



ENVIRONMENTAL CLOSE OUT AUDIT REPORT

Brandvalley Wind Energy Facility, 132 Kv OHPL's and substation,
Matjiesfontein, Western and Northern Cape Province

**In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended)**

PREPARED FOR:

Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment: Compliance Monitoring

DATED:

November 2024

PREPARED BY:

NCC Environmental Services

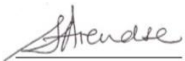
T • 021 702 2884

E • info@ncc-group.co.za

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Sumaya Arendse, as duly authorised representative of NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd ("**NCC**"), hereby confirm my independence (as well as that of NCC) as an auditor and declare that neither I nor NCC have any interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in any proposed activity, application or appeal in respect of which Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd has appointed NCC as Environmental Control Officer ("**ECO**"), other than fair remuneration for work performed, specifically in connection with the Environmental Authorisations and Environmental Management Programmes. I further declare that I am confident in the results of the audit undertaken and the findings as a result of it – as are described in this report.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Arendse', is written over a horizontal line.

Sumaya Arendse

5 December 2024

Environmental Control Officer

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER AND CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE

All inspections conducted, as well as reports and recommendations provided by NCC are purely advisory. They are primarily intended for the purpose of assisting clients in loss control, risk management as well as health, safety, and environmental procedures.

Observations and recommendations are the result of practices and conditions observed and information made available to us in various forms at the time of our visit. They do not purport to refer to or guarantee compliance with local or government regulations which may be applicable to such practices and conditions. This report should not be considered a definitive listing of all existing risks nor an absolute solution to all indicated risks, or hazards present from time to time in the Client Organisation. The report should always be considered in its entirety; individual sentences, paragraphs or sections of the report should not be used in isolation.

This report should not be reproduced except in its entirety, including this liability disclaimer or contents reproduced or disclosed to any third party without the prior written approval of NCC.

NCC assumes no responsibility for any losses incurred as a result of the implementation, management, and operation of recommended health, safety and environmental systems, processes and procedures.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

REPORT TITLE	Environmental Audit Report
PROJECT	132Kv Distribution Powerline and Substation
LOCATION	Western Cape Province
EA HOLDER	Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd
ECO	NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
REVISION	00
DATE	05/12/2024

Revision	Date	Description
Rev 00	02/12/2024	First Draft - Internal
Rev 01		Final - Authority submission

REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

Name	Organisation	Issued	Format
Ashleigh Von Der Heyden	Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd	5 December 2024	Electronic
Ryan Collins	Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd	5 December 2024	Electronic
Maggie Logan	Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd	5 December 2024	Electronic
TBC	DFFE		Electronic

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	7
1 INTRODUCTION	8
1.1 Project Background	8
1.2 Legal Framework	8
1.3 Environmental Audit Report Requirements	9
1.4 Scope, Purpose And Objective Of The Audit	10
1.5 Assumptions, Limitations And Gaps In Knowledge	10
1.6 Audit Methodology	11
2 AUDITOR BACKGROUND	12
3 RECORD OF COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT FINDINGS	13
3.1 Audit Tables and Compliance Ratings	13
4 AUDIT SUMMARY	14
4.1 Compliance with the conditions of the EA's	14
4.2 Compliance with the EMPRs	24
4.3 Rehabilitation Activities	25
5 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD	27
6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	31
7 APPENDICES	33
APPENDIX A1	34
APPENDIX A2	36
APPENDIX B	39
APPENDIX C	41

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Completed Brandvalley Substation	27
Figure 2: Rehabilitation on the 132Kv OHPL	27
Figure 3: Stone pitching	28
Figure 4: Stormwater diversion berm	28
Figure 5: Rehabilitation at Bon Espirange Substation	29
Figure 6: Rehabilitated tower foundation	29
Figure 7: Rehabilitated turning circle.....	30

ABBREVIATIONS

CA	Competent Authority
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
ESCO	Environmental Site Compliance Officer
kV	Kilovolt
MVA	Megavolt Amperes
MW	Megawatt
NCC	NCC Environmental Services
NCR	Non-Compliance Report
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
NWA	National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998)
OHPL	Overhead Power Line
SDC	Safe Disposal Certificate
SDS	Safety Data Sheet
SHE	Safety, Health and Environment
SS	Substation
TBC	To Be Confirmed
WEF	Wind Energy Facility

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Brandvalley Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd has been granted Environmental Authorisation (“**EA**”), dated 23 November 2016, by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environmental (“**DFFE**”) (EA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/900) to construct a Wind Energy Facility (“**WEF**”) north of the town of Matjiesfontein within the Karoo Hoogland, Witzenberg and Lainsburg Local Municipalities in the Western Cape and Northern Cape Province. Subsequent amendments thereto were authorised by the DFFE dated 14 February 2019, 11 October 2021, 23 August 2022 and 25 May 2023.

In addition, the DFFE granted EA for the construction of a 123KV distribution powerline and substation for the abovementioned Wind Energy Facility. The Brandvalley Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd was issued with an EA, by the DFFE, on 23 November 2016, with subsequent amendments thereto dated 18 October 2021 and 25 July 2022.

An EA was also issued for the construction of the Bon Espirange to Komsberg 132KV powerline (EA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471), dated 19 April 2022. Approved Environmental Management Programmes (“**EMPr’s**”) also form part of the approved environmental authorisations for this development.

1.2 Legal Framework

In terms of section 24N of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (“**NEMA**”) the holder of an environmental authorisation *“must manage all environmental impacts in accordance with his or her approved environmental management programme” and “monitor and audit compliance with the requirements of the environmental management programme”*.

Regulation 34 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations (as amended) further states that the holder of an environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the EA and EMPr, and where applicable the closure plan, remain valid —

- a) *Ensure that the compliance with the conditions of the EA and the EMPr, and where applicable the closure plan, is audited; and*
- b) *Submit an environmental audit report to the relevant competent authority.*

The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 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.

