



# ENVIRONMENTAL CLOSE OUT AUDIT REPORT

132Kv OHPL's and Substation associated with the Rietkloof Wind Energy Facility in 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

Rietkloof Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd

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

## DATED:

November 2024

## PREPARED BY:

NCC Environmental Services


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## 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 worked 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 black 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

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL

**REPORT TITLE** Environmental Close Out Audit Report  
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**EA HOLDER** Rietkloof Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd  
**ECO** NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....		<b>7</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b> .....		<b>8</b>
1.1 Project Background.....		8
1.2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK .....		8
1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT REQUIREMENTS .....		10
1.4 SCOPE, PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE AUDIT .....		11
1.5 ASSUMPTIONS, LIMITATIONS AND GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE .....		11
1.6 AUDIT METHODOLOGY.....		12
<b>2 AUDITOR BACKGROUND</b> .....		<b>13</b>
<b>3 RECORD OF COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT FINDINGS</b> .....		<b>14</b>
3.1 Audit Tables and Compliance Ratings.....		14
<b>4 AUDIT SUMMARY</b> .....		<b>15</b>
4.1 Compliance with the conditions of the EA’s.....		15
4.2 Compliance with the EMPRs.....		25
4.3 Rehabilitation Activities.....		25
<b>5 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD</b> .....		<b>27</b>
<b>6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....		<b>30</b>
<b>7 APPENDICES</b> .....		<b>30</b>

## TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: 132Kv OHPL with Rietkloof Substation .....	27
Figure 2: Completed Rietkloof Substation .....	27
Figure 3: Rehabilitation at Bon Espirange Substation .....	28
Figure 4: Ripping completed at tower foundation (Bon Espirange Substation) .....	28
Figure 5: Rehabilitated Tower Foundation.....	29
Figure 6: Rehabilitated turning circle (photograph courtesy of Mahle Myaka).....	29
Figure 7: Stormwater diversion berm .....	29

## ABBREVIATIONS

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

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

Rietkloof Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd received an Environmental Authorisation (“EA”) from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (“DFFE”) for the construction of the 183MW Rietkloof Wind Farm and associated infrastructure, north of the town of Matjiesfontein within the Laingsburg Local Municipality in the Western Province (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1977/AM1) 16 September 2019. On 23 August 2022 an amendment was done to amend the number of turbines and generation capacity per turbine, the area occupied by each turbine and the hard standing area, the turbine hub height and rotor diameter, the turbine foundation area, the width of the internal roads, construction camp details, and the holder of the EA (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1977/AM4). A condition was also removed from the EA, an administrative error on a turbine number amended, and the Environmental Management Programme and final layout approved in AM4. On 16 September 2022 a corrected EA was issued in terms of Regulation 27(4) of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1977/AM5), to correct the number of turbines described in AM4. A further correction to AM4 was done on 14 October 2022 to correct the description of the location of the construction camp (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1977/AM6).

In addition, Rietkloof 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 Rietkloof Wind Farm and associated infrastructure, north of the town of Matjiesfontein within the Western Cape Province (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590) 23 November 2016. An amendment to the EA was issued on 20 October 2021 extending the validity period of the EA and changing the contact details of the holder of the EA (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM2). The Environmental Management Programme and final layout were approved on 25 July 2022 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/MP2).

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 EI 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 Section Reference
1. 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 4 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 Rietkloof 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 Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the following approval:

Document Title	Reference Number	Date of Issue
The Authorised construction of a 132KV distribution powerline and substation for the proposed Rietkloof Wind Energy Facility in the Western Cape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14/12/16/3/3/1/1590</li> <li>14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM2</li> <li>14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/MP2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 November 2016</li> <li>20 October 2021</li> <li>25 July 2022 (Approval letter of the Final EMPr and the final layout)</li> </ul>
The proposed construction of the Bon Espirange to Komsberg 132KV powerline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14/12/16/3/3/1/2471</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 April 2022.</li> </ul>

