



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2556/2

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PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Brambilla

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (SPLITTING AND REISSUE OF EA) ISSUED ON 24 OCTOBER 2022, AS AMENDED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE FE OVERBERG 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHPL) AND THE 132KV SWITCHING STATION LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF SWELLENDAM WITHIN THE SWELLENDAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the abovementioned application issued by this Department on 24 October 2022, the amendments to the EA dated 15 March 2024, 22 April 2024 and 26 April 2024, the draft Motivation Report received by this Department on 27 August 2024, the acknowledgement letter dated 05 September 2024, the comments on the draft Motivation Report issued by this Department on 27 September 2024 and the final Motivation Report received by this Department on 04 October 2024, refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5, Regulation 27(2)(a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 24 October 2022 as amended by issuing a new EA.



Batho pele- putting people first

The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

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APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (SPLITTING AND REISSUE OF EA) ISSUED ON 24 OCTOBER 2022, AS AMENDED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE FE OVERBERG 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHPL) AND THE 132KV SWITCHING STATION LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF SWELLEN DAM WITHIN THE SWELLEN DAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The applicant applied for the following amendments:

Amendment 1: Splitting of the approved 132kV/33kV on site substation into two components

- 132kV Switching Station (1.2ha); and
- 33kV/132kV IPP Substations (1.4ha) which is made up of:
 - a. WCWF IPP Substation (0.7ha)
 - b. FEO IPP Substation (0.7ha)

Reason for the amendment:

The substation must be administratively split into two portions so that each half can be managed by the appropriate Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The split is required in order to meet current and potential future commercial and BID agreements.

Amendment 2: Split the current EA into two by splitting the 132kV OHPL and the 132kV Switching Station out of the existing EA and placing them into their own EA

Reason for the amendment:

In accordance with the Applicant's commercial agreements and BID requirements, the EA must be split into two separate EAs. Both EAs will be owned by the same existing holder, namely FE Overberg (RF) (Pty) Ltd. The EAs will be split to contain the WEF components and IPP portion of the substations in one EA and contain the 132kV/33kV IPP Substation and powerline in another EA, the latter EA will ultimately be ceded to Eskom after construction. It is important to note that this requested split of the EA will have no effect on the already assessed and approved project components or footprint. The WEF EMPr and Generic Substation EMPr will also need to be split to support the EAs required. The splitting of the EA and associated EMPrs does not result in a change of the scope of the existing EA, nor does it increase the level or nature of the impacts which were originally assessed and considered when the initial application for EA, or subsequent amendments thereto, were made. The split does not include any physical change or addition whatsoever to the authorised infrastructure, project components or footprint of the project. The EMPrs will be split accordingly.

Amendment 3: Amendment of the EA to reflect the revised Final Layout

- a) Split the 132kV Switching Station and 132kV OHPL from the current EA and place them into their own EA.
- b) Update the development area of the 33kV/132kV IPP Substations.
Description: Update the EA to reflect the substation development footprint area to up to 1.4ha.
- c) Remove Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) 20.
Description: Remove WGT20 from the layout. The project will now consist of up to 39 WTGs with a hub height of 150m, rotor diameter of up to 200m, blade length of up to 100m and individual turbine capacity of up to 8.2MW each.
- d) Optimise the 33kV OHPL routes.
Description: Update the 33kV OHPL routings according to the optimised and refined final layout (11 August 2024).

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e) Realign an access road

Description: Realign the access road between WTG38 and WTG40 as per the Traffic Specialist's recommendation.

f) Update the coordinates

Description: Table-Description: Update the coordinates and technical details information sections of the EA.

Reason for the amendment

The substation has been split and the correct area (1.4ha combined area) must be reflected in the EA and updated in the Layout Plan. WTG 20 will be removed to further manage and mitigate the potential impact which may be posed to avifauna, such as the Black Harrier, the removal of WTG 20 must be reflected in the updated Layout Plan. The 33kV powerlines have been optimised for the site to reduce impacts to the Species of Conservation Concern on site. The Traffic Specialist recommended the access road between WTG38 and WTG40 be realigned to avoid the road cutting through the crop field. The access road has been realigned to follow an existing farm track running parallel to the R319. The final layout has been revised (11 August 2024) and the EMPr (October 2024) has been updated.