1.3 Environmental Audit Report Requirements

Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) contains the required contents of an Environmental Audit Report. The checklist below serves as a summary of how these requirements were incorporated into this Environmental Audit Report.

Requirement	Report Reference	Section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental audit report must provide for recommendations regarding the need to amend the EMPr and the closure plan in the case of a closure activity. 	Section 6	
2. The objective of the environmental audit report is to- (a) report on- (i) the level of compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr and the closure plan in the case of a closure activity; and (ii) the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr and closure plan achieve the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr and closure plan;	Section 3 and Section 6	
2(b) identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity;	Section 6	
2(c) evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr, and the closure plan in the case of a closure activity;	Section 6	
2(d) identify shortcomings in the EMPr, and the closure plan in the case of a closure activity; and	Section 6	
(e) identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr, and the closure plan in the case of a closure activity.	Section 6	
(1) An environmental audit report prepared in terms of these Regulations must contain-		
(a) Details of – (i) The independent person who prepared the environmental audit report; and (ii) The expertise of independent person that compiled the environmental audit report.	Section 2	
(b) A declaration that the independent auditor is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority.	Page 2 of this report.	
(c) An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the environmental audit report was prepared.	Section 1.4	
(d) A description of the methodology adopted in preparing the environmental audit report.	Section 1.6	
(e) An indication of the ability of the EMPr, and where applicable the closure plan to – (i) Sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity on an on-going basis; (ii) Sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the closure of the facility; and (iii) Ensure compliance with the provisions of environmental authorisation, EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan.	Section 6	
(f) A description of any assumptions made, and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge	Section 1.5	
(g) A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the environmental audit report.	Section 1.6	
(h) A summary and copies of any comments that were received during any consultation process.	Section 4 and 7	
(i) Any other information requested by the competent authority.	Not applicable	

1.4 Scope, Purpose And Objective Of The Audit

The main objective of the audit was to respond to the need for the compliance audit, as per the regulatory requirement detailed above. Specifically for the Overhead Powerlines and substations associated with the Brandvalley Wind Energy Facility.

In addition, this audit sets out to report whether the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr were achieved, whether any new impacts or risks were identified in relation to the project and whether the EMPr adequately responds to known impacts.

The audit and this report relate only to the conditions of approval and related EMPr for the following approval:

Document Title	Reference Number	Date of Issue
The proposed construction of a 132KV distribution powerline and substation for the proposed Brandvalley Wind Energy Facility in the Western Cape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM2 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/MP2 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 November 2016 18 October 2021 25 July 2022 (Approval letter of the Final EMPr and the final layout) 9 January 2023
The proposed construction of the Bon Espirange to Komsberg 132KV powerline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 April 2022

1.5 Assumptions, Limitations And Gaps In Knowledge

The assumption is made that all information received from Brandvalley Wind Farm (Pty) Ltd, their representatives and the Environmental Site Compliance Officer ("**ESCO**") on which this audit report is based, is accurate and correct.

No public consultation was undertaken as part of this external audit. In the opinion of the auditor, this was not required for the purposes of conducting the audit.

The holder of the EA will distribute this report to the DEFF, in line with the obligation of Regulation 34.

The auditor had access to all the information necessary to compile this audit report. There are no gaps in knowledge that would suggest any level of uncertainty in the findings of the auditor.

Note that NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd are indemnified against any claim for damages that may result from this report and its recommendations.

1.6 Audit Methodology

The following methodology was employed for this compliance audit:

1.6.1 Pre-Audit Tasks

Review of the approvals / documents relevant to the proposed development, namely:

- EA (12 June 2014) and amendments, issued by the DFFE;
- Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) approved by DFFE;
- Independent ECO audit reports prepared to date;
- Preparation to inform the auditor's enquiries during the on-site inspection.

1.6.2 Onsite Audit

The site was visited on 27 November 2024. The site walkabout served to give the auditor an understanding of the environmental setting and the specific aspects of the proposed development, especially as it relates to the relevant approvals. All key components of the facility and site were inspected, and interviews were held with key parties in relation to compliance aspects.

1.6.3 Reporting

Compilation of the audit report based on the information obtained during the audit inspection and any subsequent follow up liaison with the representative of the holder of the EAs as well as the ESCO. The final report will be issued to the client (electronically).

The client remains responsible for submission of the report to the authorities, as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations.

2 AUDITOR BACKGROUND

NCC is a multi-disciplinary environmental consulting company based in South Africa which adopts a 'values driven' approach with a common purpose to conserve and create sustainable environments that enable people, planet and business to thrive. We are a trusted partner to major engineering and construction firms, mines, parastatals, film, sports and event production companies, municipalities, provincial and national government, and conservation organisations. Drawing on our years of experience on a wide range of projects, NCC works with our clients to develop, implement, and monitor customised services that add real value.

The auditor, Sumaya Arendse, is a senior environmental manager with more than 10 years' experience currently employed with NCC. Sumaya has experience in a number of environmental fields including environmental compliance monitoring and auditing, due diligence assessment, environmental impact and risk assessment, environmental management systems (ISO 14001), and compilation of environmental management plans/programmes.

Table 1: Auditor Details

Company	NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
Auditor	Sumaya Arendse
Tel	+27 21 702 2884
Mobile	+27 82 334 8182
Email	sumayaa@ncc-group.co.za
Address	26 Bell Close, Westlake Business Park Westlake, 7945
Affiliation	International Association of Impact Assessment South Africa (IAIAsa) Candidate EAP Number 2024/8811
Qualifications	MSc
Expertise	A detailed CV can be provided on request

3 RECORD OF COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT FINDINGS

3.1 Audit Tables and Compliance Ratings

The audit table captures observations and recommendations made in relation to the conditions stipulated in the Environmental Authorisations. It provides the reader with more detailed information in terms of what the stipulated requirements are in relation to the organisation's assessed current compliance status, according to the observations recorded by the auditor.