#### 1.5 ASSUMPTIONS, LIMITATIONS AND GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

The assumption is made that all information received from Rietkloof 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 close out 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 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

<b>Company</b>	NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
<b>Auditor</b>	Sumaya Arendse
<b>Tel</b>	+27 21 702 2884
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<b>Address</b>	26 Bell Close, Westlake Business Park Westlake, 7945
<b>Affiliation</b>	International Association of Impact Assessment South Africa (IAIASa) Candidate EAP Number 2024/8811
<b>Qualifications</b>	MSc
<b>Expertise</b>	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

Rietkloof 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	132kV Powerline and substation (reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590)	37	0	0	1	15 (100%)	
2	132kV Powerline and substation (reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM2)	3	0	0	-	- (100%)	
3	132kV Powerline and substation (reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM3)	2	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%)	
<b>Overall total no. conditions</b>		73	0	0	2	33 108	
<b>Audited conditions</b>		73	0	0	-	- 146 (Potential max score)	
<b>Scoring symbol</b>		✓✓	✓	x	-	-	
<b>Total score</b>		146	0	0	-	- 146(Achieved score)	
<b>Overall Compliance Rating Calculation (%)</b>		$\{[(146+0+0)] / 146\} \times 100$					<b>100%</b>

### 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 DEVELOPMENT OF A 132kV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE PROPOSED RIETKLOOF WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE (Reference No. 14/12/16/3/31/1590)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
<b>Date of Authorisation: 23 November 2016</b>							
1	The construction of a 132kV overhead distribution powerline and substation for the proposed Rietkloof Wind Energy Facility within the Laingsburg and Karoo Hoogland Local Municipalities in the Northern and Western Cape Provinces as described above are hereby approved.					-	
2	Construction of this project may only commence once the 140 MW Rietkloof Wind Energy Facility (14/12/16/3/3/2/899), has commenced with the construction phase.	✓✓					Works on WEF commenced Dec 2022 with S&R and clearance of campsite in Jan 2023. Works on OHPL commenced with campsite establishment in June 2023.
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.	✓✓					Correctly implemented.
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 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.	✓✓					Rietkloof 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 Rietkloof Wind Farm and associated infrastructure, north of the town of Matjiesfontein within the Western Cape Province (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590) 23 November 2016. An amendment to the EA was issued on 20 October 2021 extending the validity period of the EA and changing the contact details of the holder of the EA (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM2). The Environmental Management Programme and final layout were approved on 25 July 2022 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/MP2).
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 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
<b>NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORISATION AND RIGHT TO APPEAL</b>							
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 -						Correctly implemented, the notice contained the requirements as stipulated.
12.1	specify the date on which the environmental authorisation was issued						
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	provide 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.						
<b>COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY</b>							
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.
<b>MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY</b>							



No.	THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 132kV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE PROPOSED RIETKLOOF WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE (Reference No. 14/12/16/3/31/1590)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/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	The location of the substation and powerline route as per condition 37 and 38 of this EA						
15.2	Position of the substation and its associated infrastructure						
15.3	Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network	✓✓					
15.4	Location of bird flappers to be installed						
15.5	Internal roads indicating width;						
15.6	Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables						
15.7	All sensitive features e.g. heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels that will be affected by the facility and associated infrastructure						
15.8	All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads; and,						
15.9	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 EMPr and final development layout map was released for an additional 30-day comment period (19 May 2022 to 21 June 2022) A Stakeholder Engagement Report (SER) is included in Appendix M of this Draft EMPr. The SER includes an outline of the Public Participation Process undertaken to date as well as the Comment and Response Report, All comments received from I&APs during this additional review period was considered and incorporated (where required) into the Final EMPr in order to comply with this condition.
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.					-	
18.	Changes to the EMPr, which are environmentally defensible, 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 EMPr 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	✓✓					
<b>FREQUENCY AND PROCESS OF UPDATING THE EMPR</b>							
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 EMPR					-	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 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.					-	
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.					-	
<b>MONITORING</b>							
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 (22 November 2022) and subsequently Sumaya Arendse also from NCC environmental services has been appointed as ECO (29 April 2024).
27.1.	The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.						