Amendment 4: Update the Conditions of Authorisation in the EA to reflect the revised Final Layout

Reason for the amendment

The approved layout (06 October 2023) has been refined and optimised for build, and the approved EMPrs (January 2024) have been updated with additional avifaunal management actions following an appeal lodged against 14/12/16/3/3/1/2556/AM1 (15 March 2024). The revised final layout (11 August 2024) and EMPr (October 2024) are submitted for decision as per Condition 13 of the EA. The EAP would like to motivate for the layout and EMPr to be approved as the changes to the layout are minimal and the management actions included in the EMPr more effectively manage and mitigate the impacts to avifauna on site.

Amendment 5: Revise the approved WEF EMPr and Generic Substation EMPr to reflect the Final Layout

Reason for the amendment

Following the EA of the FE Overberg WEF Part 2 Amendment Application Process (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2556/AM1, dated 15 March 2024), appeals were received from Birdlife South Africa (BLSA) and the Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust (ORCT), specifically raising concerns regarding the impacts to the avifauna on site. BLSA and the ORCT engaged with the developer to discuss potential additional avifaunal mitigations for the facility. The appeal was withdrawn and the Competent Authority issued a formal appeal withdrawal letter to the Applicant on 30 July 2024. The result of the engagement between the appellants and the developer resulted in the need to update the EMPr (October 2024) and layout (11 August 2024) accordingly to reflect the measures required to manage the impacts to avifauna on site. The layout and EMPrs were subsequently revised to account for additional mitigation measures for the management of impacts to avifaunal species on site.

The attached EA will replace the EA dated 24 October 2022, as amended. All further amendments must be lodged on the attached EA.

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (SPLITTING AND REISSUE OF EA) ISSUED ON 24 OCTOBER 2022, AS AMENDED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE FE OVERBERG 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHPL) AND THE 132KV SWITCHING STATION LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF SWELLENDAAM WITHIN THE SWELLENDAAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

General

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, of the Department's decision, as well as of 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 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 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@dfpe.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.




14/12/16/3/3/1/2556/2

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (SPLITTING AND REISSUE OF EA) ISSUED ON 24 OCTOBER 2022, AS AMENDED IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE FE OVERBERG 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHPL) AND THE 132KV SWITCHING STATION LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF SWELLENHAM WITHIN THE SWELLENHAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

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@dfre.gov.za.

Yours faithfully


Dr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 28/11/2024

CC:	Mr Fabio P. Venturi	Terramanzi Group (Pty) Ltd	Email: environmental@terramanzi.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 FE OVERBERG 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHPL) AND THE 132KV SWITCHING STATION
LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF SWELLENDAAM WITHIN THE SWELLENDAAM LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Overberg District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2556/2
Last amended:	<i>Splitting and Re-Issue</i> <i>First Issue: 24 October 2022</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>FE Overberg (RF) (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Remainder of Portion 2 of the Farm Kluitjieskraal No. 256</i> <i>Portion 5 of the Farm Kluitjieskraal No. 256</i> <i>Swellendam Local Municipality</i> <i>Overberg District Municipality</i> <i>Western Cape Province.</i>

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

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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 –

FE OVERBERG (RF) (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Matteo Giulio Luigi Maria Brambilla
14th Floor, Pier Place Building
Heerengracht Street
Foreshore
CAPE TOWN
8001

Telephone Number: (072) 212 1531
E-mail Address: m.logan@redrocket.energy

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 and Listing Notice 3 of the NEMA 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> <i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts."</i></p>	<p>The transmission and distribution infrastructure which will facilitate the connection of the approved Overberg WEF to the National Grid will comprise of the construction and operation of a 132kV Switching Station to be connected via a 132kV OHPL. The facility will be connected to the grid at the planned Eskom Agulhas Main Transmission Substation. The project site is located outside of an urban area.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of—</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such development occurs—</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The development of the Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure will require the establishment of infrastructure (including internal access roads and the 132kV Switching Station) with a physical footprint exceeding 100m² within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse identified within the project site. The 132kV Switching Station area will be up to 1.15ha in extent and the 132kV OHPL up to 2.5km in length.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 14:</u></p> <p><i>"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 meters or more but not exceeding 500 cubic meters."</i></p>	<p>The development and operation of the Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure will require infrastructure for up to 500 cubic metres of storage of dangerous goods, which will include flammable and combustible liquids such as oils associated with the on- site substation and switchyard transformers, lubricants and solvents.</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,</i></p>	<p>The construction and operation of the Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station may require the</p>

excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from (i) a watercourse."	removal of 10 cubic metres of rock and soil from watercourses.
<u>Listing Notice 1 Item 24:</u> "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."	The main access roads providing access to the Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station may be up to 8m wide.
<u>Listing Notice 1 Item 28:</u> "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."	The Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure will be constructed and operated on land currently used for agricultural purposes, mainly grazing.
<u>Listing Notice 1 Item 30:</u> "Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)"	The Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure are located within and may require vegetation clearance or disturbance of: Eastern Ruens Shale Renosterveld, Central Ruens Shale Renosterveld, Ruens Silcrete Renosterveld, and Cape Lowland Alluvial Vegetation. These are ecosystems listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).
<u>Listing Notice 1 Item 56:</u> "The widening of a road by more than 6m, or lengthening of a road by more than 1km- (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or	Access to the site for the transport of large infrastructure components related to the Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure will require the widening of

<p><i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres."</i></p>	<p>existing access and/or internal roads where no reserve exists and where such road is wider than 8m. The facility is located within a rural area</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 4:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres.</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>ii. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	<p>Existing roads on the affected properties will be used where feasible and practicable. The Overberg 132kV OHPL, 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure will have internal access roads of up to 6m wide, with a servitude of up to 20m which will include additional space required for cut and fill, side drains and other stormwater control measures, turning areas and vertical and horizontal turning radii to ensure safe delivery of the infrastructure and components. Internal roads will provide access to the on-site 132kV Switching Station and 132kV OHPL. An access and entry to the site will be established. This will require the development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres</p> <p>(iii) In the Western Cape,</p> <p>(iv) Outside urban areas,</p> <p>(aa) within areas containing indigenous vegetation. The project site is located within the Western Cape Province, outside of an urban area and falls within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) and Other Natural Areas (ONAs) in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2017).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 12</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan,</i></p> <p><i>(i) within the Western Cape and</i></p>	<p>The Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure may require the removal of 300m² of indigenous vegetation. The project site contains Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) and Other Natural Areas (ONAs) in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2017).</p>

<p>(ii) within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.”</p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 14:</u></p> <p>“The development of—</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs—</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse; or</p> <p>(c) within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p> <p>i. Western Cape</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 Overberg 132kV OHPL, Switching Station and associated infrastructure is to be located on various farm portions approximately 15km south-west of the town Swellendam, within the Swellendam Local Municipality of the Western Cape Province. Hence, development of the project will take place outside of an urban area. Several watercourses such as drainage lines with associated riverine areas were identified on site. On site buildings (132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure) are expected to exceed a footprint of 100m² with some infrastructure or structures potentially occurring within a watercourse (e.g. drainage line) or within 32m from the edge of watercourses. The project site contains Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) and Other Natural Areas (ONAs) in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2017).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 18:</u></p> <p>“The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre. i. Western Cape</p> <p>ii. All areas outside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation.”</p>	<p>Existing roads on the affected properties will be used where feasible and practical. It is estimated that the existing farm roads on the site are between 4m and 6m wide. The project will take place outside of an urban area on land containing indigenous vegetation. For internal access, the width of the roads at the access points will be up to 8m. Internal access roads will be up to 6m wide, with a servitude of up to 20m which will include additional space required for cut and fill, side drains and other stormwater, control measures, turning areas and vertical and horizontal turning radii to ensure safe delivery of the WTG components. Internal roads will provide access to the on-site Overberg 132kV</p>

OHPL, 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure.

