

Comments and Responses 1592 Thungela Zibulo North Overhead Lines EIA

Ms Natasha Higgitt

Date 2023/10/03 Method Email

Comment

Please note that all development applications are processed via our online portal, the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS) found at the following link: <http://sahra.org.za/sahris/>. We do not accept emailed, posted, hardcopy, faxed, website links or DropBox links as official submissions. Please create an application on SAHRIS for each application and upload all documents pertaining to the development. As per section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA), an application must be made to SAHRA at the earliest stage of the development. Once all documents including all appendices are uploaded to the case applications, please ensure that the status of the case is changed from DRAFT to SUBMITTED. Please ensure that all documents produced as part of the registration process are submitted as part of the application. ****PLEASE NOTE**** An application fee is now required for all section 38 applications. Please ensure that the SAHRIS application contains a proof of payment as per the notice at the following link: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/content/what-are-sahra-processing-fees-and-banking-details>. A payment of R 800.00 for each application is required. Please make separate payments with the specific reference numbers. Applications that do not include a proof of payment will be considered incomplete and will not be processed until proof of payment is provided.

Response

The correspondence from SAHRA was noted and an application was made as per the request.

Date 2023/11/07 Method Other

Comment

The following decision is made as a requirement in terms of GNR 2313 and 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final Environmental Sensitivity Report 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Applications Unit (DAU) has no objections to the proposed development; 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. No further additional specific conditions are provided for the development: 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660 / nhiggitt@sahra.org.za) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA DAU (Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660 / nhiggitt@sahra.org.za), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with this section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences; 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with

Response

The comment from SAHRA has been noted. This Final Environmental Sensitivity Report and the Final Decision will be uploaded onto the SAHRIS platform.

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Ms Natasha Higgitt

regards to the appointment of specialists: If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA; The Final Environmental Sensitivity Report must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes; The decision regarding the Registration Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Mr Sityhilelo Ngcatsha

Date 2023/10/04 Method Email

Comment

Good day, Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the intention to develop the proposed Zibulo North Shaft Overhead 132kV Powerline Project, in the Nkangala District Municipality, within Victor Khanye and Emalahleni Local Municipalities, Mpumalanga Province. It is noted that a development application has been made on SAHRIS (Case ID 22585). Please note that further comments will be issued on the development application on SAHRIS.

Response

EIMS noted the response from SAHRA that the application had been received.

Mr Mduduzi Makhubu

Date 2023/10/03 Method Email

Comment

Good day I hope this e-mail finds you well. The Nkangala District Municipality would like to register as an I&AP and proposes to conduct a site visit on the area of the proposed project in order to provide a concise and thorough comments. Will the 09th, 10th or 11th of October 2023 be suitable for you and your client. Kindly revert back on the proposed dates. Please take note that we may be joined by the environmental management personnel from Local Municipality as well as our Local Government Support official from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated. Warm regards

Response

Good Day Mduduzi, Thank you for your interest in the project and the District Municipality's intention to provide comments on the proposed development. Kindly note that the team (both EAP and Applicant) are available for a site visit at 10H00 on Monday the 9th of October 2023. Please share a list of the Officials (District and National) who will be attending the site visit so we can share the invite with all parties involved.

Date 2023/10/12 Method Email

Comment

Good morning Mr Vukosi Mabunda. I hope this e-mail finds you well. Following the site visit conducted on the 09th of October 2023. Please receive the attached comments from the

Response

Good Day Mduduzi, The comments are well received and have been captured accordingly. The comments will form part of the Public Participation Report (PPR) or Comments and Response

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Mr Mduduzi Makhubu

Nkangala District Municipality on the Zibulo overhead Powerline project. Best regards

Report (CCR) where all comments received will be responded to individually. The PPR will be circulated together with the Final Environmental Sensitivity Report to all Registered I&APs as per the requirements of the 'Standard'. We thank the District and Local Municipality for your participation in the project.

Date 2023/10/12 Method Email

Comment

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED ZIBULO NORTH SHAFT OVERHEAD 132KV POWERLINE PROJECT, IN THE NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, WITHIN VICTOR KHANYE AND EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE. The district has no objection to the approval of the above-mentioned project as most of the activities involves linear activities that have low impact on the environment. The fact that the proposed project is taking place in the already disturbed environment with a variety of wetlands and birds' species as observed in the site verification inspection, the sensitivity of all identified biodiversity importance must be protected and as such there are no other aspects in terms of municipal by-laws that will be affected by the proposed project. However, the following must be considered in the planning and implementation of the proposed project:

Response

Thank you for your response which is duly noted and recorded.