No.	THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 132kV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE PROPOSED RIETKLOOF WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE (Reference No. 14/12/16/3/31/1590)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
	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. 27.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO. 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.						Nick Gates was appointed before the commencement of construction. Correctly implemented and verified by appointment letter and correspondence sent to the Department dated 29 April 2024.
<b>RECORDING AND REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT</b>							
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.	✓✓					Summarised in each monthly report and facilitated by the onsite ESCO.
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 an environmental audit report 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 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	✓✓					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 the development.	✓✓					All records relating to monitoring and auditing are kept on site by the ESCO.
<b>NOTIFICATION TO THE AUTHORITIES</b>							
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.
<b>OPERATION OF THE ACTIVITY</b>							
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.
<b>SITE CLOSURE AND DECOMMISSIONING</b>							
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
<b>SPECIFIC CONDITIONS</b>							
37.	The substation location of Alternative 5 must be relocated and placed in close proximity to Turbine 31 and Turbine 3	✓✓					The location of the Authorised Substation (Alternative 5) has not been relocated to be in close proximity to Turbine 31 and 32.
38.	The powerline route Alternative A 1 b must be realigned to start at the new location of Substation.	✓✓					This is due to the fact that the ecology report shows that the area south and between turbines 31 and 32 is a very-high ecological sensitivity area. The area to the north and between turbines 31 and 32 is very steep and would require excessive amounts of blasting to establish a flat area large enough for the substation. Refer to Figure 4-2 and Figure 4-3 of the EMPr for a map combining the final layout map overlain onto the environmental sensitivity map.
39.	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 powerline once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged.	✓✓					Birds and Bats Unlimited undertook a walkdown of the powerline route. The results of their assessment are included in Section 4.4.4 and Appendix E of the EMPr.
40.	Liaison with landowners/farm managers must be done prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan agricultural activities.	✓✓					Correctly implemented
41.	A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of <i>any</i> indigenous protected and endangered plant and animal species if required.	✓✓					A permit to pluck protected and unprotected flora is in place (Reference: CN37-28-27813). Expiry date: 4 February 2025.
42.	Ablution facilities must be placed outside of the 1: 100-year flood line of a watercourse.	✓✓					Correctly implemented

No.	THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 132kV DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION FOR THE PROPOSED RIETKLOOF WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE (Reference No. 14/12/16/3/31/1590)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
43.	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.
44.	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.
45.	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.
46.	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.
47.	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.
48.	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.
<b>GENERAL</b>							
49.	A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying- 49.1. at the site of the authorised activity; 49.2. to anyone on request; and 49.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.					-	Noted
50.	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					-	Noted
<b>Summary calculation</b>							
37		0	0	1	15		<b>53</b> (total no. of conditions)
✓✓		✓	x	-	-		<b>37</b> (audited) <b>16</b> (NA)
37		0	0				Audit Score (%) = [(37x2) + (0x0) + (0x0)] / (37x2) x100
<b>EA Compliance</b>							<b>100%</b>

No.	AMENDMENT OF THE EA ISSUED ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 132Kv DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPROVED RIETKLOOF WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE CENTRAL KAROO AND NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPLAITIES IN WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM2)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
<b>Date of Authorisation: 20 October 2021</b>							
<b>SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION</b>							
1	Amendment to extend the validity period of the EA	✓✓					
2	Amendment to the contact details of the holder of the EA from Mr Khangelani Mbanjwa to Dr Kilian Hagerman	✓✓					
<b>NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORISATION AND RIGHT TO APPEAL</b>							
	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	
<b>Summary calculation</b>							
3		0	0	0	0		<b>3</b> (total no. of conditions)
✓✓		✓	x	-	-		<b>3</b> (audited) <b>0</b> (NA)
3		0	0				Audit Score (%) = [(3x2) + (0x0) + (0x0)] / (3x2) x100
<b>EA Compliance</b>							<b>100%</b>