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated August 2022 and the final Motivation Report dated October 2024 at:

Farm Description	21 Digit Surveyor General Code
Remainder of Portion 2 of the Farm Kluitjieskraal No. 256	C07300000000025600002
Portion 5 of the Farm Kluitjieskraal No. 256	C07300000000025600005

Coordinates:

132kV Switching Station (1.2ha)	Latitude	Longitude
Middle point	34° 8'45.49"S	20°21'11.28"E
Corner 1 (Northern Corner)	34° 8'42.77"S	20°21'9.87"E
Corner 2 (Western Corner)	34° 8'44.27"S	20°21'8.11"E
Corner 3 (Southern Corner)	34° 8'48.28"S	20°21'13.12"E
Corner 4 (Eastern corner)	34° 8'46.79"S	20°21'14.86"E
132kV OHPL	Latitude	Longitude
Start Point	34° 8'44.09"S	20°21'11.52"E
Bend 1	34° 8'43.64"S	20°21'12.03"E
Bend 2	34° 8'37.66"S	20°21'11.37"E
Bend 3	34° 7'50.59"S	20°20'14.51"E
Middle Point	34°8'16.91"S	20°20'46.35"E
End Point	34°7'46.30"S	20°20'20.13"E

- for the FE Overberg 132kV Overhead Powerline (OHPL) and the 132kV switching station located southwest of the town of Swellendam within the Swellendam Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The FE Overberg 132kV Overhead Powerline (OHPL) and the 132kV switching station will include the following:

- A 132kV Switching Station up to 1.2ha and associated infrastructure;
- A 132kV OHPL up to 2.5km in length which will facilitate the connection of the approved FE Overberg WEF to the National Eskom Grid at the planned Agulhas Main Transmission Substation (MTS);
- The 132kV OHPL will have a corridor of 300m and a servitude of up to 35m;

- Access roads to the site and between project components with a width of up to 12m and a servitude of up to 20m. The main access points will be up to 12m wide; and
- Perimeter fencing, fencing of all buildings, and on-site Switching Station fencing.

Technical details of the FE Overberg 132kV Overhead Powerline (OHPL) and the 132kV switching station:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	15km south-west of the town Swellendam in the Western Cape Province.
Site access	<p>The main access to the development site is at approximately 4km south of the N2 and R319 intersection at the existing farm access. This will serve as the access point to the construction base site camps.</p> <p>Additional access to the development site is at approximately 1.8km and 10.3km west; and at 3km, 6.6km, and 12km south of the existing N2/R319 intersection. The proposed access point to the on-site substation, construction base camp and the Operation and Maintenance Security and Control Centre building, is 3km proposed south of the N2 and R319 intersection at the existing farm access.</p>
OHPL Capacity	132kV OHPL up to 2.5km
Substation Area	132kV Switching Station Up to 1.2ha
Substation capacity	An 132kV Switching Station
Width and length of internal roads.	Existing roads on the affected properties will be used where feasible and practical. There will be internal access roads of up to 12m wide, with a servitude of up to 20m which will include additional space required for cut and fill, side drains and other stormwater control measures, turning areas and vertical and horizontal turning radii to ensure safe delivery of the WTG components. Internal roads will provide access to each turbine, the on-site substation, all Operation and Maintenance buildings, and Balance of Plant areas.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of the 132kV OHPL, 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure located south-west of the town of Swellendam within the Swellendam Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province as described above, are hereby approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the tables 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 may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of 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. The continuation of any such activities after the above-mentioned period has lapsed may trigger one or more listed and/or specified activities, including activity 32 of Listing Notice 1. Such continuation without the required environmental authorisation will constitute an offence or offences in terms of section 49A(1)(a) read with section 24F(1)(a) of National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).

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 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

13. The final site layout plan dated 11 August 2024 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to. Any further changes pertaining to the layout would need to be updated as per the applicable Regulations at that time.
14. The Generic Substation Environmental Management Plan (EMPr) dated (October 2024) with the final site layout (11 August 2024) is approved and must be implemented and adhered to. Any further changes pertaining to these would need to be updated as per the applicable Regulations at that time.

15. The Generic Overhead Powerline Environmental Management Plan (EMPr) dated (October 2024) with the final site layout (11 August 2024) is approved and must be implemented and adhered to. Any further changes pertaining to these would need to be updated as per the applicable Regulations at that time.
16. Changes to the approved EMPrs must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPrs should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

18. 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.
19. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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 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

23. 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.
 - 23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 23.4. 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

24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.

29. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. 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

Avifauna and bats

33. A livestock carcass management programme is to be implemented across the powerlines and 132kV Switching Station to reduce the likelihood of attracting Cape Vulture to the proposed development site.
34. Operational phase bird monitoring, in line with the latest available guidelines, must be implemented.
35. An avifaunal carcass search and activity monitoring programme must be developed and conducted for at least the first five years of operation and in-line with the latest applicable guidelines.
36. Novel above-ground overhead powerlines to be constructed adjacent to existing transmission infrastructure where possible and pylons to be staggered (where possible) relative to existing pylon positions to increase the overall visibility of transmission infrastructure to avifauna such as bustards.
37. The results of the pre-construction bird monitoring programme must inform the final layout and the construction schedule of the facility.

38. A construction phase monitoring plan must survey bird communities on the Powerlines and 132kV Switching Station and must be implemented to monitor impacts resulting from the infrastructure installations. This monitoring plan must be implemented for the duration of the construction phase.
39. Bird monitoring must be undertaken by an accredited specialist and must be undertaken in accordance with the most recent version of the Birdlife South Africa/ Endangered Wildlife Trust: Best Practice Guidelines for Avian Monitoring and Impact Mitigation at proposed Wind Energy Development Sites in Southern Africa
40. A bird monitoring programme must be implemented to document the effect of the operation of the facility on avifauna. This must commence prior to construction and continue during operation of the facility.
41. The Powerlines and 132kV Switching Station must be designed to discourage the use of infrastructure components as perching or roosting substrates by birds.
42. During construction the holder of the authorisation must restrict construction activities to the development footprint area. No access to the remainder of the property is allowed.
43. 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 designed according to Eskom's Transmission and EWT's Guidelines.
44. A pre-construction walk through of the powerline alignment by an avifaunal specialist and ecologist, must be conducted to ensure that there are no nests sites of priority species on or close to the construction corridor; and all protected plant species impacted are identified.
45. Operational-phase monitoring must use a similar methodology as the pre-construction monitoring to ensure comparability of results but must also include the collection of mortality data.
46. Operational-phase monitoring must start as soon as the Powerlines and 132kV Switching Station are operational and must also include surveys of powerlines for mortalities.
47. Birdlife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust must be given the opportunity to review and approve the methodology and the approved methodology must be submitted to this Department for record keeping.
48. Avifaunal monitoring reports, as well as the raw monitoring data must be submitted to the relevant provincial environmental department, Birdlife South Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), and this Department on a quarterly basis. The report will assist all stakeholders in identifying potential and additional mitigation measures and to establish protocols for a bird monitoring programme for wind energy development in the country.

49. Should the results of the operational-phase monitoring need additional mitigation measures, the EMPr must be amended and submitted to the provincial environmental department, Birdlife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) for comments as well as to this Department for approval.
50. The EMPr must be reviewed annually and Birdlife South Africa, EWT, the provincial environmental department and this Department must be given the opportunity to comment on the bird monitoring specifications every year for as long as post construction monitoring continues.
51. Habitat destruction must be kept to an absolute minimum by keeping areas as small as possible, reducing the number and size/length of roads and reducing the final extent of the developed area.

Vegetation wetlands and water resources

52. The following buffer across an identified watercourses must be implemented:
 - 52.1. Seeps and other minor drainage lines: Construction period: 15m; Operational period: 15m; Final: 15m;
 - 52.2. Rivers and valley bottom wetlands: Construction period: 25m; Operation period: 15m; Final: 25m; and
 - 52.3. Artificial dams/farm dams: no buffer.
53. All species of special concern (SSC) must be identified and every effort must be made to rescue them.
54. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
55. Critical available biodiversity information must be consulted for the final placement of the Powerlines and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure.
56. The holder of the authorisation must ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien plant species is undertaken. An alien removal program must be developed and implemented.
57. Before clearing the site, permits must be obtained 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 submitted to the Department for record keeping.
58. Construction activities must be restricted to demarcated areas to restrict impact on vegetation, birds and animals.
59. All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs. Reclamation activities must be undertaken as early as possible on disturbed areas.
60. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.