Date 2023/10/12 Method Email

Comment

1. All Environmental Legislations applicable to the proposed project must be considered through the construction and operational phase.

Response

The applicant is required to comply with all applicable environmental legislation and this application has considered the relevant Acts applicable to this project.

Date 2023/10/12 Method Email

Comment

2. Dust suppression measures must be implemented during all phases of the project and you are advised to comply with the provisions contained in the NEM: Air Quality Act, National Dust Control Regulation of 2014;

Response

Dust suppression requirements are included in Section 5.20 of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) which are required to be implemented in terms of the relevant prescripts of the NEM: Air Quality Act and National Dust Control Regulations.

Date 2023/10/12 Method Email

Comment

3. The monitoring of the construction site must be carried out by a professionally qualified Environmental Compliance Officer (ECO) with proven expertise in the field so to ensure compliance to the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Response

The requirement for a suitably qualified ECO to monitor the construction phase is included in the EMPr (Section 3). The applicant will need to appoint a suitably qualified independent ECO for the construction phase.

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Mr Mduduzi Makhubu

Date	2023/10/12	Method	Email
Comment		Response	
4. Best practicable environmental options must be in place during the phases of the activity.		The best practicable environmental options have been considered in the compilation of the Environmental Sensitivity Report and in the final route determination of the powerline.	
Date	2023/10/12	Method	Email
Comment		Response	
5. All work done should not go against the District and Local Municipality by-laws.		The applicant will be required to comply with the District and Local Municipal by-laws at all time.	
Date	2023/10/12	Method	Email
Comment		Response	
6. Traffic Management and access arrangements to and off the construction site, a single route should be taken into consideration to prevent nuisance and ecological footprint.		Although minimal traffic impact is anticipated during the construction, Section 5.13 of the EMPr provides relevant mitigation and management measures to ensure Safety to Public.	
Date	2023/10/12	Method	Email
Comment		Response	
7. Any complaints received from the public during the proposed activity phases must be documented and reported to the district and local, attended to within three working days after such reporting to the satisfaction of all parties engaged.		Section 4.10 of the EMPr includes the complaints management measures which includes the requirements to record complaints and address and close out the complaints timeously.	
Date	2023/10/12	Method	Email
Comment		Response	
8. A complaints' register of all environmental complaints regarding the proposed project must be kept on site.		Section 4.10 of the EMPr includes the complaints management measures which includes the requirements to record complaints and address and close out the complaints timeously.	
Date	2023/10/12	Method	Email
Comment		Response	
9. As soon as the final Basic Assessment report is available, kindly share with the Local and District Municipality as well.		This powerline projects falls under the ambit of the Standard for the Development and Expansion of Power Lines and Substations within identified Geographical Areas, promulgated on 27 July	

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Mr Mduduzi Makhubu

2022 ('the Standard') published under GNR 2313, 27 July 2022. As such, a Basic Assessment Report (ESR) is not applicable, however an Environmental Sensitivity Report has been prepared and shared with Local and District Municipality. The final ESR with also be circulated to all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and stakeholders including the Local and District Municipality in line with the aforementioned Standard.

Date 2023/10/12 Method Email

Comment

10. The project proponent must make sure land owners give consent to the use of their land for the proposed project.

Response

Landowner servitude agreements will be in place prior to commencement of construction. This is in line with the Standard Standard for the Development and Expansion of Power Lines and Substations within identified Geographical Areas, promulgated on 27 July 2022 ('the Standard') published under GNR 2313, 27 July 2022.

Date 2023/10/12 Method Email

Comment

11. Any municipality servitude that might occur within the project area must not be interfere with, without consultation with the municipality for way-forward.

Response

Should municipal servitudes exist within the development corridors, the municipality will be consulted as the rightful owners of such servitudes.

Date 2023/10/12 Method Email

Comment

12. All sensitive ecosystems within the project area such as wetlands, bird's species, reptiles etc must be protected as per the regulations of Biodiversity Act and Protected Areas Act.

Response

The Environmental Sensitivity Report has been informed by relevant Terrestrial Biodiversity and Aquatic and Wetland specialist studies. The final powerline routing has been designed according to the recommendations of the specialist to ensure that the impact on the receiving environment has been minimised.

Ms Dineo Tswai

Date 2023/12/14 Method Email

Comment

EIMS received an email containing an attachment of comments provided from the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs.

Response

Good Day, Compliments to the new year. We confirm receipt of your comments and we have incorporated them in our public participation process as part of comments and responses which will be submitted to your department together with the Final Report and Application Form for a decision soon.