No.	AMENDMENT OF THE EA ISSUED ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 132Kv DISTRIBUTION POWERLINE AND SUBSTATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPROVED RIETKLOOF WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN THE CENTRAL KAROO AND NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPLAITIES IN WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE. (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM3)	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Non-compliant	Not Applicable / Not Audited	Info	Findings & Recommendations
<b>Date of Authorisation: 5 December 2022</b>							
<b>SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION</b>							
1	Amendment to the contact details of the holder of the EA from Dr Kilian Hagerman to Mr Matteo Brambilla	✓✓					
<b>NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORISATION AND RIGHT TO APPEAL</b>							
	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	
<b>Summary calculation</b>							
2		0	0	0	0		<b>2</b> (total no. of conditions)
✓✓		✓	x	-	-		<b>2</b> (audited) <b>0</b> (NA)
2		0	0				Audit Score (%) = [(2x2) + (0x0) + (0x0)] / (2x2) x100
<b>EA Compliance</b>							<b>100%</b>

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
<b>Date of Authorisation 19 April 2022</b>							
<b>SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION</b>							
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.
<b>NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORISATION AND RIGHT TO APPEAL</b>							
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 - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;	✓✓					Correctly implemented, the notice contained the requirements as stipulated.
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.	✓✓					
<b>COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY</b>							
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.
<b>MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY</b>							
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
<b>FREQUENCY AND PROCESS OF UPDATING THE EMPr</b>							
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
<b>MONITORING</b>							
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.
<b>RECORDING AND REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT</b>							
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.
<b>NOTIFICATION TO AUTHORITIES</b>							
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.
<b>OPERATION OF THE ACTIVITY</b>							
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 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.
<b>SITE CLOSURE AND DECOMMISSIONING</b>							
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
<b>SPECIFIC CONDITIONS</b>							
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 were 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.
<b>GENERAL</b>							
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	
<b>Summary calculation</b>							
31		0	0	1	18		<b>50</b> (total no. of conditions)
✓✓		✓	×	-	-		<b>31</b> (audited) <b>19</b> (NA)
31		0	0				Audit Score (%) = [(31x2) +(0x0) +(0x0)] / (31x2) x100
<b>EA Compliance</b>							<b>100%</b>



## 4.2 Compliance with the EMPRs

It should be noted that the construction of the Rietkloof OHPL's and Substation was combined with the construction activities on the Rietkloof 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 findings are made in relation to compliance with the EMPr during the construction phase of the Rietkloof 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.
- 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.
- The project utilised an existing batch plant which is present on the landowner's property. The batch plant was established for the neighbouring Roggevled wind energy facility project.
- As with all construction sites, litter management was required on an ongoing basis. The presence of litter around the Rietkloof 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 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.