Ratings are calculated based on a scoring system whereby each auditable condition is provided with a score as highlighted in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Compliance Rating and Scoring

Status	Compliance Rating		Scoring	Description
	Abbreviation	Symbol		
<i>Compliant</i>	C	✓✓	2	<i>No improvements required</i>
<i>Partially-Compliant</i>	PC	✓	1	<i>Minor improvements required</i>
<i>Non-Compliant</i>	NC	x	0	<i>Major improvements required</i>
<i>Not Applicable / Not Audited</i>	NA	-	-	<i>No improvements required and / or the condition is either not, not yet or no longer relevant at the time of the audit</i>
<i>Informative</i>	info	-	-	<i>These relate to informative elements that provide either useful information or are descriptive in the explanation and understanding of statements or concepts in the audit criteria</i>

Each condition has been ascribed a colour-coded status indicator of Compliant (green), Partially Compliant (orange), non-compliant (red), Not Auditable/Audited (grey) and Informative (blank/white) to assist the reader in determining aspects that require attention to improve on compliance achieved, if and where applicable. No compliance scoring is attributed any of the audit criteria information pertaining to the latter two audit status symbols, namely 'NA' and 'info' as they were either not auditable and/or were not applicable/relevant at the time the audit was undertaken. In other words, they are excluded from the overall compliance rating calculations.

An overall compliance rating is calculated as a percentage to provide the reader with an overview of compliance to the relevant audit criteria however each condition should be considered on its own merits as the ratings do not necessarily portray the severity or impact of the reported finding relating to a condition.

4 AUDIT SUMMARY

In terms of the findings and results of this close out audit for the OHPLs and substation, the project achieved an overall **100%** compliance rating with the conditions of the EAs and EMPrs.

Table 3: Overall compliance rating

Brandvalley OHPLs, Northern and Western Cape Province							
No.	Audit criteria	Compliant (C)	Partially-Compliant (PC)	Non-Compliant (NC)	Not Applicable / Not Audited (NA)	Normative (info)	
1	132 kV Powerline and Substation EA (Reference 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591)	33	0	0	1	14	(100%)
2	132 kV Powerline and Substation EA (Reference 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM2)	3	0	0	0	0	(100%)
3	132 kV Powerline and Substation EA (Reference 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM3)	1	0	0	0	0	(100%)
3	Bon Espirange to Komsberg 132Kv Powerline EA (Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)	31	0	0	1	18	(100%)
Overall total no. conditions		67	0	0	2	32	101
Audited conditions		67	0	0	-	-	134 (Potential max score)
Scoring symbol		✓✓	✓	x	-	-	
Total score		134	0	0	-	-	134 (Achieved score)
Overall Compliance Rating Calculation (%)		[[(134+0+0)] / 134] x100					100%

4.1 Compliance with the conditions of the EA's

The audit tables below capture observations made in relation to the conditions stipulated in the EAs for the OHPLs and Substation. It provides the reader with more detailed information in terms of what the stipulated requirements are in relation to the EA and the assessed current compliance status, according to the observations recorded by the auditor.

No.	THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE PROPOSED BRANDVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591) (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM2) (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/MP2)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
Date of Authorisation 23 November 2016							
SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION							
1	The 132kV distribution powerline and substation for the proposed Brandvalley Wind Energy Facility as described above is hereby approved.					-	
2	Construction of this project <i>may</i> only commence once the 140 MW Brandvalley Wind Energy Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/900), has commenced with the construction phase.	✓✓					28 November 2022, notice of commencement submitted to DFFE.
3	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.					-	
4	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.					-	
5	The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.	✓✓					
6	Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this environmental authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be affected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.	✓✓					Amendment to the EA was granted for a change in the contact details of the holder of the EA and well as for an amendment of the validity period of the EA (amendment dated: 18 October 2021). The Dept evaluated the Final EMPr and found the EMPr complies with the requirements of the conditions of the EA and the Final EMPr dated 22 June 2022, and the final layout map appended to the Final EMPr was approved and the EMPr must be read in conjunction with the conditions of the EA dated 23 November 2016. A further amendment was approved for the change in contact details of the holder of the authorisation, dated 9 January 2023.
7	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.					-	No change in ownerships rights were required.
8	This activity must commence within a period of five (05) years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.	✓✓					The construction of the activity commenced within the 5-year period from date of issue of the environmental authorisation.
9	Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.	✓✓					Construction of the Overhead powerlines and substation has been completed.
10	Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.	✓✓					Correctly implemented
NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORISATION AND RIGHT TO APPEAL							
11	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.	✓✓					Correctly implemented. The auditor verified emails notifications sent to I&Aps notifying all registered I&Aps of the Environmental Authorisation that was issued.
12	The notification referred to must - 12.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;	✓✓					Correctly implemented, the notice contained the requirements as stipulated.
12.2	inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;						
12.3	advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and						
12.4	give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.						
13	The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice - 13.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;						
13.2	informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and						
13.3	drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014.						
COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY							
14	The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.	✓✓					No appeals were received, and the authorised activities commenced after the completion of the appeal notice period.

