



## environmental affairs

Department  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Reference: 12/12/20/1218

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### **PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Ms. Thomas,

### **ACCEPTANCE OF SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 3 X 400 KV TRANSMISSION POWERLINES BETWEEN KOEBERG 2 AND OMEGA SUBSTATION WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The scoping report and plan of study for environmental impact assessment which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2010 has been accepted by the Department.

This letter serves to inform you that the aforementioned document has been accepted by the Department.

#### **1. Contents of EIA Report (EIR)**

You are hereby advised that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) must contain all the information outlined in regulation 32 (2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, omission of information may result in the E A report being rejected.

#### **2. Specialist Assessments**

The Department notes the specialist studies/assessments identified to be conducted in the EIA phase. Please ensure that all specialist reports contain all the information specified in regulation 33 (2) of the EIA regulations. It is important that different maps included in the EIR are of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Relatable and overlaid to the Western Cape Biodiversity Conservation Plan;
- Indicate Eskom lines and alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area.

### 3. Alternatives

The Department notes the alternatives identified in the scoping report. You are hereby reminded that it is mandatory to investigate and assess the option of not proceeding with the proposed activity (i.o.w., the "no-go" option) in addition to other alternatives identified.

Furthermore, the identification of the alternatives should where possible follow the existing alignment in order to minimise fragmentation of the ecosystem.

### 4. Public Participation.

You are hereby reminded that the Public Participation process to be followed in the EIA phase must also comply with regulation 56 of the EIA regulations. Furthermore, you are required to submit comments from all the relevant organs of state with the EIR (and not after its submission). Comments from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, City of Cape Town, Cape Nature, Botanical Society, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) are mandatory. However, the public participation process should not be limited to the abovementioned organisations. All the interested and affected parties as identified in your project database must be consulted during the EIR phase.

Your attention is also drawn to the fact that our Directorate: Biodiversity Planning has not yet commented, their comments will come after their review of the specialist studies in the EIR. Also note that they may require additional studies or information depending on the information provided in the EIR.

### 5. Mandatory draft EMP

You are further reminded that a draft Environmental Management Plan ("EMP") that complies with regulation 34 of the EIA regulations must be compiled that addresses the potential environmental impacts of the activity on the environment throughout the project life cycle, i.e. the EMP must address impacts in respect of the planning and design, pre-construction and construction activities, operation of the activity, rehabilitation of the environment and closure/decommissioning (if applicable).

You may now proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks outlined in the plan of study for environmental impact assessment.

Notwithstanding the above, your attention is drawn to the fact that the success of the application may be prejudiced by the information that is incomplete and not following the requirements of the NEMA Regulations.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Ms Lize McCourt  
Chief Director: Environmental Impact Management  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Letter signed by: Mr. Dumisane Mthembu (PF)  
Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation  
Date: 10/02/2010

CC: Ms. Mmamoko Sesbi

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