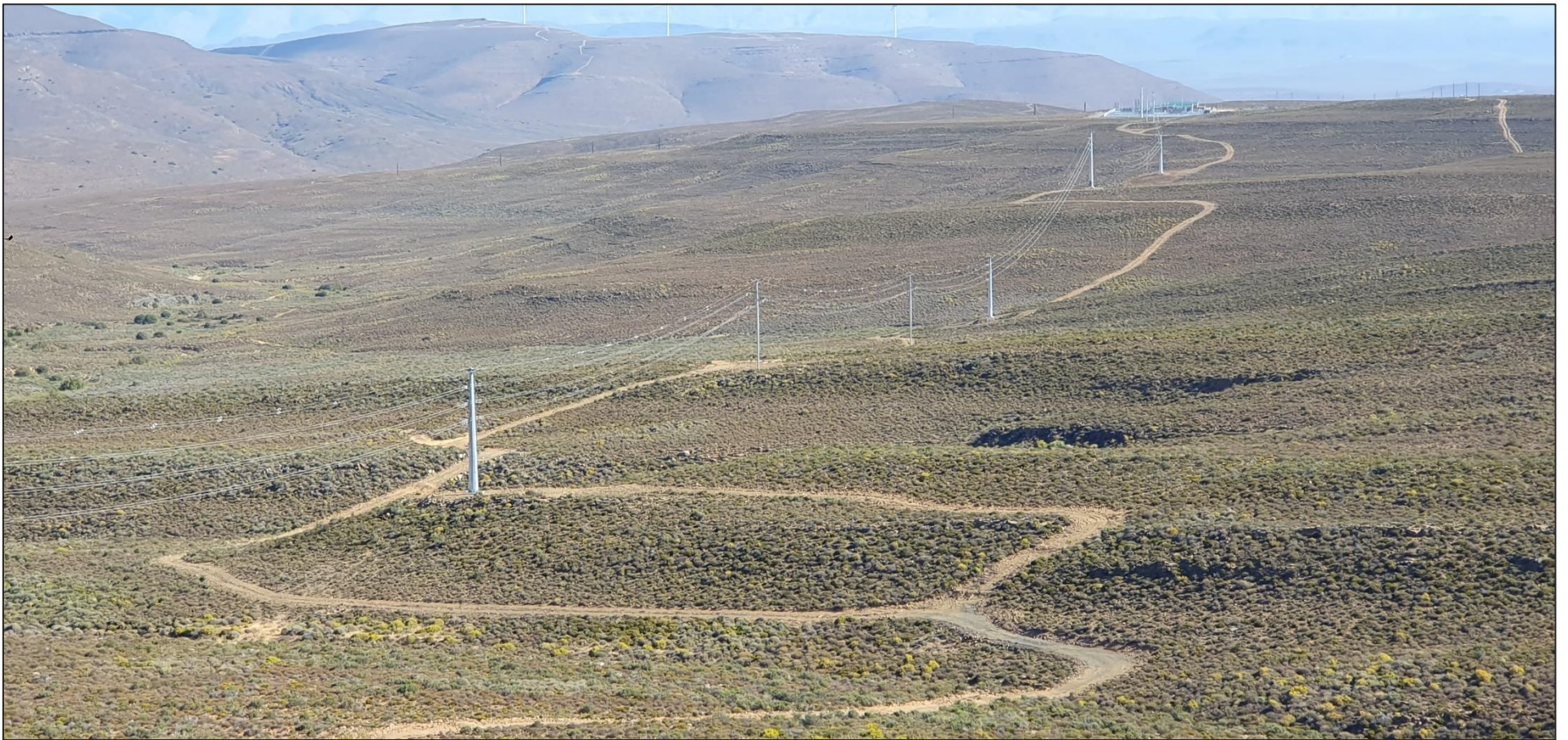
The plant material that was removed during the construction phase was mixed with the topsoil to retain organic matter. Therefore, revegetation was not necessary. In addition, as rehabilitation ran concurrently with construction activities, regrowth can already be noted in previously disturbed areas.

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:** 132kV OHPL with Rietkloof Substation in the background



**Figure 2:** Completed Rietkloof Substation





**Figure 3:** Rehabilitation at Bon Espirange Substation



**Figure 4:** Ripping completed at tower foundation (Bon Espirange Substation) (photograph courtesy of Mahle Myaka)





**Figure 5:** Rehabilitated Tower Foundation (photograph courtesy of Mahle Myaka)



**Figure 6:** Rehabilitated turning circle (photograph courtesy of Mahle Myaka)



**Figure 7:** Stormwater diversion berm (photograph courtesy of Mahle Myaka)



## 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 the monthly operational ECO monitoring is sufficient to meet further requirements in terms of Regulations 34 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended.
- There is no need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr.

