



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2657

Enquiries: Mr Wayne Hector

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7700

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mercia.grimbeek@enertrag.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Grimbeek

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE HENDRINA NORTH 132KV POWERLINE TO HENDRINA POWER STATION, WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, IN NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, 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 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

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

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed.

Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

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

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

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

By email: appeals@dfre.gov.za

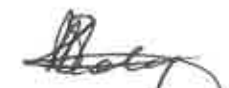
By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
PRETORIA
0083 or

By post: Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

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

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

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 17/04/2023

Cc:	S Hlatshwayo	MP: DARDLEA	Email: SHlatshwayo@mpg.gov.za
	Rendani Rasivhetshela	SIVEST SA (Pty) Ltd	Email: rendanir@sivest.co.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Environmental Authorisation

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

**CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE HENDRINA NORTH 132KV POWERLINE TO HENDRINA
POWER STATION, WITHIN STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2657</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Mpumalanga Province: on Ward 3, located approximately 15km west of Hendrina, within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, in the Nkangala 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, 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 –

ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd

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

with the following contact details –

Ms Mercia Grimbeek

ENERTRAG South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Suite 104

Albion Springs

183 Main Road

RONDEBOSCH

7700

Tel number: (021) 207-2181

Cell number: 071 689 7347

Email address: sandhisha.jaynarain@enertrag.com

mercia.grimbeek@enertrag.com

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>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</p> <p>(i) Outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</p>	<p>The proposed project involves the construction and operation of electricity distribution infrastructure (132kV), to connect the proposed Hendrina North Wind Energy Facility (WEF) to the Hendrina Power Station.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12:</u></p> <p>The development of—</p> <p>(i) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs—</p> <p>(a) Within a watercourse:</p> <p>(c) If no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p>	<p>The proposed development will entail the construction of infrastructure within the proposed project site which will have a physical footprint of approximately 100m² or more and may occur within some of the surface water features / watercourses identified within the application site or within 32m of some of the surface water features / watercourses identified within the application site.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 14:</u></p> <p>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.</p>	<p>The development of the onsite substation will require the construction and operation of facilities and infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods (combustible and flammable liquids, such as oils, lubricants, solvents) such storage will occur inside containers with a combined capacity exceeding 80 cubic meters but not exceeding 500 cubic meters.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 24:</u></p> <p>The development of a road - ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.</p>	<p>Access roads for the construction and maintenance of the powerline may be required.</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 27:</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for the undertaking of a linear activity.</p>	<p>The development of the collector substation will require the clearance of >1ha of indigenous vegetation.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28:</u></p> <p>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;</p>	<p>The proposed development site is currently zoned for agricultural land use; however, the property is no longer actively used for agricultural activities. The proposed development will result in special zoning being required, as an area greater than 1ha will be transformed into industrial / commercial use.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 327 Item 56</u></p> <p>The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre - (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres –</p>	<p>Existing roads may need to be widened or lengthened for the construction and maintenance of the powerline.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 324, Item 4</u></p> <p>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. (f) In Mpumalanga: (i) Outside urban areas; (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>The development of the grid connection facility and associated infrastructures is likely to require the development of roads wider than 4m with a reserve of less than 13.5m within areas classified as CBA. These roads will occur within the Mpumalanga Province, outside urban areas.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 324m, Item 10</u></p> <p>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.</p>	<p>The development of the onsite substation will require the construction and operation of facilities and infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods (combustible and flammable liquids, such as oils, lubricants, solvents) such storage will occur inside containers with a combined</p>

<p>(f) In Mpumalanga:</p> <p>(i) Outside urban areas;</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>capacity exceeding 80 cubic meters but not exceeding 500 cubic meters within areas classified as CBAs.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 324, Item 12</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>(f) In Mpumalanga:</p> <p>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>The proposed development will involve the clearance of more than 300m² or more of indigenous vegetation within potential CBAs/ESAs.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 324, Item 14</u></p> <p>The development of:</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs-</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p> <p>(f) In Mpumalanga:</p> <p>(i) Outside urban areas;</p> <p>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The proposed development will entail the construction of infrastructure within the proposed project site which will have a physical footprint of approximately 100m² or more and may occur within some of the surface water features / watercourses identified within the application site or within 32m of some of the surface water features / watercourses identified within the application site.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 13 December 2022 at:

- for the construction and operation of the Hendrina north 132kV powerline to the Hendrina Power Station, within the jurisdiction of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, in Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Technical details:

21 SG Codes and Farm Portions

TOIS00000000015300000	Portion 12 of Farm 153 Driefontein.
TOIS00000000015300000	Portion 37 of Farm 153 Driefontein.
TOIS00000000015300000	Portion 2 of Farm 153 Driefontein.
TOIS00000000015300000	Portion 17 of Farm 153 Driefontein
TOIS00000000015100000	Portion 14 of Farm 151 Roodepoort
TOIS00000000015100000	Portion 13 of Farm 151 Roodepoort
TOIS00000000015100000	Portion 2 of Farm 151 Roodepoort
TOIS00000000015100000	Portion 18 of Farm 151 Roodepoort
TOIS00000000015100000	Portion 1 of Farm 151 Roodepoort
TOIS00000000015400000	Portion 8 of Farm 154 Boschmanskop
TOIS00000000018500000	Portion 3 of Farm 185 Hartebeestkuil.
TOIS00000000018500000	Portion 4 of Farm 185 Hartebeestkuil.
TOIS00000000025000000	Portion 4 of Farm 185 Hartebeestkuil
TOIS00000000016200000	Portion 0 of Farm 162 Eskom.
TOIS00000000018600000	Portion 0 of Farm 186 Gloria.
TOIS00000000016200000	Portion 11 of Farm 162 Hendrina Power Station.
TOIS00000000015800000	Portion 1 of Farm 158 Aberdeen.

HENDRINA GRID CONNECTION COORDINATES GRID AT CORNER POINTS: ALTERNATIVE 1

POINT	SOUTH	EAST
1	26° 2'2.72"S	29°35'45.32"E
2	26° 1'52.99"S	29°35'10.27"E
3	26° 2'20.74"S	29°34'50.07"E
4	26° 2'26.57"S	29°34'42.15"E
5	26° 2'29.90"S	29°34'40.86"E
6	26° 3'4.53"S	29°34'15.33"E
7	26° 3'19.37"S	29°34'6.92"E
8	26° 5'34.01"S	29°32'44.63"E
9	26° 8'1.36"S	29°33'58.12"E
10	26° 8'49.83"S	29°34'26.10"E
11	26° 9'26.57"S	29°34'39.08"E

ON-SITE SUBSTATION COORDINATES AT CORNER POINTS

Point	SOUTH	EAST
Corner 1	26° 9'23.72"S	29°34'32.37"E
Corner 2	26° 9'23.96"S	29°34'38.95"E
Corner 3	26° 9'30.18"S	29°34'41.43"E
Corner 4	26° 9'30.48"S	29°34'33.67"E
CENTRE COORDINATES		
Centre	26° 9'26.87"S	29°34'36.76"E

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The **preferred powerline Alternative 1** for the construction and operation of the Hendrina North 132kV powerline to Hendrina Power Station, within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including, but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant, or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised must only be conducted at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made 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.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal.

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

Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity must not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

13. The Layout Map and Generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr) (Powerline and Substation) submitted as part of the BAR dated 13 December 2022 are approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
14. The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
15. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
16. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

17. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
18. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
19. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
20. 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 the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
21. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

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, considering 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.

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/ or General Authorisation (GA) being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
33. The applicant must ensure that, pylon locations is assessed and approved by an agricultural specialist during the final micro-siting walk-through exercise that occurs after Environmental Authorisation and prior to construction.
34. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
35. An appropriate stormwater structures must be implemented during construction to control run-off and minimise erosion.
36. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
37. The applicant must ensure that, all general waste and refuse is removed from site and disposed and windproof temporary storage area before being disposed of at a registered landfill site.
38. All recommendations, mitigation measures and buffer areas recommended by the specialists must be adhered to and be included in the EMPr

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-

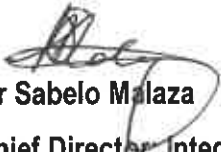
39.1. at the site of the authorised activity;

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: 17/04/2023



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision.

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

- The listed activities as applied for in the application form dated October 2022.
- The information contained in the BAR dated 13 December 2022.
- Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr dated 13 December 2022.
- The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendix 6 of the BAR dated 13 December 2022 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Agricultural Impact Assessment	Johann Lanz- Soil Scientist (Pr.Sci.Nat.)	21 October 2022.
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Chris van Rooyen (Bird Specialist).	2022
Desktop Geotechnical Specialist Study	Duan Swart- GaGE Consulting (Pty) Ltd.	28 October 2022.
Freshwater Assessment	Scientific Aquatic Services. K. Nienaber and A. Milesen.	September 2022.
Visual Impact Assessment	SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd- Kelly Armstrong and Chris Dalglish.	28 October 2022
Biodiversity impact assessment	G.J. Bredenkamp. EcoAgent CC.	September 2022.
Heritage Impact Assessment	Beyond Heritage- Mr. J. van der Walt.	September 2022.
Palaeontological Impact Assessment	Prof Marion Bamford- Palaeobotanist.	22 September 2022

2. Key factors considered in making the decision.

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

- The findings of all the specialist studies conducted "Appendix 6" and their recommended mitigation measures.
- The need for the proposed project will serve the Hendrina North WEF and once fully developed, the intention is to feed the electricity generated by the above-mentioned WEF project into the national grid.

- c) The BAR dated 13 December 2022 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed powerline and onsite substation.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated 13 December 2022 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 13 December 2022 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 13 December 2022 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The assessment of the alternative powerline corridor.
- e) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- f) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

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



15