Comments and Responses 1592 Thungela Zibulo North Overhead Lines EIA

Ms Dineo Tswai

Date 2023/12/14 Method Email

Comment

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT: ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED ZIBULO NORTH SHAFT OVERHEAD 132KV POWERLINE, VICTOR KHANYE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY. The draft basic assessment report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 02 October 2023 and the pre-application meeting held refers. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

Response

The report submitted is an Environmental Sensitivity Report (ESR) as part of application for a registration through the Standard for the Development and Expansion of Power Lines and Substations within identified Geographical Areas, promulgated on 27 July 2022, published under GNR 2313, 27 July 2022 and not a Basic Assessment Report which is guided by Appendix 1 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.

Date 2023/12/14 Method Email

Comment

1. According to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP) EIM GIS Viewer, the proposed area for development is categorised as Endangered and the sensitivity of the ecological attributes is classified as low to medium sensitivity. Please note that according to the land-use guidelines on the MBSP a buffer distance of either 10 km for National Parks; 5 km for all other PAs; and 1 km for all protected environments must be adhered to as per the guideline and recommendations thereof.

Response

According to the MBSP, the proposed development area does intersect sensitive areas. Various specialist studies were undertaken including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity assessments (Appendices D1 and D2). The studies found the area to be of low-medium sensitivity. The studies also found that the proposed development area does not intersect and is not within 5-10km of National or Provincial Protect areas and therefore buffer requirements are not applicable in terms of the MBSP. In addition, the Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MPTA) were consulted and indicated that they support the Environmental Sensitivity Report and Specialist Reports (Appendix C7). MPTA emphasized that the risk assessment report indicates that no risks will be posed to the delineated watercourses and therefore, have no objections against the proposed development.

Date 2023/12/14 Method Email

Comment

2. According to the draft BAR existing activities on the proposed site such as the large transmission line corridors and the power station have caused environmental degradation, which has reduced the overall extent and integrity of natural habitats and has impacted on the onsite ecological functioning and species diversity.

Response

The existing activities on the proposed site such as the large transmission line corridors and the power station have caused environmental degradation, which has reduced the overall extent and integrity of natural habitats and has impacted on the onsite ecological functioning and species diversity as indicated in specialist reports Appendices D and verified during the site sensitivity verification with the various officials in October 2023 (Appendix C6).

Date 2023/12/14 Method Email

Comment

3. The applicant must ensure that the proposed development is prioritized in habitats of decreased sensitivity, to ensure that sensitive habitats are avoided. It is recommended that MPTA must be consulted in any sensitive areas with regard to the proposed area of

Response

Various specialist studies were undertaken to identify and outline the sensitivity of the development area. The specialist information was consolidated to identify the overall sensitivity of the area as well as indicate areas of increased sensitivity and/or no-go areas. An alternative

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Ms Dineo Tswai

development	powerline route assessment is indicated in the reports and the final preferred route was selected on the basis of the low sensitivity of the receiving environment. The overall sensitivity is indicated in Appendix A1. The EAP and Specialists have made recommendations to ensure there is minimal environmental impact prior, during and post development (refer to Chapters 4 and 5 of the ESR and Appendix D).
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Date 2023/12/14 Method Email

Comment

4. The recommendations and mitigation measures advised on the various assessment studies to be conducted must be incorporated on the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Response

The recommendations and mitigation measures advised on the various assessment studies and by the EAP have been incorporated in the Generic EMPr. The developer has signed into action the Generic EMPr (Appendix E1) as well as the Declaration of the proponent commitment to implement the generic and where relevant the site-specific environmental management programme (Appendix 10 of the Application Form).

Date 2023/12/14 Method Email

Comment

5. The final BAR must provide proof that all potential and registered I&AP's, including the Organs of State, were provided with access to and an opportunity to comment on the draft BAR following submission of the application form (Regulation 40(3)).

Response

A comprehensive public participation process as guided by Chapter 6 of NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, was undertaken for the project. Refer to Appendix C for the public participation process undertaken for the project. Potential and registered I&APs as well as Organs of State were provided an opportunity to comment on the reports and no objections were received. As mentioned above, the MPTA provided written comment which indicated support for the project due to the low sensitivities identified.

Date 2023/12/14 Method Email

Comment

6. The final BAR must include issues and responses of the report, as well as copies of and responses to comments received from all I&APs, including these comments.

Response

Proof of correspondences with I&APs are attached in Appendix C7 and the comments and responses are provided in Appendix C8.

Mr Moses Maseko

Date 2023/10/24 Method Email

Comment

EIMS received two emails from an individual containing the CVs of two individuals.