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 EMPr 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:



#### **Sumaya Arendse**

Environmental Control Officer – NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

M · 082 334 8182

E · [sumayaa@ncc-group.co.za](mailto:sumayaa@ncc-group.co.za)

### REVIEWED BY:



#### **Nick Gates**

Service Line Manager – NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

M · 073 199 8431

E · [nickg@ncc-group.co.za](mailto:nickg@ncc-group.co.za)

## 7 APPENDICES

Appendix A1: Notification of Commencement of OHPL, Substation & appointment of ECO (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590)

Appendix A2: Notification of Commencement of OHPL, Substation & appointment of ECO (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2471)

Appendix B: No appeals confirmation

**Appendix A1:**

**Notification of Commencement of OHPL, Substation & appointment of ECO**

**(DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590)**





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 RIETKLOOF WIND FARM IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE (DFFE  
Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590)**

**NOTIFICATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

Rietkloof 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 Rietkloof Wind Farm and associated infrastructure, north of the town of Matjiesfontein within the Western Cape Province (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590) 23 November 2016. An amendment to the EA was issued on 20 October 2021 extending the validity period of the EA and changing the contact details of the holder of the EA (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM2). The Environmental Management Programme and final layout were approved on 25 July 2022 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/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.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590), 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.

**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.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590). The relevant ECO and ESCO details are as follows:

ECO/ESCO name: Nick Gates & Janet du Plooy

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

Page 1 of 2



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 Rietkloof Wind Farm (RF) (Pty) Ltd  
(DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590)



Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001  
**Attention:** Director: Compliance Monitoring

29 April 2024

**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 for the Rietkloof Wind Farm, in terms of Condition 27.2 of the split Environmental Authorisation ("EA") issued on 23 November 2016 (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590).

The relevant ECO & ESCO details are as follows:

**ECO name:** Sumaya Arendse  
**Company name:** NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd  
**Contact Details:** 082 334 8182  
[sumayaa@ncc-group.co.za](mailto:sumayaa@ncc-group.co.za)

**ESCO name:** Janet du Plooy  
**Company name:** NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd  
**Contact Details:** 082 770 2629  
[janetrd@ncc-group.co.za](mailto:janetrd@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  
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH FOR PEOPLE, PLANET AND BUSINESS | [ncc-group.co.za](http://ncc-group.co.za)

[ncc-group.co.za](http://ncc-group.co.za)



Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned in case of any query relating to the above matter.

Please confirm receipt of this notification in writing.



Yours sincerely,  
Nick Gates  
Service Line Manager: Environmental Management Consulting

**Appendix A2:**  
**Notification of Commencement of OHPL, Substation & appointment of ECO**  
**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, Pier Place, Heerengracht St  
Foreshore, Cape Town, 8001, South Africa

Page 1 of 2



Reg No. 2011/107860/07



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

**APPENDIX B:  
NO APPEALS CONFIRMATION**

**From:** Keorapetse Sekhaolelo <ksekhaolelo@dffe.gov.za>  
**Sent on:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:59:11 AM  
**To:** Kristen Shaw <kristen@terramanzi.co.za>  
**CC:** Lunga Dlova <LDlova@dffe.gov.za>; TMG Environmental Services <environmental@terramanzi.co.za>; Appeals <Appeals@dffe.gov.za>  
**Subject:** RE: 221104 - RIETKLOOF OHPL – 14/12/16/3/3/1/1590/AM3 - Confirmation of No Appeals - 25 January 2023  
**Attachments:** Letters to Kristen Shaw.pdf (110.16 KB)

Good day

Please find attached hereto the letters which confirm that no appeals have been lodged with the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

*Warm Regards*

*Ms. Keorapetse Sekhaolelo*  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Streets  
PRETORIA  
Tel: (012) 399 8706  
E-mail: [ksekhaolelo@dffe.gov.za](mailto:ksekhaolelo@dffe.gov.za)  
Call Centre: 086 111 2468



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