

Zitholele Consulting

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Our Ref : 17107-Let-007

08 August 2018

Dear Stakeholder

BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR ENGINEERING INTERVENTIONS PROPOSED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED WETLANDS AROUND KUSILE POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

• NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

This letter serves to **notify** all registered I&APs that the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has granted Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the above-mentioned Basic Assessment process on **27 July 2018**. A copy of the EA can be obtained from Zitholele Consulting's website (<http://www.zitholele.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/EA-14-12-16-3-3-1-1871.pdf>). A copy of the EA is also included with this notification letter.

Your attention is drawn to the following reasons for the decision provided by the DEA:

1. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- Eskom identified that wetlands in the area are generally modified and degraded and the predominant cause of this deviation is historical and current agricultural activities, storm water runoff from the Kusile Power Station which has increased erosion and turbidity in many of these wetlands and existence of plentiful alien plant species as a result species composition has been drastically altered. Furthermore, significant channel erosion and incision have occurred within some of the valley bottom wetlands. These wetlands therefore, need to be rehabilitated to / close to their original state.
- The BAR dated April 2018 identified all relevant environmental legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated April 2018.
- The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated April 2018 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 for public involvement.

2. Key findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings:

- The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated April 2018 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts. According to the independent EAP, the information contained in the BAR dated April 2018 is accurate and credible.
- EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

3. Right to Appeal

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed. A copy of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 is included with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must do the following:

- i. Obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, visit the DEA's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.
- ii. Submit any appeals within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties. The date of this notification of decision is 08 August 2018, therefore **appeals must be submitted to the appeal administrator by 28 August 2018.**
- iii. Submit the appeal to the appeal administrator. Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form:

To: Director: Appeals and Legal Review, DEA, by one of the following methods:
By email: appealsdirector@environment.gov.za
By hand: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083; or
By post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001

- iv. Submit a copy of the appeal to the applicant – Eskom Holdings SOC Limited:

To: Ms Diedre Herbst
By email: herbstdl@eskom.co.za
By hand: 1 Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton, 2157
By post: P.O. Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000

- v. Submit a copy of the appeal to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner – Prime Africa Consultants:

To: Mr. Joseph Mulders
By email: j.mulders@primeafrica.net
By hand: 53 Woodpecker Avenue, Newlands, Pretoria, South Africa;

- vi. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter. The project database containing contact details of all registered I&AP can be requested from Zitholele Consulting:

By email: kusileba@zitholele.co.za
By telephone: 011 207 2060
By fax: 086 674 6121

Zitholele Consulting wish to thank each and every stakeholder that has participated in the Basic Assessment process for their comments and valuable inputs.

Yours faithfully



Dr. Mathys Vosloo

17107 Kusile Basic Assessment: PPP Desk