

Meeting record

Project number	R0001007283	Meeting date	2024-08-07
Project name	MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (MMP) FOR THE 132 KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED PYLON STRUCTURES BETWEEN THE DROERIVIER AND THE LAINGSBURG SUBSTATIONS	Recorded by	Louisa Viljoen
Meeting/subject	2024-07-0046 - MMP 132 KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED PYLON STRUCTURES BETWEEN THE DROERIVIER AND THE LAINGSBURG SUBSTATIONS, WC PROVINCE.	Total pages	4

Present	Apology	Copy	Name	Organisation	Contact details
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Item	Topic	Action by	Action due
1	Opening and welcome All the parties present introduced themselves.		
2	Introduction JM started the meeting by introducing the core team directly dealing with the DFFE and the purpose of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain guidance: 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regarding potential listed activities and ensure that the application fulfils all requirements. ○ On the process to authorise the additional eight pylon structures, according to the EAP, it does not fall within the scope or requirements of General Notice (GN) No. 2313 of 2022. ● Confirm the approach towards the application process and timeframes. ● Seek clarification regarding the satisfaction with the proposed public participation process (PPP) for the Maintenance and Management Plan (MMP). ● Confirm the specialist assessments and compliance statements to be undertaken, including the approach to reporting. 		
3	<p>Project outline</p> <p>JM explained the project outline: The application is for the MMP for a 132 kV overhead line (OHL) (~ 192.54 km) and the installation of six new pylon structures (~ 1.82 km) between Droërevier and Lainsburg substations.</p> <p>This 1.82 km of the OHL has been affected by weather conditions (i.e., winds and storms) and therefore requires the installation of six new pylons and the maintenance and replacement of two existing pylons. This section crosses a few watercourses (streams and rivers).</p>		
4	<p>Listed activities and GN 2313</p> <p>JM stated that the listed activities triggered by the project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activity 19 of Listing Notice (LN) 1 ● Activity 12 of LN 3 <p>Activities 11 and 47 of LN 1 and activity 9 of LN 2 were considered not applicable by the EAP team, since the affected line is less than 2 km (~ 1.82 km) and the transmission capacity will be less than 275 kV (132 kV).</p> <p>TRP stated that the exclusion of activity 11 of LN 1 is not applicable, since the activity refers to bypass structures, which the project is not. Furthermore, she also stated that once the site sensitivity verification is completed and it is found the proposed project to be “high” or “very high” sensitivity, a basic assessment is required. The standard or registration would only apply if the site sensitivity is found to be “low” to “medium”.</p> <p>However, CA expressed concern that the registration might not apply in this case due to the drainage line crossings.</p> <p>ND suggested considering whether the creation of roads, even if only temporarily needed for access purposes, could trigger a listed activity.</p>		
5	<p>DFFE Screening tool</p> <p>JM presented the site sensitivities identified by the DFFE screening tool, with particular emphasis on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aquatic, Palaeontology and Terrestrial Biodiversity: Identified as “very high”. ● Animal species and Civil aviation: Identified as “high”. 		
6	<p>Specialist assessments</p> <p>JM suggested that the important specialist assessments to be undertaken include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A terrestrial biodiversity assessment (flora and fauna), ● An aquatic biodiversity assessment, ● A heritage assessment, ● A civil aviation compliance statement, and ● A palaeontological compliance statement <p>CA recommended that the avifaunal study should be included in the terrestrial biodiversity assessment for the entire 192.54 km line. Additionally,</p>		

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	<p>a wetland specialist should be appointed to evaluate the drainage lines and other relevant features along the entire OHL.</p>		
7	<p>Application Process</p> <p>JM provided an outline of the application process;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Application consultation • Specialist Studies site verification • MMP compilation • Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) update • Public Participation (review of MMP and EMPr) • Submission to DFFE for review and decision <p>CA stated that the department would like timeframes to be included in the MMP to clarify how long it would be applicable.</p>		
8	<p>Public Participation Process (PPP)</p> <p>JM provided an outline of the PPP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) of registration via advertisement, and notification letters that copies are available on request and via website. • 30 Calendar days of public participation review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the specialist findings with mitigation ○ Updated EMPr ○ Final confirmation statements from specialists ○ MMP <p>She also presented the identified stakeholders, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Municipality and ward councillor • The District Municipality • The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) • The South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)/Square Kilometre Array (SKA)/ Openserve (Telkom) / Vodacom / other telecoms • Landowners <p>CA confirmed that the outlined PPP is sufficient, however he recommended adding BirdLife South Africa and Endangered Wildlife Trust to the list of stakeholders. He also reminded that the department (him and his team) should also be included as part of the I&APs.</p> <p>Furthermore, he reminded to consider the importance of using the most common local languages (Afrikaans and English) for the notification of landowners etc.</p>		
9	<p>Way forward</p> <p>DP to provide meeting minutes and information of the previous meeting and communications with the department (Matlhodi).</p> <p>JM to provide the draft meeting minutes of this meeting. The minutes should also be attached to the application form.</p> <p>Zutari to carry on with specialist studies in the meantime although it's not likely that the sensitivities will be low to medium.</p> <p>The department stated that a Basic Assessment (BA) process might have to be followed.</p> <p>The DFFE will have discussions internally as the issue of the 1.82 km is not being viewed as a like for like since the new pylon structures will have different design elements and there is an addition of new pylons.</p> <p>The department to provide a detailed way forward for the application approach, by next week.</p>	12 to 16 August	<p>Previous meeting minutes by 13 Aug</p> <p>Draft Minutes by 12/ 13 Aug</p> <p>Way forward by 14 Aug</p>
10	<p>Meeting Closure</p>		

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	JM thanked everyone attending and adjourned the meeting at 10:52.		