No.	THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE PROPOSED BRANDVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591) (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM2) (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/MP2)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY							
15	A copy of the final development layout map must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the applicant must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:	✓✓					The Final EMPr was submitted to the Dept, and written approval was granted (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/MP2) The final layout map appended to the Final EMPr and the EMPr must be read in conjunction with the conditions of the EA dated 23 November 2016.
15.1	Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;						
15.2	Location of bird flappers to be installed;						
15.3	Internal roads indicating width;						
15.4	Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables;						
15.5	All sensitive features e.g. heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels that will be affected by the facility and associated infrastructure;						
15.6	All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads; and,						
15.7	All 'no-go" and buffer areas.						
16	The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR is not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting, and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the applicant must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.	✓✓					The Department evaluated the final EMPr dated 22 June 2022 and found that the EMPr complies with the requirements of the conditions of the EA. The final EMPr dated 22 June 2022, and the final layout appended under appendix B of the EMPr was approved, in correspondence received from the Department dated 25 July 2022.
17	The EMPr is amendable and 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.	✓✓					No amendments to the EMPr were required throughout the construction phase of the OHPLs and substation.
18	Changes to the EMPr, which are environmentally defendable, shall be submitted to this Department for acceptance before such changes could be effected.						
19	The Department reserves the right to amend the EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.						
20	The provisions of the approved EMPr including recommendations and mitigation measures in the BAR and specialist studies shall be an extension of the conditions of this EA and therefore noncompliance with them would constitute noncompliance with the EA.						
21	The EM Pr amendment must include the following: 21.1. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and specialist studies.						
21.2	The location and specific mitigation measures including the locations for the inclusion of bird flappers in consultation with the avifaunal specialist.						
21.3	All mitigation measures as listed in the specialist reports must be included in the EMPr and implemented.						
21.4	The requirements and conditions of this authorisation.						
21.5	The final site layout map.						
FREQUENCY AND PROCESS OF UPDATING THE EMPr							
22	The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 29 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EM Pr.					-	Noted
23	The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.					-	
24	The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.					-	
25	In assessing whether to grant approval of an EM Pr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.982. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.					-	
26	The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The holder must notify the Department of its intention to amend the EMPr at least 60 days prior to submitting such amendments to the EMPr to the Department for approval. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R. 982.					-	
MONITORING							
27	The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation. are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.	✓✓					Nick Gates from NCC environmental services was appointed as ECO and subsequently Sumaya Arendse also from NCC environmental services has been appointed as ECO.
27.1	The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.	✓✓					Nick Gates was appointed before the commencement of construction.
27.2	Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the <i>Director: Compliance Monitoring</i> of the Department.	✓✓					Correctly implemented and verified by appointment letter and correspondence sent to the Department dated 29 April 2024.

No.	THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE PROPOSED BRANDVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591) (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM2) (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/MP2)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
27.3	The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.	✓✓					Summarised in each monthly report and facilitated by the onsite ESCO.
27.4	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.					-	Noted
RECORDING AND REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT							
28	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 <i>Director: Compliance Monitoring</i> of the Department.	✓✓					All monthly compliance monitoring reports were submitted to the DFFE, throughout the duration of the construction phase. Acknowledgement of receipt via email from the DFFE were verified.
29	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 <i>Director: Compliance Monitoring</i> of the Department.	✓✓					The holder is implementing this correctly.
30	The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982.	✓✓					Correctly implemented
31	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.	✓✓					This environmental audit report fulfils the requirement to submit an environmental audit report after construction and it includes the rehabilitation activities.
32	The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EJA Regulations, 2014 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 EM Pr.	✓✓					Correctly implemented
33	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.	✓✓					All records relating to monitoring and auditing are kept on site by the ESCO.
NOTIFICATION TO AUTHORITIES							
34	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.	✓✓					The holder of the authorisation provided written communication to the DFFE as a notice of commencement. Correspondence dated 25 November 2022 was verified as proof of compliance.
OPERATION OF THE ACTIVITY							
35	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.					-	Although the construction of the OHPLs and substation is complete, the operational phase is linked to the Wind Energy Facility, which at this stage has only been energised. The OHPLs and substation will be ceded to ESKOM and the holder of the authorisation has indicated that the notification to DFFE will be done prior to the cede.
SITE CLOSURE AND DECOMMISSIONING							
36	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.					-	Noted
SPECIFIC CONDITIONS							
37	Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where the powerline crosses avifaunal corridors. The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged.	✓✓					Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers and diverters were installed where the powerline crosses avifaunal corridors. Visual observation of this installed was confirmed by the auditor.
38	Liaison with landowners/farm managers must be done prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan agricultural activities.	✓✓					This formed part of the EIA process and was concluded before commencement of construction.
39	A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of any indigenous protected and endangered plant and animal species if required.	✓✓					A permit to pluck protected and unprotected flora is in place (Reference: CN37-28-27814). Expiry date: 4 February 2025.
40	Ablution facilities must be placed outside of the 1:100-year flood line of a watercourse.	✓✓					Correctly implemented
41	No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants occurring within a ten (10) kilometre radius of the development site must be utilised.	✓✓					No exotic plants were used for rehabilitation purposes as confirmed by the ESCO.
42	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.	✓✓					Vegetation clearing was kept to a minimum to accommodate only the construction of structures and access.
43	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.	✓✓					Stone pitching and stormwater diversion berms have been constructed to minimize erosion, protect tower footings and stays, and to direct water run-off away from the tower foundation. Furthermore, areas prone to erosion were suitably protected through control measures of infilling with spoil material, constructing v-drains to divert

