

APPENDIX B2

DEA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIA REPORT



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1100

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PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Henning

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROPOSED MOKOLO AND CROCODILE RIVER (WEST) WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT (PHASE 2A) (MCWAP – 2A), WITHIN THE THABAZIMBI AND LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, IN THE WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated September 2018 and the application form received by this Department on 26 September 2018, refers.

This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

- i. A clear and detailed description of each and every activity applied for must be included in both the application form and final EIAR, in chronological order. The description of these listed activities and sub-activities must clearly indicate how they relate or link to the proposed development, and the exact thresholds or capacities for materials and infrastructure must be indicated. If these cannot be provided in the final EIAR, reasons must be provided.
- ii. There are activities in the application form where the description states that "Activity to be confirmed following Terrestrial Ecological Study". Kindly ensure that activities that are still to be confirmed as stated in the application form are confirmed when submitting the final EIAR. Furthermore; please ensure that a clear description of how these activities relate or link to the proposed development is provided. If the activities no longer form part of the application, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>. Please ensure that activities are not just included in the application form with no correlation to what is being proposed.
- iii. With regards to infilling and excavation of watercourses for the construction of the pipeline and associated infrastructure, the applicant is required to provide an indication of the preferred and alternate locations from which the material used for infilling will be sourced and where excavated material will be stored and/or disposed of. In addition, the impacts associated with this activity must be adequately assessed in the EIAR.

- iv. The EAP must engage the relevant provincial authority with regards to development in geographic areas triggering GNR 985, as amended.
- v. Please ensure that the coordinates of the proposed development are provided in the final EIAr.
- vi. It is noted that alternatives have been identified. However, please provide a description of the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 (1) (c) (d) and 2 (h) of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 (2)(x)(xi). A detailed motivation for the power line route alternative selected as "preferred" as well as reasons for other alternatives to be deemed as not feasible must be provided in the final EIAr.
- vii. Please ensure that the final EIAr includes a legible route layout map; an environmental sensitivity map indicating all environmental sensitive areas and features; a map combining a layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map; and a regional map of the area. Please be informed that Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes. Furthermore; the layout map must include the following:
 - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and powerlines indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the powerline and its associated infrastructure;
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - Location of access and service roads;
 - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - Buffer areas; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- viii. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity & Conservation Unit) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The public participation process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- ix. A Comments and Response Report (CRR) must be submitted with the final EIAr. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs, and all comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly and fully. Please note responses such as "noted" are not acceptable.
- x. The comments and responses report must be done in a table format that has proper headings (these must include: name of the person providing the comments, organization, the comment, the date of the comment and your response). Comments must be separated and not clustered together. This would make for easy reading when reviewing.

- xi. All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed mitigation measures and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
- xii. Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred Layout Plan and the EMPr.
- xiii. The requirements of the letter for acceptance of the final Scoping Report dated 15 May 2018 still stand and must be considered in the compilation of the final EIAr.
- xiv. You are further reminded that the final EIAr to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIAr in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- xv. If this application for Environmental Authorisation is subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will require a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

General

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of the these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3 (7).

You are requested to submit one (1) hard copy of the final EIAR to the Department and at least two (2) unprotected electronic copies (CD/DVD) of the complete final report.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo
Designation: Deputy Director: Public Sector
Date: 23/10/2018

cc:	Ronald Gillmer	Department of Water & Sanitation	Tel no: 012 336 6933	Email: GillmerR@dws.gov.za
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