61. The holder of the authorisation is required to inform the relevant provincial department and/or this Department should the removal of protected species, medicinal plants and "data deficient" plant species be required.
62. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes; only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
63. Erosion mitigation measures must be implemented to prevent any potential erosion.
64. Cleared alien vegetation must not be dumped on adjacent intact vegetation during clearance but must be temporarily stored in a demarcated area.
65. Removal of alien invasive species or other vegetation and follow-up procedures must be in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No.43 of 1983).
66. The holder of the authorisation must ensure that all the "No-go" areas are fenced and signaged before construction commences.
67. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
68. Where roads pass right next to major water bodies provision should be made for fauna such as toads to pass under the roads by using culverts or similar.
69. Bridge design must be such that it minimises impact on the riparian areas with minimal alterations to water flow and must be permeable to movement of fauna and flora.

Roads and transportation

70. Existing road infrastructure must be used as far as possible. Where no road infrastructure exists, new roads must be placed within existing disturbed areas or environmental conditions must be taken in account to ensure the minimum amount of damage is caused to natural habitats.
71. A transportation plan must be developed. A permit must be obtained from the relevant transport department for the transportation of all components (abnormal loads) to the sites.
72. Signs must be placed along construction roads to identify speed limits, travel restrictions, and other standard traffic control information.
73. Roads must be designed so that changes to surface water runoff are avoided and erosion is not initiated.
74. Internal access roads must be located to minimize stream crossings. All structures crossing streams must be located and constructed so that they do not decrease channel stability or increase water velocity.
75. Existing drainage must not be altered, especially in sensitive areas.
76. A designated access to the site must be created and clearly marked to ensure safe entry and exit.
77. Signage must be erected at identified points warning of turning traffic and the construction site.
78. Construction vehicles carrying materials to the site must avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.

79. Road borders must be maintained to ensure that vegetation remains short and that they therefore serve as an effective firebreak.

Noise

80. No road construction or upgrading activities, closer than 350m from any Noise Sensitive Receptor (NSR) is permitted at night.
81. NSRs must be notified of road construction and upgrading activities that could create inconveniences when construction activities are required closer than 500m from an NSR at night.
82. A component covering environmental noise must be included in the Health and Safety Induction to sensitize all employees and contractors about the potential impact from noise, especially those employees and contractors that have to travel past receptors at night, or might be required to do work close (within 1,000m) to NSRs at night.
83. The holder of this Environmental Authorisation must ensure that the National Noise Control Regulations and SANS10103:2008 are adhered to and measured to limit noise from the work site are implemented.
84. A complaints register to record noise complaints must be kept onsite and made available to affected parties.
85. The holder of this authorisation must ensure that the construction staff working in areas where the 8-hour ambient noise levels exceed 75dBA wear ear protection equipment.
86. The holder of this authorisation must ensure that all equipment and machinery are well maintained and equipped with silencers.
87. The holder of this authorisation must provide a prior warning to the community when a noisy activity e.g. blasting is to take place.
88. The holder of the authorisation must reduce visual impacts during construction by minimising areas of surface disturbance, controlling erosion, using dust suppression techniques and restoring exposed soil as closely as possible to their original contour and vegetation.
89. A lighting engineer must be consulted to assist in the planning and placement of light fixtures in order to reduce visual impacts associated with glare and light trespass.
90. Lighting of main structures (must be designed to minimise light pollution without compromising safety, and must be lit according to Civil Aviation Regulations.
91. Signage on or near Powerlines and the 132kV Switching Station must be avoided unless they serve to inform the public about their function.
92. Lay down areas and stockyards must be located in low visibility areas (e.g. valleys between ridges) and existing vegetation must be used to screen them from view where possible.

93. Night lighting of the construction sites must be minimised to be within the requirements of safety and efficiency.

Human health and safety

94. A health and safety programme must be developed to protect both workers and the general public during construction, operation and decommissioning of the facility. The programme must establish a safety zone to prevent accidents resulting from the operation of the Powerlines and 132kV Switching Station.
95. Potential interference with public safety communication systems (e.g. radio traffic related to emergency activities) must be avoided.
96. The holder of the authorisation must ensure that the operation of the facility has minimal electromagnetic interference(EMI) (i.e., impacts on microwave, radio and television transmissions) and must comply with the relevant communication regulations.
97. The holder of the authorisation must obtain a written permit or approval from the South African Civil Aviation Authority that the wind facility will not interfere with the performance of aerodrome radio Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) equipment especially the radar prior to commencement of the activity. The approval/permit must be submitted to the Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations.
98. The holder of the authorisation must train safety representatives, managers and workers in workplace safety. The construction process must be compliant with all safety and health measures as prescribed by the relevant act.
99. Liaison with land owners/farm managers must be undertaken prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan agricultural activities. If possible, construction must be scheduled to take place within the post-harvest and pre-planting season, when fields are lying fallow.
100. No unsupervised open fires for cooking or heating must be allowed on site.