No.	THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE PROPOSED BRANDVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591) (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM2) (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/MP2)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
							water run-off and by constructing small, compacted erosion berms using excess spoil material. All the excess spoil material was removed from site
44	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.	✓✓					As per the ECO reports, the construction of the OHPLs and substation formed part of the broader development of the WEF and as such all waste not disposed of was mostly reused and recycled where appropriate.
45	Any solid waste, which will not be recycled, must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008). No waste material may be left on site after construction.	✓✓					The ESCO has kept a waste register, and copies of all waste safe disposal slips of waste safely disposed of at a registered landfill site.
46	If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during construction, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, must be contacted to inspect the findings.	✓✓					In the event of any unknown artefacts being uncovered on site, the ESCO and Project Manager were informed immediately who must then instruct work to be stopped in the immediate area and then report the discovery/finding to the ECO, a heritage specialist, and the relevant heritage authority to confirm or rule out any significant. In the May 2024 ECO Report, a possible heritage structure, row of stones, was noted at the HV OHPL BRARIE1 tower 24 and was barricaded. The structure is approximately 4m x 1m in size. A heritage specialist was consulted and advised that the feature be considered as a possible human burial. On her recommendation no further action is required on condition that no impact to the feature takes place. The feature does not impact any future work at this location.
47	The recommendations of the EAP in the BAR dated August 2016 and the specialist studies attached 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.					-	
GENERAL							
48	A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying-						Noted
48.1	at the site of the authorised activity;					-	
48.2	to anyone on request; and						
48.3	where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.						
49	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.					-	
		Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	
Summary calculation							
33	0	0	1	14	48 (total no. of conditions)		
✓✓	✓	x	-	-	33 (audited) 15 (NA)		
33	0	0			Audit Score (%) = [(33x2) +(0x0) +(0x0)] / (33x2) x100		
EA Compliance						100%	

No.	AMENDMENT OF THE EA ISSUED ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 132Kv DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPROVED BRANDVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM2)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
Date of Authorisation: 18 October 2021							
SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION							
1	Amendment to the contact details of the holder of the EA from Mr Khangelani Mbanjwa to Dr Kilian Hagerman	✓✓					
2	Amendment to extend the validity period of the EA	✓✓					
NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORISATION AND RIGHT TO APPEAL							
	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 and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the EA, of the Departments as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.	✓✓					
		Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable /	Info	
Summary calculation							
3		0	0	0	0		3 (total no. of conditions)
✓✓		✓	x	-	-		3 (audited) 0 (NA)
3		0	0				Audit Score (%) = [(3x2) + (0x0) + (0x0)] / (3x2) x100
EA Compliance							100%

No.	AMENDMENT OF THE EA ISSUED ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 132Kv DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPROVED BRANDVALLEY WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM3)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
Date of Authorisation: 9 January 2023							
SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION							
1	Amendment to the contact details of the holder of the EA from Dr Kilian Hagerman to Mr Matteo Brambilla	✓✓					
NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORISATION AND RIGHT TO APPEAL							
	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 and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the EA, of the Departments as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.	✓✓					
		Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable /	Info	
Summary calculation							
3		0	0	0	0		3 (total no. of conditions)
✓✓		✓	x	-	-		80 (audited) 19 (NA)
3		0	0				Audit Score (%) = [(3x2) + (0x0) + (0x0)] / (3x2) x100
EA Compliance							100%

No.	THE CONSTRUCTION OF BON ESPIRANGE TO KOMSBERG 132Kv POWERLINE NEAR MATJIESFONTEIN, WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
Date of Authorisation 19 April 2022							
SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION							
1	The Bon Espirange to Komsberg 132kV distribution powerline near Matjiesfontein, Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces, is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above. (in the EA document).					-	
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.	✓✓					The EA forms part of contractual documentation with contractors and subcontractors.
4	The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.	✓✓					Correctly implemented.
5	Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this environmental authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be affected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.					-	No changes or deviations required.
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.					-	Not required.
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.	✓✓					Notice of commencement was issued to the DFFE in correspondence dated 30 November 2022.
8	Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.	✓✓					Construction of the OHPLs and substation is completed as of November 2024.
9	Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.	✓✓					Correctly implemented.
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.	✓✓					Correctly implemented. The auditor verified emails notifications sent to I&Aps notifying all registered I&Aps of the Environmental Authorisation that was issued.
11	The notification referred to must -	✓✓					Correctly implemented, the notice contained the requirements as stipulated.
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. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.	✓✓					No appeals were received.
MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY							
13	The site layout plans as attached as Appendix G of the BAR dated February 2022 is approved.	✓✓					Correctly implemented.
14	The Generic EMPRs submitted as part of the BAR dated February 2022 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.	✓✓					Correctly implemented.
15	The Generic EMPRs 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.	✓✓					Correctly implemented.
16	Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.					-	Noted
17	The Department reserves the right to amend the EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.					-	Noted
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 EM Pr.					-	There was no need for the EMPr to be updated through the construction phase of the project.
19	The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.					-	Noted
20	The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.					-	Noted

No.	THE CONSTRUCTION OF BON ESPIRANGE TO KOMSBERG 132Kv POWERLINE NEAR MATJIESFONTEIN, WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
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 GN R.982. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.					-	Noted
22	The holder of the authorisation may 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, 2024, 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 30 days.					-	Noted
MONITORING							
23	The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.	✓✓					Nick Gates from NCC environmental services was appointed as ECO (30 November 2022) and subsequently Sumaya Arendse also from NCC environmental services has been appointed as ECO (April 2024)
23.1	The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.	✓✓					Nick Gates was appointed before the commencement of construction.
23.2	Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the <i>Director: Compliance Monitoring</i> of the Department.	✓✓					Correctly implemented and verified by appointment letter and correspondence sent to the Department dated 29 April 2024.
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.	✓✓					Summarised in each monthly report and facilitated by the onsite ESCO.
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.	✓✓					The ECO will remain employed until all rehabilitation measures are completed.
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 <i>Director: Compliance Monitoring</i> of the Department.	✓✓					All monthly compliance monitoring reports were submitted to the DFFE, throughout the duration of the construction phase. Acknowledgement of receipt via email from the DFFE were verified.
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 <i>Director: Compliance Monitoring</i> of the Department.	✓✓					Correctly implemented
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 GN R. 982.	✓✓					Correctly implemented
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.	✓✓					This environmental audit report fulfils the requirement to submit an environmental audit report after construction and it includes the rehabilitation activities.
28	The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EJA Regulations, 2014 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 EM Pr.	✓✓					Correctly implemented
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.	✓✓					All records relating to monitoring and auditing are kept on site by the ESCO.
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.	✓✓					The holder of the authorisation provided written communication to the DFFE as a notice of commencement. Correspondence dated 30 November 2022 was verified as proof of compliance.
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.					-	Although the construction of the OHPLs and substation is complete, the operational phase is linked to the Wind Energy Facility, which at this stage only been energised. The OHPLs and substation will be ceded to ESKOM and the holder of the authorisation has indicated that the notification to DFFE will be done prior to the cede.
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.					-	Noted
SPECIFIC CONDITIONS							
33	No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.	✓✓					OHPL General Authorisation Licence No: GA 27/2/2/E122/2/3 and

