve less than 13.5 meters</i></p> <p><i>-In the Free State, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Northern Cape - outside urban areas in:</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive area as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority."</i></p>	<p>Construction of access roads between 1 and 3 km in length to the substation site that could be situated close to wetlands in the area.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Activity 14 (xii) (a) (c) (f) (dd)</u></p> <p><i>"The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; including associated structures and infrastructure,</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>-In the Free State, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Northern Cape- outside urban edges in:</i></p> <p><i>(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority"</i></p>	<p>Footprint of substation is 64 hectares and some of the substation sites are situated within close proximity to watercourses</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated 9 July 2018 at:

Farm names and portions(s): on portion 8 of the farm Bosjespruit 291 IS,

Farm names and portions(s): Portion 2 of farm Brandspruit 318 IS,

Farm names and portions(s): portion 3 of farm Brandspruit 318 IS

21 SG Codes:

T	0	1	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	8	0	0	0	0	3/2
T	0	1	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	0	0	0	0	8

ALTERNATIVE SUBSTATION SITE B	S26°36'19.95"	E29°10'37.00"
400kV Southern corridor from Site B		
START POINT	MID-POINT	END POINT
KRIEL ZEUS – red		
S26°36'19.95", E29°10'37.00"	S26°36'29.70", E29°07'55.44"	S26°38'17.80", E29°05'00.08"
KRIEL ZEUS – blue		
S26°36'19.95", E29°10'37.00"	S26°37'54.35", E29°08'18.52"	S26°38'19.76", E29°05'00.79"
KRIEL-TUTUKA – yellow		
S26°36'19.95", E29°10'37.00"	S26°37'49.53", E29°08'55.19"	S26°36'53.57", E29°05'59.26"
KRIEL-TUTUKA - green		
S26°36'19.95", E29°10'37.00"	S26°37'56.16", E29°08'54.41"	S26°37'22.65", E29°05'59.22"

400kV Distribution lines from site B	MID-POINT	END POINT
START POINT		
SASOL 2_LINE 1		
S26°36'19.95", E29°10'37.00"	S26°35'01.29", E29°11'35.69"	S26°33'32.56", E29°08'43.38"
SASOL 2_LINE 2		
S26°36'19.95", E29°10'37.00"	S26°35'03.73", E29°11'35.14"	S26°33'31.58", E29°08'43.46"
SASOL 3_LINE 1		
S26°36'19.95", E29°10'37.00"	S26°35'16.22", E29°12'05.58"	S26°33'56.36", E29°09'41.64"
SASOL 3_LINE 2		
S26°36'19.95", E29°10'37.00"	S26°35'15.01", E29°12'06.91"	S26°33'56.41", E29°09'44.75"

132Kv lines to Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT): START	END POINT
SASOL 3_LINE 1: S26°33'54.73", E29°09'40.24"	OCGT: S26°33'51.85", E29°09'43.89"
SASOL 3_LINE 2: S26°33'55.83", E29°09'40.85"	OCGT: S26°33'51.85", E29°09'43.89"

- for the proposed New Mulalo (Sol B) 400/132KV Main Transmission Substation (MTS) as well as integration of transmission and the distribution lines located on Portion 2 of the farm Brandspruit 318 IS, Portion 3 of farm Brandspruit 318 IS and Portion 8 of Bosjesspruit 219 IS within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality of Gert Sibande District Municipality in the in Mpumalanga Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The scope of work is as follows:

- Construction of a new 400/132kV MTS
- Equipping the MTS with 8x 132kV feeder bays for Sasol and Eskom Distribution
- Construction of two 400kV turn-in-turn-out transmission power lines on the Kriel-Tutuka 400kV line to the proposed Mulalo MTS
- Construction of two 400kV turn-in-out transmission power lines from the Kriel-Zeus 400kV line to the proposed Mulalo MTS.
- Construction of two 400kV distribution power lines from the proposed Mulalo MTS to the existing Sasol 2 power lines. It should be noted that these lines will be designed at 400kV and operated at 132kV. The use of 400kV power lines is to accommodate future demand.
- Construction of two 400kV distribution power lines from the proposed Mulalo MTS to the existing Sasol 3 power lines. It should be noted that these lines will be designed at 400kV and operated at 132kV. The use of 400kV power lines is to accommodate future demand
- Decommissioning of the existing 132kV power lines between the existing Sol substation and Sasol 2 substation at the point where the new lines from the Mulalo substation will connect with the existing lines.
- Construction of two 132kV lines to join the Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) in the Sasol Refinery with the existing Sasol 3 substation.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. Alternative Site B for the proposed construction of the New Mulalo (Sol B) 400/132KV Main Transmission Substation (MTS) as well as integration of transmission and the distribution lines located on Portion 2 of farm Brandspruit 318 IS, Portion 3 of farm Brandspruit 318 IS and Portion 8 of Bosjesspruit 219 IS within Govan Mbeki Local Municipality of Gert Sibande District Municipality in the in Mpumalanga Province is hereby approved as per the coordinates indicated 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 environmental 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 environmental authorisation.
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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 environmental authorisation to apply for further environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. 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 environmental authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
7. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
8. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of 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.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. 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

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that was integrated as part of the EIAr dated 9 July 2018, is approved.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

13. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 23 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.
14. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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

18. 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.

- 18.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 18.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 18.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 18.4. 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

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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

25. 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

26. 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

27. 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

28. An avifaunal walk through of the final power line route must be conducted prior construction to identify the exact sections of the power lines requiring collision mitigation.
29. A rehabilitation plan which will minimise the impacts to agricultural land must be developed and implemented.
30. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint.
31. Areas outside of the development footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
32. 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 on request.
33. If any heritage resources of archaeological or paleontological significance are discovered during construction activities, construction must cease and SAHRA must be consulted.

34. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where powerlines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g. grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams). The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged. Additional areas of high sensitivity along the preferred alignment must also be identified by the avifaunal specialist for the fitment of anti-collision devices. These devices must be according to Eskom's Transmission and EWT's Guidelines.
35. All areas of disturbed soil must be rehabilitated using only indigenous grass and shrubs.
36. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during restoration.
37. Cleared alien vegetation must be temporarily stored in a demarcated area. Once clearing is completed, they must be moved to a licenced waste disposal facility.
38. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation. Where waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).

General

39. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 39.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 39.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 39.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
40. 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: 24/10/2018


Mr Sabelo Malaza

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 information contained in the application form and draft SR received by the Department on 04 October 2016.
- b) The information contained in the final Scoping Report received by the Department on 04 November 2016.
- c) The information contained in the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 20 March 2018.
- d) The information contained in the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated 9 July 2018 and received by the Department on 10 July 2018.
- e) Mitigation measures as proposed in the final EIAR dated 9 July 2018 and the EMPr submitted as part of the aforesaid final EIAR.
- f) The information contained in the specialist studies contained in the EIAR dated 9 July 2018.
- g) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

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 development is as a result of the existing network in the area which operates at a full capacity with no surplus power to cater for additional supplies. The Mulalo MTS 400/132kV project is thus needed to support industrial growth and development of the industrial hub of Secunda, and also meet the power demands of the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (GMLM) and Sasol.
- c) The EIAR dated 9 July 2018 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAR.

- d) The description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated 9 July 2018 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

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 9 July 2018 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) 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.
- 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 activity 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 activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

ANNEXURE 2: LOCALITY MAP