Hazardous materials and waste management

101. Batching plants must be located within laydown areas outside sensitive ecological, heritage and paleontological areas.
102. Areas around fuel tanks must be bunded or contained in accordance with the requirements of SASS 089:1999 Part 1.
103. Leakage of fuel must be avoided at all times and spillage occurs, it must be remedied immediately.
104. Hazardous waste such as bitumen, oils, oily rags, paint tins etc. must be disposed of at an approved waste landfill site licensed to accept such waste.

105. No dumping or temporary storage of any materials may take place outside designated and demarcated lay down areas, and these must all be located within areas of low environmental sensitivity.
106. Hazardous substances must not be stored where there could be accidental leakage into surface or subterranean water.
107. Hazardous and flammable substances must be stored and used in compliance with the applicable regulations and safety instructions. Furthermore, no chemicals may be stored nor may any vehicle maintenance occur within 300m of the temporal zone of wetlands, a drainage line with or without an extensive floodplain or hillside wetlands.
108. Temporary bunds must be constructed around chemical storage facilities to contain possible spills.
109. Spill kits must be made available on-site for the clean-up of spills.
110. 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 Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).
111. The holder of this authorisation must provide sanitation facilities within the construction camps and along the road so that workers do not pollute the surrounding environment. These facilities must be removed from the site when the construction phase is completed and the associated waste must be disposed of at a registered waste disposal site.
112. The holder of this authorisation must take note that no temporary site camps will be allowed outside the footprint of the development area as the establishment of such structures might trigger a listed activity as defined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010.

Excavation and blasting activities

113. Underground cables and internal access roads must be aligned as much as possible along existing infrastructure to limit damage to vegetation and watercourses.
114. Cabling routes outside internal access routes must be approved by this Department.
115. Foundations and trenches must be backfilled with originally (prior to physical disturbance) excavated materials as much as possible. Excess excavation materials must be disposed of only in approved areas or, if suitable, stockpiled for use in reclamation activities.
116. Borrow materials must be obtained only from authorised and permitted sites.
117. Anti-erosion measures such as silt fences must be installed in disturbed areas.

Air emissions

118. Dust abatement techniques must be used before and during surface clearing, excavation, or blasting activities.
119. Dust suppression techniques must be implemented on all exposed surfaces during periods of high wind. Such measures may include wet suppression, chemical stabilisation, the use of a wind fence, covering surfaces with straw chippings or re-vegetation of open areas.

Historical / cultural / paleontological resources

120. The ECO and personnel must be informed of the very high palaeontological significance of the area.
121. The Chance Find Protocol in the PIA designed to record all unexpected fossils associated with the geological formations on site must:
 - 121.1. be implemented during the lifetime of the Powerlines and 132kV Switching Station.
 - 121.2. be included as part of the EMPr for this project.
122. If fossils are exposed during the lifetime of the project, a suitably be appointed to collect them and to upgrade the Chance Find Protocol document.
123. If deep (>2m) excavations into un-weathered sedimentary rocks of the Ceres Subgroup are planned as part of the construction, these excavations must be monitored by a suitably qualified palaeontological specialist.
124. Fossils finds must be reported immediately to Heritage Western Cape (HWC).
125. Recommendations contained in the PIA must be approved by HWC for inclusion in the EMPr for the project.
126. Each identified archaeological site must be buffered by 50m and these buffers declared no-go areas during construction.
127. If there are any changes to the layout then additional survey work will be required in order to ensure that no archaeological sites are directly impacted and/or-to identify-the need for an excavation permit.
128. Should any graves be found, all construction activities must be suspended and an archaeologist be contacted immediately. The discovered graves must be cordoned off.

Storm water management

129. Construction must include design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.

General

130. The recommendations of the EAP contained in the BAR and the specialist studies dated August 2022, the final Motivation Report dated October 2023 and the revised specialist studies dated 2023 and 2024, must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
131. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 131.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 131.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 131.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
132. 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: 08/11/2024



Dr 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 application form received on 30 May 2022.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated August 2022.
- c) The comments received from DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation; Eskom: Planning and Land Rights; the Swellendam Local Municipality: Town Planning, Building Control and Environment; Heritage Western Cape; SAHRA; the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning: Development Facilitation; the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works: Chief Directorate Road Planning, Roads Branch; the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency; the South Africa National Parks: Park Planning & Projects; the Western Cape Department of Agriculture; the Garden Route National Park; the Swellendam Heritage Association; the Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust and surrounding property owners and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated August 2022.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPs dated August 2022.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated August 2022 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Ecology and Botanical Impact Assessment	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd	August 2022
Avifaunal Impact Assessment	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd	August 2022
Bats Impact Assessment	Arcus Consultancy Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd	August 2022
Aquatic Impact Assessment	EnviroSci Pty Ltd	August 2022
Soils and Agricultural Impact Assessment	Johann Lanz	May 2022
Noise Impact Assessment	Enviro Acoustic Research (EAR)	August 2022
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	Gideon Groenewald	July 2022
Heritage Impact Assessment	ACO Associates	August 2022
Visual Impact Assessment	BOLA / QARC	July 2022
Traffic Impact Assessment	SMEC South Africa	August 2022
Social Impact Assessment	Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting	May 2022

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 August 2022 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed project within the Overberg Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ).
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated August 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 August 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 August 2022 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR dated August 2022 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.**



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2556/2/AM1

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PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Brambilla

CORRECTION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 08 NOVEMBER 2024 FOR THE FE OVERBERG 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHPL) AND THE 132KV SWITCHING STATION LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF SWELLENDAAM WITHIN THE SWELLENDAAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above application by this Department on 08 November 2024 and your letter dated and received by this Department on 15 November 2024, refer.

In terms of Regulation 27(4) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended this Department has decided to amend the abovementioned decision as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment to the activity table in the EA

The activity description on page 03 of the EA is hereby amended:

From:

Activity number	Activity description
<u>Listing Notice 1, Item 12:</u> "The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;	The development of the Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure will require the establishment of infrastructure (including internal access roads and



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The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse."	the 132kV Switching Station) with a physical footprint exceeding 100m ² within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse identified within the project site. The 132kV Switching Station area will be up to 1.15ha in extent and the 132kV OHPL up to 2.5km in length.
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To:


Activity number	Activity description
Listing Notice 1, Item 12: "The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse."	The development of the Overberg 132kV OHPL and 132kV Switching Station and associated infrastructure will require the establishment of infrastructure (including internal access roads and the 132kV Switching Station) with a physical footprint exceeding 100m ² within a watercourse or within 32m of a watercourse identified within the project site. The 132kV Switching Station area will be up to 1.2ha in extent and the 132kV OHPL up to 2.5km in length.

Reason for amendment

An error was made in the split matrix submitted to the Department. Therefore, a request has been submitted to change the activity description to reflect the correct area of the 132kV Switching Station.

Please note that this letter must be read in conjunction with the Environmental Authorisation dated 08 November 2024.

Yours faithfully



Ms Milicent Solomons

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations (Acting)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 05/12/2024.

cc:	Fabio P. Venturi	Terramanzi Group (Pty) Ltd	Email: environmental@terramanzi.co.za
	Adri La Meyer	WC DEA&DP	Email: Adri.LaMeyer@westerncape.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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Ref: Acting Arrangements
Enquiries: Devinagie Bendeman
Tel: 012 399 9337 Email: vbendeman@dffe.gov.za

Ms Millicent Solomons

Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Dear Ms Solomons

APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS (ACTING), FROM 05 DECEMBER 2024 TO 06 DECEMBER 2024

I hereby inform you that you have been appointed to act in the post of Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations from **05 December 2024 until 06 December 2024**. Please note that the acting arrangements may be terminated by any party giving 24 hours written notification.

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

Ms Devinagie Bendeman
DDG: Regulatory Compliance & Sector Monitoring
Date: 03 December 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~

appointment as Chief Director: Integrated
Environmental Authorisation (Acting)

Signed:

Date: 04/12/2024



Batho pele- putting people first



The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.