No.	THE CONSTRUCTION OF BON ESPIRANGE TO KOMSBERG 132Kv POWERLINE NEAR MATJIESFONTEIN, WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
							Water Use Licence No: WUL 01/E22A/CICIACI/12409 in place.
34	Should any buried archaeological resources or burial be uncovered during the course of development activities, work must cease in the vicinity of these finds. The relevant heritage authority (the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in the Northern Cape and Heritage Western Cape (HWC) in the Western Cape) must be contacted immediately in order to determine an appropriate way forward.					-	Noted
35	Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where the powerline crosses avifaunal corridors, as recommended by the Ecological specialist. 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.	✓✓					Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers and diverters were installed where the powerline crosses avifaunal corridors. Visual observation of this installed was confirmed by the auditor.
36	The authorised alignment must be inspected by an avifaunal specialist by means of a 'walk-through' inspection to identify risky areas where sections of the line should be marked with Bird Flight Diverters, once the pole positions have been finalised.	✓✓					An avifauna specialist, Birds and Bats Unlimited; bat specialist, Animalia Consultants; and ecologist, Trusted Partners was commissioned to complete the required pre-construction walk through.
37	A botanist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough of the alignment to identify sensitive plant species and assist in identifying the areas that require protection.	✓✓					S&R was carried out for the 132kV OHPL from 6th to 7th July 2023. S&R for the 33kV OHPL was completed in August 2023.
38	A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of any indigenous protected and endangered plant and animal species and a copy of such permit/s must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.	✓✓					A permit to pluck protected and unprotected flora is in place (Reference: CN37-28-2711). Expiry date: 4 February 2025.
39	No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.	✓✓					No exotic plants were used for rehabilitation purposes as confirmed by the ESCO.
40	Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures as specified in the BAR dated February 2021 must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.	✓✓					Vegetation clearing was kept to a minimum to accommodate only the construction of structures and access.
41	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.	✓✓					Stone pitching and stormwater diversion berms have been constructed to minimize erosion, protect tower footings and stays, and to direct water run-off away from the tower foundation. Furthermore, areas prone to erosion were suitably protected through control measures of infilling with spoil material, constructing v-drains to divert water run-off and by constructing small, compacted erosion berms using excess spoil material. All the excess spoil material was removed from site.
42	An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste, which will not be recycled, must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008). No waste material may be left on site after construction.	✓✓					As per the ECO reports, the construction of the OHPLs and substation formed part of the broader development of the WEF and as such all waste not disposed of was mostly reused and recycled where appropriate. The ESCO has kept a waste register, and copies of all waste safe disposal slips of waste safely disposed of at a registered landfill site.
GENERAL							
43	A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying-					-	Noted
43.1	at the site of the authorised activity;					-	
43.2	to anyone on request; and					-	
43.3	where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.					-	
44	National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.					-	

No.	THE CONSTRUCTION OF BON ESPIRANGE TO KOMSBERG 132Kv POWERLINE NEAR MATJIESFONTEIN, WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
		Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable /	Info	
Summary calculation							
31	0	0	1	18	50 (total no. of conditions)		
✓✓	✓	x	-	-	31(audited) 19(NA)		
31	0	0			Audit Score (%) = [(31x2) +(0x0) +(0x0)] / (31x2) x100		
EA Compliance							100%

4.2 Compliance with the EMPRs

It should be noted that the construction of the Brandvalley OHPL's and Substation was combined with the construction activities on the Brandvalley WEF. As such, there is a large overlap in the audit findings of these project components. Construction and rehabilitation activities were concluded in November 2024. This coincided with the date of this audit inspection. Compliance of the construction activities with the specifications of the EMPr could therefore not be evaluated on site. The ECO audit reports were therefore used to assess compliance in this regard. Compliance with conditions of the EA were discussed in the above-mentioned compliance tables and will not be repeated here, although most of these specifications are also contained in the EMPrs.

The monthly ECO audit reports for the period *April 2023 – October 2024*, were carefully scrutinised and the following observations are made in relation to compliance with the EMPr during the construction phase of the Brandvalley OHPLs and Substation:

- Method Statements were produced and approved as required.
- Site access and establishment of contractor camps were in accordance with approved plans and EMPr conditions.
- The site camp was establishment on the same footprint as an existing current site camp. No additional site clearing was required outside of the established area.
- Roads and other development footprints were demarcated prior to works commencing to avoid extension beyond the approved footprint. In some instances, trucks veered outside the boundaries of the approved roadways and the ESCO approved turning circles along the access road and required rehabilitation.
- All areas outside the site camps, roads and works areas were treated as no-go areas. This included farm roads on site that were not used for the project.
- An off-site borehole provided the water required for construction. Records of water usage was kept and made available to via the ECO reports.
- Site camps were kept neat and well maintained throughout the construction phase. Formalised bund areas were created for fuel, hazardous / flammable substances and hazardous waste storage areas. These were successful to prevent impacts on soil and groundwater associated with the storage of such substances on site.
- During the course of the construction phase, there were incidents where equipment / vehicles were used / parked without the required drip tray being in place to capture potential leaks of fuel /

hazardous substances. In these instances, it was brought to the attention of the main Contractor by the ESCO for immediate rectification.