Response

Good day, We acknowledge the receipt of your emails with the attached CVs for **** and ****. EIMS are independent Environmental Consultants and our primary involvement in the project is

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Mr Moses Maseko

to undertake the necessary environmental applications – the aim of our involvement is to acquire input/solicit comment from the public regarding the environmental application. However, you may find more information regarding job opportunities at Anglo American Inyosi Coal (Pty) Ltd using the following links: <https://www.thungela.com/careers/job-opportunities> and the recruitment portal: <https://careers.smartrecruiters.com/AngloAmericanDeBeersGroup/thungela---english>

Frans Krige

Date 2023/10/31 Method Email

Comment

Herewith our comments on your proposal. Note that the signed document will follow soon.
Kind Regards *** LUAS MTPA

Response

Thank you for your email. We acknowledge receipt of the comments provided. These comments will be recorded in the project's record of comments received.

Cecilia de Waal

Date 2023/10/03 Method Email

Comment

Good morning I receive the attached notification on my cellphone on Saturday. Kindly send a hard copy of the document to the following physical address, for the MTPA to comment on:
To: **** EIA Data Capturer Address: **** Contact: **** Kind regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We have just received confirmation that the hard copy of the report has arrived at your location. Please confirm if you have received it.

Date 2023/10/04 Method Email

Comment

Good day Yes, I confirm receipt of the document. Kind regards

Response

EIMS noted the response that the report had successfully been delivered to the recipient.

Date 2023/11/14 Method Email

Comment

Kindly receive the attached comments from the MTPA regarding the following: • Registration of the Zibulo North Shaft Overhead 132 Kv Powerline Project to supply 20 MVA Electricity supply for the mining operations by 2025, Nkangala District. • Your reference number: EIMS 1592 • Our reference number: LUA23/3616 (2) Kind regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We acknowledge receipt of the signed comments provided. These will be recorded in the project's record of comments received.

Mr Johannes Matlala

Comments and Responses 1592 Thungela Zibulo North Overhead Lines EIA

Mr Johannes Matlala

Date 2023/10/06 Method Email

Comment

Dear Jolene Webber. I am a resident in the Nkangala District municipality and have an interest in the envisaged project. I don't have a problem with this application as long it complies with the relevant legal requirements on environment. I would like to participate in the opportunities which will arise from the envisaged project. Kind regards,

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We confirm that your details have been included in our Interested and Affected Parties database for further notifications about the project.

Date 2023/10/09 Method Email

Comment

Thank you for your response, and what are chances of being part of the project in the event it succeeds, or is it for formality to call for public participation? I'm asking this because previously in some projects in municipalities there were public participations only to find politicians benefitting, excluding the participants. Regards,

Response

Good day, Thank you for your response. EIMS has been appointed as an independent environmental consulting company to undertake the Environmental Registration process for the project. Part of the process requires that we undertake a public participation process where any interested and affected party is provided the opportunity to raise any queries, comments or concerns regarding the project. This will be recorded and addressed in environmental reports and considered by the competent authority to ensure that a well-informed decision is made. In summary, this public participation process is being undertaken to inform the environmental authorisation application process and is not intended to be a solicitation of potential participants in the construction or operation of the project. We trust that this answers your query however should you have any further comments or queries on the environmental authorisation application process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Shudufhadzo Tshusa

Date 2023/10/11 Method Email

Comment

Good day This **** from Khutala Colliery, we saw the advert and we would like to register in your list of I&AP's; Below if our request for us to be able to make some comments; • Supply Khutala Colliery with the CAD plans in order for us to plot it over our existing workings and infrastructure. This will allow us to fully understand if there will any impacts to our operation. • Zibulo must apply to the DMRE in terms of regulation 17.8 of the Mine Health & Safety Act for the erection of surface structure within 100m of underground workings (Khutala Colliery), and supply Khutala with the approval once granted prior to erection of the structures. regards

Response

Good day, Thank you for your email. We confirm that your details (****) as well as your colleague's details (****) have been included in our I&AP database for future communications about the project. We do not have any CAD files for the proposed project, however, please find the attached KML files for the powerline routes as well as the 125m buffer. Please provide us with the output map of your overlay to confirm which (if any) sections of the powerline overlay your underground workings. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any comments or queries about the project.

Date 2023/11/24 Method Email

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Shudufhadzo Tshusa

Comment	Response
EIMS has received no response from the I&AP.	Good day, We would like to follow up on our email below as we have not yet received a response. Would you be able to provide us with the output map of your overlay to confirm whether any sections of the powerline overlay your underground workings and require compliance in terms of regulation 17.8 of the Mine Health & Safety Act.