



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2639

Enquiries: Nyiko Nkosi

Telephone: (012) 399 9392 **E-mail:** NNkosi@dff.gov.za

Mr Warren Randall
Albany Wind Power (Pty) Ltd.
PO Box 1116
PORT ELIZABETH
6001

Telephone Number: (041) 506 4900
Cell Number: 072 436 6446
Email Address: warren.randall@edf-re.co.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Randall

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE PROPOSED ALBANY CONNECTION AND ASSOCIATED GRID INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR MAKHANDA, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

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

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

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

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

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any

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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:

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

By email: appeals@dfef.gov.za

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083

or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

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

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

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 22/05/2023

cc:	Dr Alan Robert Carter	Coastal & Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd. t/a CES	E-mail: a.carter@cesnet.co.za
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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 Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure near Makhanda, Eastern
Cape Province.

Sarah Baartman District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2639
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Albany Wind Power (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	Within Ward 1, 6, 9, 11 and 13 of Makana Local Municipality, Sarah Baartman District Municipality; Eastern 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.

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 –

ALBANY WIND POWER (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)
with the following contact details –

Mr Warren Randall
Albany Wind Power (Pty) Ltd.
PO Box 1116
PORT ELIZABETH
6001

Telephone Number: (041) 506 4900
Cell Number: 072 436 6446
Email Address: warren.randall@edf-re.co.za

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
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11</u></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</i></p>	<p>The development entails the construction of up to 132 kV OHLs as well as two (2) collector substations, outside of urban areas and outside of industrial complexes.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12 (ii)(a) and (c)</u></p> <p><i>The development of</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more. Where such development occurs</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse and</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure will have a combined construction phase development footprint of 6.13 ha and the infrastructure is located within water course and 32 metres of a few watercourses and wetlands.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19</u></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Albany Connection Corridor traverses a few watercourses. Where possible, the placement of monopoles will avoid watercourses, however, material of more than 10 cubic metres could be deposited into- or removed from the watercourses during construction.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 27</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Albany Connection and Associated Infrastructure Development requires the clearance of vegetation which exceeds 1 ha (6.13 ha).</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28</u></p> <p><i>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Albany Connection and Associated Infrastructure Development requires the clearance of vegetation which exceeds 1 ha (6.13 ha), on land which is used for agricultural purposes (grazing).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 10(a)(i) (ee)(gg)(ll)</u></p> <p><i>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres in the –</i></p> <p><i>(a) Eastern Cape</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas</i></p> <p><i>(ee) critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans,</i></p> <p><i>(gg) areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve,</i></p> <p><i>(ii) areas on the watercourse side of the development setback lines or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse where no such setback lines have been determined, and</i></p> <p><i>(ll) within a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure will require the combined storage of a dangerous good, such as the storage of materials for the battery storage and the storage of fuel, which will exceed 30 m³. In addition, the proposed site is situated within 100 m of a few watercourses and wetlands, situated within 5 km of a protected area (Beggars Bush State Forest and Ecca Pass Nature Reserve), within areas classified as both Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) 1 and CBA 2 (ECBCP Terrestrial CBAs, 2019), and a small section of CBA 2 (ECBCP Aquatic CBAs, 2019).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12(a)(ii)</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation.</i></p> <p><i>(a) Eastern Cape</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure will require the clearance of approximately 6.13 ha of vegetation within areas classified as both CBA 1 and CBA 2 (ECBCP</p>

	Terrestrial CBAs, 2019), and a small section of CBA 2 (ECBCP Aquatic CBAs, 2019)
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 14(ii)(a) and (c) (a)(i) (ff)(hh)</u></p> <p><i>The development of –</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more. Where such development occurs –</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse, and</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>(a) Eastern Cape</i></p> <p><i>(i) Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; and</i></p> <p><i>(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve.</i></p>	<p>The proposed Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure will require the construction of infrastructure with a physical footprint which exceeds 102 within 32 m of watercourses in an area which is within 5 km of a protected area (Beggars Bush State Forest and Ecca Pass Nature Reserve) and within areas classified as both CBA 1 and CBA 2 (ECBCP Terrestrial CBAs, 2019), and a small section of CBA 2 (ECBCP Aquatic CBAs, 2019).</p>

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

- for the development of Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure near Makhanda, Eastern Cape Province., hereafter referred to as “the property”. **(SG 21 Code & Coordinates attached as annexure 2 and 3)**

Proposed project will include the following:

- An up to 23 000 m² Independent Power Producer (IPP) Substation (MV/132 kV) which will include, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and site office area, situated in the middle of the site. The grid connection will be Line-In-Line-Out (LILO) on the Pembroke-Albany 132 kV line:
- The associated grid connection infrastructure includes the following:
 - BESS of approximately 1.2 ha with a temporary footprint of an additional 0.3 ha for construction, consisting of:
 - Storage capacity of 180 MWh (4 hours),
 - Lithium-ion batteries,
 - Up to 130 containers (each up to 40 m²) on a concrete platform. These will house the batteries, the management system and auxiliaries,
 - Up to 60 transformer stations (up to 35 m² each),
 - Up to an additional 10 m² per container for cooling units,
 - Internal medium voltage cabling, between containers and the switching station of up to 33 kV, and
 - A 33 kV underground cable to connect the BESS to the electrical grid (less than 1 km in length).
 - Two (2) collector substations, each 10 000 m², (Collector Substation West and Collector Substation East) will be constructed.
 - Each collector will connect to the IPP substation via up to MV/132 kV overhead lines within the grid corridor.
 - Grid corridor width is 500 m wide to allow for manoeuvrability for the final line positions within the corridor.
 - The corridor from Collector Substation West to the main corridor is 170 m in width with a flanking area to accommodate for the line turn in.

Technical details of the proposed project:

INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENT	CONSTRUCTION FOOTPRINT	FINAL FOOTPRINT AFTER REHABILITATION
PP Switching Station (BESS and site office)	TOTAL: 23 000 m ² Direct which equates to 2.3 ha	TOTAL: 23 000 m ² Direct which equates to 2.3 ha
BESS	TOTAL: 12 000 m ² plus 3 000 m ² temporary area which equates to 1.5 ha	TOTAL: 12 000 m ² which equates to 1.2 ha
Two (2) Collector Switching Stations (west and east)	TOTAL: 12 000 m ² plus 3 000 m ² temporary area which equates to 1.5 ha	TOTAL: 12 000 m ² which equates to 1.2 ha

	TOTAL: 12 000 m ² which equates to 1.2 ha	TOTAL: 10 000 m ² x 2 = 20 000 m ² which equates to 2 ha
Overhead Line (monopole placement every 250 m along lines ONLY)	TOTAL: 11 000 m/250 m = 44 monopoles 44 x 72 m ² = 3 168 m ² which equates to 0.3168 ha	TOTAL: 11 000 m/250 m = 44 monopoles 44 x 2 m ² = 88 m ² which equates to 0.0088 ha
Collector Switching Station Collector Corridor (West)	TOTAL: 500 m/250 m = 2 monopoles 2 x 72 m ² = 144 m ² which equates to 0.0144 ha	TOTAL: 500 m/250 m = 2 monopoles 2 x 2 m ² = 4 m ² which equates to 0.0004 ha
TOTAL FOOTPRINT:	6.13 ha of clearing needed for the construction phase of the development of the proposed Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure	5.51 ha of clearing remaining during the post-construction operational phase (after rehabilitation) of the proposed Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure
Grid Maintenance Servitude		
Overhead Lines (total length and width of line servitudes).	TOTAL SERVITUDE: 11 000 m x 31 m = 341 000 m ² which equates to 34.1 ha overhead line servitude area	
	TOTAL MAINTENANCE TRACKS (within the servitude): 11 000 m x 4 m = 44 000 m ² which equates to 4.4 ha maintenance tracks.	
Collector Switching Station Collector Corridor (West)	TOTAL SERVITUDE: 500 m x 31 m = 15 500 m ² which equates to 1.55 ha overhead line servitude area	
	TOTAL MAINTENANCE TRACKS (within the servitude): 500 m x 4 m = 2 000 m ² which equates to 0.2 ha maintenance tracks.	

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred alternative (132kV overhead powerline(OHL)) for the development of Albany Connection and Associated Grid Infrastructure near Makhanda, Eastern Cape Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in annexure 3 below.
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 alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made 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.

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, 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. A final site layout plan for the power line (with micro-siting of the powerline route and pylon structures) and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval, prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - 12.1. Positions of all infrastructures as approved
 - 12.2. The specific position of the pylon structures and foundation footprints;
 - 12.3. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - 12.4. Any sensitive environmental features that will be affected by the power line; and
 - 12.5. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
13. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the substation and generic EMPr for powerline, submitted as part of the EIAr is not approved and must be amended to include measures, as dictated by the final site lay-out map required as per condition 12 above and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The generic EMPrs must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such

comments. Once amended, the final generic EMPs must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity.

14. The EMP must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
15. Changes to the approved EMP must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
16. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMP should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIA 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 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 record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task 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 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 the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
 26. 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.
 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.
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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. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
33. No development is permitted within the identified no-go areas as detailed in the sensitivity maps.
34. Heritage Specialist must conduct a Heritage walkdown of the final pylon positions prior to construction.
35. 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, SAHRA must be informed, and the services.
36. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where powerlines cross avifaunal corridors. 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.
37. A qualified ecologist must be commissioned to perform a final walk through of the alignment to identify all sensitive features including wetlands, drainage lines and all other watercourses, and protected plant or tree species that may be affected by the construction of the power line. This must inform the determination of the final delineation of the centreline within the assessed corridor as well as optimal pylon positions, as well as the final development layout plan that is to be submitted to the Department for approval as per conditions 12 and 13 above.

38. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of indigenous, protected or endangered plant or animal species and a copy of such permit/s must be submitted to the Department for record keeping. Copies of the permit/s must be included in the final EMPr to be submitted to this Department for approval before commencement of construction activities.
39. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
40. The holder of the authorisation is required to inform Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and this Department should the removal of protected species, medicinal plants and "data deficient" plant species be required.
41. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures as specified in the BAR dated February 2023 must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
42. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use, and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

43. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 43.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 43.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 43.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
44. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 22/05/2023


Mr 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 -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the amended application form received on 03 February 2023.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated February 2023.
- c) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated February 2023.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated February 2023.

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 to the national grid.
- c) The BAR dated February 2023 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed Electrical Grid Infrastructure.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated February 2023 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 BAR dated February 2023 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.

- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the BAR dated February 2023 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

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

Annexure 2: Digit Surveyor General (SG) Codes of the affected properties

Portion/Farm/Erf Number	21-Digit SG Code
Proposed Powerline Corridor	
Remaining Extent of Erf 4807	C00200020000480700000
Portion 10 of Farm 240	C00200000000024000010
Portion 12 of Farm 240	C00200000000024000012
Portion 3 of Farm 334	C00200000000033400003
Portion 3 of Farm 233	C00200000000023300003
Portion 4 of Farm 334	C00200000000033400004
Portion 5 of Farm 334	C00200000000033400005
Portion 6 of Farm 334	C00200000000033400006
Portion 11 of Farm 334	C00200000000033400011
Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of Farm 334	C00200000000033400002
Remaining Extent of Farm 599	C00200000000059900000
Portion 1 of Farm 599	C00200000000059900001
Portion 2 of Farm 599	C00200000000059900002
Remaining Extent of Farm 582	C00200000000058200000
Portion 2 of Farm 582	C00200000000058200002
Portion 2 of Farm 601	C00200000000060100002
Remaining Extent of Farm 601	C00200000000060100000
Remaining Extent of Farm 583	C00200000000058300000
Portion 1 of Farm 583	C00200000000058300001
Portion 2 of Farm 583	C00200000000058300002
Remaining Extent of Farm 235	C00200000000023500000
Portion 1 of Farm 235	C00200000000023500001
Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm 234	C00200000000023400001
Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm 223	C00200000000022300001
Remaining Extent of Farm 352	C00200000000035200000
Portion 3 of Farm 601	C00200000000060100003
Remaining Extent of Farm 353	C00200000000035300000
Portion 1 of Farm 352	C00200000000035200001

Portion 3 of Farm 223	C00200000000022300003
Portion 8 of Farm 223	C00200000000022300008
Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of Farm 223	C00200000000022300002
Portion 4 of Farm 223	C00200000000022300004
Portion 5 of Farm 223	C00200000000022300005
Portion 9 of Farm 223	C00200000000022300009
Portion 7 of Farm 223	C00200000000022300007
Portion 3 of Farm 358	C00200000000035800003
Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm 663	C00200000000066300001
Portion 1 of Farm 358	C00200000000035800001
Potential 132 kV Substation Upgrade	
Remaining Extent of Erf 4807	C00200020000480700000
Proposed Switching Station (West) and Proposed Collector Switching Station Corridor	
Portion 10 of Farm 240	C00200000000024000010
Portion 12 of Farm 240	C00200000000024000012
Potential IPP Switching Station	
Portion 3 of Farm 233	C00200000000023300003
Proposed Collector Switching Station (East)	
Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm 663	C00200000000066300001

Annexure 3: Coordinates of the various proposed infrastructure.

Infrastructure	Coordinates	
Powerline Corridor		
Point 1 (Start)	33°16'24.77"S	26°35'20.34"E
Point 2 (Middle)	33°16'41.25"S	26°38'57.30"E
Point 3 (End)	33°17'18.78"S	26°42'20.01"E
132kV Substation		
Point 1	33°16'22.28"S	26°35'21.25"E
Point 2	33°16'23.03"S	26°35'29.33"E
Point 3	33°16'25.76"S	26°35'28.90"E
Point 4	33°16'24.92"S	26°35'20.83"E
IPP Switching Station (including BESS) *please note that the BESS will be constructed at one of the SS locations		
Point 1	33°16'17.29"S	26°38'22.25"E
Point 2	33°16'17.99"S	26°38'30.32"E
Point 3	33°16'24.87"S	26°38'30.67"E
Point 4	33°16'24.42"S	26°38'22.81"E
Collector Substation (West) (including BESS) *please note that the BESS will be constructed at one of the SS locations		
Point 1	33°16'03.76"S	26°35'35.00"E
Point 2	33°16'03.00"S	26°35'47.38"E
Point 3	33°16'13.87"S	26°35'48.92"E
Point 4	33°16'15.16"S	26°35'36.76"E
Collector Substation (East) (including BESS) *please note that the BESS will be constructed at one of the SS locations		
Point 1	33°17'13.16"S	26°42'12.15"E
Point 2	33°17'13.17"S	26°42'18.26"E
Point 3	33°17'17.61"S	26°42'18.10"E
Point 4	33°17'17.65"S	26°42'12.07"E

MS