- Small incidental and more significant spills and leaks of hydrocarbons received prompt reaction and was closed-out to the satisfaction of the ESCO and ECO.
- As with all construction sites, litter management was required on an ongoing basis. The presence of litter around the Brandvalley Substation were mentioned from time to time. Litter control was never reported to be out of control. Accumulation of waste was occasionally recorded, but other than poor aesthetics, this never resulted in environmental impact such as pollution and was relatively quickly resolved. The ESCO implemented litter runs between the various contractors at the end of every shift. Each contractor had a turn to do the daily litter sweep after their shift ended.
- Avifaunal monitoring was ongoing and the impact on faunal species due to construction were effectively prevented on site.
- The topsoil stripped from roads are windrowed on the edges of the roads to allow for easy replacement during rehabilitation activities.

4.3 Rehabilitation Activities

During the construction phase, two-track access roads, turning circles and foundations were required for the construction of the 132kV distribution line. The latter also required creating access routes and installing drainage pipes where the line traverse watercourses as per the OHPL General Authorization and Water Use Licence conditions. Therefore, the disturbed environment on the 132kV distribution line required rehabilitation upon completion of construction activities. The rehabilitation phase of the distribution line has considered all relevant environmental factors of prevention and mitigation that emanated from the environmental impacts of construction. All rehabilitation activities have been completed as per the approved projects' Rehabilitation Management Plan which will require monitoring and maintenance during the Operation Phase by Eskom's Environmental Resource. The OHPL and associated infrastructure will be ceded to ESKOM.

The project made use of existing roads and new access roads were created where necessary. The existing roads, sections of access roads, turning circles, and tower footprints that will not be required for operational phase were rehabilitated by ripping the compacted soil and reinstating the topsoil by spreading it on disturbed and ripped areas to allow for regrowth.

Stone pitching and stormwater diversion berms have been constructed to minimize erosion, protect tower footings and stays, and to direct water run-off away from the tower foundation. Furthermore, areas prone to erosion were suitably protected through control measures of infilling with spoil material, constructing v-

drains to divert water run-off and by constructing small, compacted erosion berms using excess spoil material. All the excess spoil material was removed from site.

The plant material that was removed during the construction phase was mixed with the topsoil to retain organic matter. Therefore, revegetation was not necessary. In addition, as rehabilitation ran concurrently with construction activities, regrowth can already be noted in previously disturbed areas.

The efficacy of rehabilitation and rate of re-establishment of vegetation in the rehabilitated areas must be monitored by the operational phase Environmental Resource.

In general, it is noted from the ECO audit reports that the environment and the environmental obligations received due care by the holder of the EA and their appointed Contractors during the construction phase. While incidents did occur, it was not as a result of deficiencies of the EMPr, and the necessary protocols were in place to ensure that prompt and effective rectification action was taken to prevent significant environmental impact. Environmental management on site was of a high standard and commendable. While construction has concluded, it is worth noting that the specifications of the EMPr was adequate to avoid, limit or address environmental impacts for this particular development.

5 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



Figure 1: Completed Brandvalley Substation



Figure 2: Rehabilitation on the 132Kv OHPL



Figure 3: Stone pitching



Figure 4: Stormwater diversion berm



Figure 5: Rehabilitation at Bon Espirange Substation



Figure 6: Rehabilitated tower foundation



Figure 7: Rehabilitated turning circle

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This audit was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 34 of the amended 2014 EIA Regulations. This audit report meets the regulatory content requirements.

The following conclusions are drawn subsequent to the audit inspection and consideration of compliance with conditions of approval and the EMPr:

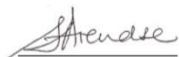
- The overall impression was one of a very well-run site, with a strong commitment to environmental compliance and best practice.
- Levels of compliance with the EAs and EMPrs were high for the duration of the construction phase and the construction EMPr was adequate to prevent or limit detrimental impacts on the environment.
- Only one condition could not be audited. This relates to the Holder of the EA to submit a notification to the Department 14 days prior to the operational phase commencing. This is an administrative compliance matter. Note that this did not result in any environmental impact and is purely administrative in nature and must be complied with before the cede of the OPHLs and substation to ESKOM.
- Rehabilitation actions were precisely executed with no further rehabilitation actions being recommended at this time. Natural vegetation should be allowed to re-establish.
- The audit did not identify any impacts or risks associated with the facility that were not considered in the EIA.
- No review of the operational phase EMPr was conducted at this time, however this must be assessed on an ongoing basis by the operational Environmental Resource to ensure that the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr are continuously upheld.
- Given that the frequency of audits in the operational phase is not detailed in the EAs, the auditor submits that quarterly operational ECO monitoring is sufficient to meet further requirements in terms of Regulations 34 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended.

In light of the observations and findings of this post-construction and rehabilitation audit, the following recommendations are made:

- The efficacy of rehabilitation and rate of re-establishment of vegetation in the rehabilitated areas must be monitored by the operational phase Environmental Resource.

- The operational phase Environmental Resource should continuously assess the operational phase specifications of the EMP to ensure continued adequacy of this plan to prevent or limit detrimental impact on the environment.
- The Holder of the EA must submit this audit report to the Director: Compliance Monitoring at the DFFE within 14 days of receipt of this report.
- In line with Regulation 34(6) of the 2014 EIA Regulations, the Holder of the EA must, within 7 days of the date of submission of the external audit report to the licensing authorities, notify all potential and registered interested and affected parties of the submission of the report, and make the report available immediately to anyone on request, and on a publicly accessible website, where the holder has such a website.

PREPARED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sumaya Arendse', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sumaya Arendse

Environmental Control Officer – NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

M • 082 334 8182

E • sumayaa@ncc-group.co.za

REVIEWED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Gates', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nick Gates

Service Line Manager – NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

M • 073 199 8431

E • nickg@ncc-group.co.za

7 APPENDICES

Appendix A1: Proof of email notification of Commencement (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591)

Appendix A2: Notification of the appointment of the ECO

Appendix B: Proof of email notification of Commencement (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)

Appendix C: No appeals confirmation

APPENDIX A1

Proof of email notification of Commencement

(DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591)



25 November 2022

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Private Bag X447
Pretoria 0001

Attention: Director: Compliance Monitoring

**AUTHORISED 132KV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE
PROPOSED BRANDVALLEY WIND FARM IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE (DFFE
Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591)**

NOTIFICATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd received an Environmental Authorisation ("EA") from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") for the construction of a 132kV distribution powerline and substation for the proposed Brandvalley Wind Farm and associated infrastructure, north of the town of Matjiesfontein within the Western Cape Province (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591) 23 November 2016. The EA was further amended on 18 October 2021 to extend the validity period of the EA and change the contact details of the holder of the EA (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/AM2). The Environmental Management Programme and final layout were approved on 25 July 2022 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591/MP2).

This letter serves to inform the DFFE of the commencement of activities as specified in the EA issued on 23 November 2016 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591), as per the requirements of Condition 34 of the EA. The Holder of the the EA and EMPr plans to commence with all construction activities in due course, and these activities form part of the commencement of the project construction phase.

Page 1 of 3

Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd
14th Floor, Pler Place, Heerengracht St
Foreshore, Cape Town, 8001, South Africa



APPENDIX A2

Notification of appointment of environmental control officer and environmental site compliance officer



**NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER AND/OR
ENVIRONMENTAL SITE COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

This letter serves to inform the Department of the appointment of an Environmental Control Officer ("ECO") and/or Environmental Site Compliance Officer ("ESCO") for the construction of the 132kV distribution powerline and substation, in terms of Condition 27.1 and 27.2 of the EA issued on 23 November 2016 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591). The relevant ECO and ESCO details are as follows:

ECO/ESCO name:	Nick Gates & Janet du Plooy
Company name:	NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
Contact number:	073 199 8431 / 082 770 2629

Please confirm receipt of this notification in writing.

Yours sincerely,



Matteo Brambilla
Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd CEO
Project Manager for Brandvalley Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd
(DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591)

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

29 April 2024

Private Bag X447

Pretoria

0001

Attention: Director: Compliance Monitoring

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER AND/OR ENVIRONMENTAL SITE COMPLIANCE OFFICER

This letter serves to inform the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment ("DFFE") of the change of Environmental Control Officer ("ECO") and/or Environmental Site Compliance Officer ("ESCO") personnel for the construction of the 132kV distribution powerline and substation, in terms of Condition 27.2 of the split Environmental Authorisation ("EA") issued on 02 February 2022 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1591).

The relevant ECO & ESCO details are as follows:

ECO name:	Sumaya Arendse
Company name:	NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
Contact Details:	082 334 8182 sumavaa@ncc-group.co.za
ESCO name:	Janet du Plooy
Company name:	NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
Contact Details:	082 770 2629 janetdp@ncc-group.co.za

+27 21 702 2884
info@ncc-group.co.za

26 Bell Close, Westlake Business Park
Westlake 7945, Cape Town

Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd. | Reg No: 2007/023691/07 | VAT Reg: 4450208915

AL GROWTH FOR PEOPLE, PLANET AND BUSINESS

ncc-group.co.za

APPENDIX B

Proof of email notification of Commencement

(DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)



30 November 2022

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Private Bag X447
Pretoria 0001

Attention: Director: Compliance Monitoring

**AUTHORISED BON ESPIRANGE TO KOMSBERG 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE
FOR THE PROPOSED BRANDVALLEY AND RIETKLOOF WIND FARMS, NEAR
MATJIESFONTEIN IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE (DFFE Ref.:
14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)**

NOTIFICATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd received an Environmental Authorisation ("EA") from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment ("DFFE") on 19 April 2022 for the construction of a 132kV overhead powerline from the existing Bon Espirange substation to the existing Eskom Komsberg substation, near Matjiesfontein within the Western Cape Province (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471). This powerline will evacuate electricity from the authorized Brandvalley and Rietkloof Wind Farms to the National Grid. The Environmental Management Programme and final layout were approved in this EA.

This letter serves to inform the DFFE of the commencement of activities as specified in the EA issued on 19 April 2022 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471), as per the requirements of Condition 30 of the EA. The Holder of the the EA and EMPr plans to commence with all construction activities in due course, and these activities form part of the commencement of the project construction phase.

**NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER AND/OR
ENVIRONMENTAL SITE COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

This letter serves to inform the Department of the appointment of an Environmental Compliance Officer ("ECO") and/or Environmental Site Compliance Officer ("ESCO") for the construction of the 132kV overhead powerline, in terms of Condition 23.1 and 23.2 of the EA issued on 19 April 2022 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471). The relevant ECO and ESCO details are as follows:

Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd
14th Floor, Pler Place, Heerengracht St
Foreshore, Cape Town, 8001, South Africa

Page 1 of 2



APPENDIX C

No appeals confirmation



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471

Enquiries: Realeboga Tlhoale

Telephone: (012) 399 8733 **Email:** rtlhoale@dfpe.gov.za

Jennifer Green
WSP in Africa
The Pavillion, 1st Floor
Cnr Portwood & Beach Road
Waterfront
8001

E-mail: Jennifer.Green@wsp.com

Dear Madam

POSSIBLE APPEALS AGAINST THE GRANTING OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ON 19 APRIL 2022, FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF BON ESPIRANGE TO KOMSBERG 132KV POWERLINE NEAR MATJIESFONTEIN, IN WESTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

I refer to your query dated 05 July 2022 in the abovementioned regard.

It is hereby confirmed that no appeals have been lodged with the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment pertaining to the EA for the project mentioned in the heading hereof.

Yours sincerely



Adv. Mokete Rakgogo
Director: Appeals and Legal Review
Date: 11 July 2022

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK