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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 4586

28 March 2024

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)**

CONSULTATION ON THE INTENTION TO ADOPT A STANDARD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION POWER LINE INFRASTRUCTURE AND TO EXCLUDE THIS INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION; AS WELL AS TO REPEAL THE STANDARD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF POWER LINES AND SUBSTATIONS WITHIN IDENTIFIED GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AND THE EXCLUSION BASED ON THIS STANDARD, PUBLISHED UNDER GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO. 2313 IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NO. 47095 OF 27 JULY 2022

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, consult on my intention to adopt the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, 2024* in terms of section 24(10) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), and to exclude, in terms of section 24(2)(d) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), activities identified in terms of section 24(2)(a) and (b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) for the development and expansion of electricity transmission and distribution power line infrastructure, including any associated activity or infrastructure, from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation, based on compliance with the Standard.

The Standard will be applicable to the activities identified in the Schedule and in areas verified to be of low or medium environmental sensitivity, or under certain circumstances and provided the relevant requirements have been complied with, in areas of high or very high environmental sensitivity as identified on the national web based environmental screening tool. The screening tool has been developed based on information gathered through two strategic environmental assessments related to overhead transmission and distribution infrastructure, as well as three strategic environmental assessments that were undertaken for renewable energy generation technology, with a fourth in progress and a further strategic environmental assessment undertaken for gas infrastructure. The experience gained and information generated from these strategic environmental assessments, as well as the collation of information generated by other national departments and state-owned entities has allowed for the development of the national web based environmental screening tool. This screening tool provides guidance on environmental sensitivities of a specific geographical location or site related to various identified environmental themes. Environmental sensitivities are rated as "very high", "high", "medium" or "low".

The intention is that the existing Standard for the Development and Expansion of Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas Revision 2 (June 2022), and the exclusion that is based

on such Standard, published under Government Notice No. 2313 in Government Gazette No. 47095 of 27 July 2022 will be repealed and replaced by the Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, 2024 once gazetted for implementation and with effect of the publication of this Standard and its associated exclusions in the Government Gazette, for implementation.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments or input, within 30 days from the date of the publication of this Notice in the Government Gazette, to any of the following addresses:

By post to: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
The Director-General
Attention: Dr Dee Fischer
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand at: Reception, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria.
By e-mail: dfischer@dffe.gov.za

Any inquiries in connection with the Notice can be directed to Dr Dee Fischer by phone at 012 399 8843 or by mail at dfischer@dffe.gov.za.

Comments or input received after the closing date may not be considered.

A hard copy of any document associated with this Notice may be requested from Ms M Masondo at tel: 012 399 9277, email: mmasondo@dffe.gov.za or collected at Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria. The documents can be downloaded from the Department's website at https://www.dffe.gov.za/projectprogrammes/environmental_management_instruments and the Government Notice can be downloaded from the Department's website at https://www.dffe.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses thereto are collated into a comments and response report which will be made available to the public as part of the consultation process. If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company/ organisation, being made publicly available in the comments and responses report, such objection should be highlighted in bold as part of the comments submitted in response to this Government Notice.



BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

1. Definitions

In this Schedule, unless the context indicates otherwise, a word defined in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) or the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended has the same meaning, and—

“competent authority” means the organ of state that would have been designated by section 24C of the Act to consider an application for environmental authorisation in respect of a listed or specified activity;

“EIA Regulations” means the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, published under Government Notice No. R. 982 in *Government Gazette* No. 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended from time to time;

“Listing Notice 1” means the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, published under Government Notice No. R. 983 in *Government Gazette* No. 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended from time to time;

“Listing Notice 2” means the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 published under Government Notice No. R. 984 in *Government Gazette* No. 38282 of 4 December 2014 as amended from time to time;

“Listing Notice 3” means Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 published under Government Notice No. R. 985 in *Government Gazette* No. 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended from time to time;

“screening tool” means the National Web Based Environmental Screening Tool which is accessible at <https://screening.environment.gov.za>; and

“the 2022 Standard” means the Standard for the Development and Expansion of Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas Revision 2 (June 2022) published under Government Notice No. 2313 in *Government Gazette* No. 47095 of 27 July 2022;

“the Act” means the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998); and

“the National Appeals Regulations” means the National Appeals Regulations, 2014, published under Government Notice No. R. 993 in *Government Gazette* No. 38303 of 8 December 2014, as amended from time to time.

2. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has developed the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, 2024* based on two strategic environmental assessment processes undertaken for the development of Electricity Grid Infrastructure in South Africa, the experience gained through the review of applications for environmental authorisation to develop or expand electricity transmission and distribution, and substation, infrastructure, the implementation of the generic environmental management programmes relevant to applications for environmental authorisation for substation and

overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, as well as the experience gained in implementing the 2022 Standard.

3. The Standard is proposed to be adopted in terms of section 24(10) of the Act for the purpose of excluding the activities contemplated in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of this Schedule from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation prior to commencement.
4. Based on compliance with the provisions of the Standard, and the registration requirements contained in Chapter 1 and 2 of the Standard, the activities as described in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of this Schedule, are proposed to be excluded from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation in terms of section 24(2)(d) of the Act.
5. This exclusion from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation applies to the development and expansion of the following activities—
 - 5.1 Listing Notice 1:
 - 5.1.1. Activity 11;
 - 5.1.2. Activity 47; or
 - 5.2 Listing Notice 2:
 - 5.2.1. Activity 9;

and any activity identified in Listing Notice 1, 2 or 3 necessary for the realisation of such infrastructure in areas identified by the screening tool as being of medium or low environmental sensitivity and confirmed to be such for identified environmental themes, or where the site sensitivity verification identifies that a very high or high environmental sensitivity rating as identified on the screening tool is in fact medium or low for the identified environmental themes, as well as in areas of very high or high environmental sensitivity under certain conditions identified in paragraphs 1.4(d) and (e) of the Standard.

6. The Standard and exclusion do not apply where the site sensitivity verification for a specific theme identifies that the low or medium sensitivity rating of the screening tool is in fact high or very high; unless the conditions in paragraphs 1.4(d) and (e) of the Standard are being complied with.
7. Where the Standard and exclusion does not apply, an application for environmental authorisation must be submitted in accordance with the prescribed requirements.
8. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Standard constitutes an offence in terms of section 49A(1)(d) of the Act.
9. The provisions of the National Appeals Regulations are applicable to an appeal against any decision taken in terms of this Notice or the Standard.
10. An application for environmental authorisation submitted for the activities contained in paragraph 5 of this Government Notice, which is pending on the date of coming into effect of the Standard and exclusion contemplated in this Notice, must be finalised in accordance with the procedures of the EIA Regulations, Government Notice No. 113 in Government *Gazette* No. 41445 of 16 February, 2018, as amended, Government Notice No. 1637 in Government *Gazette* No. 45690 of 24 December 2021,

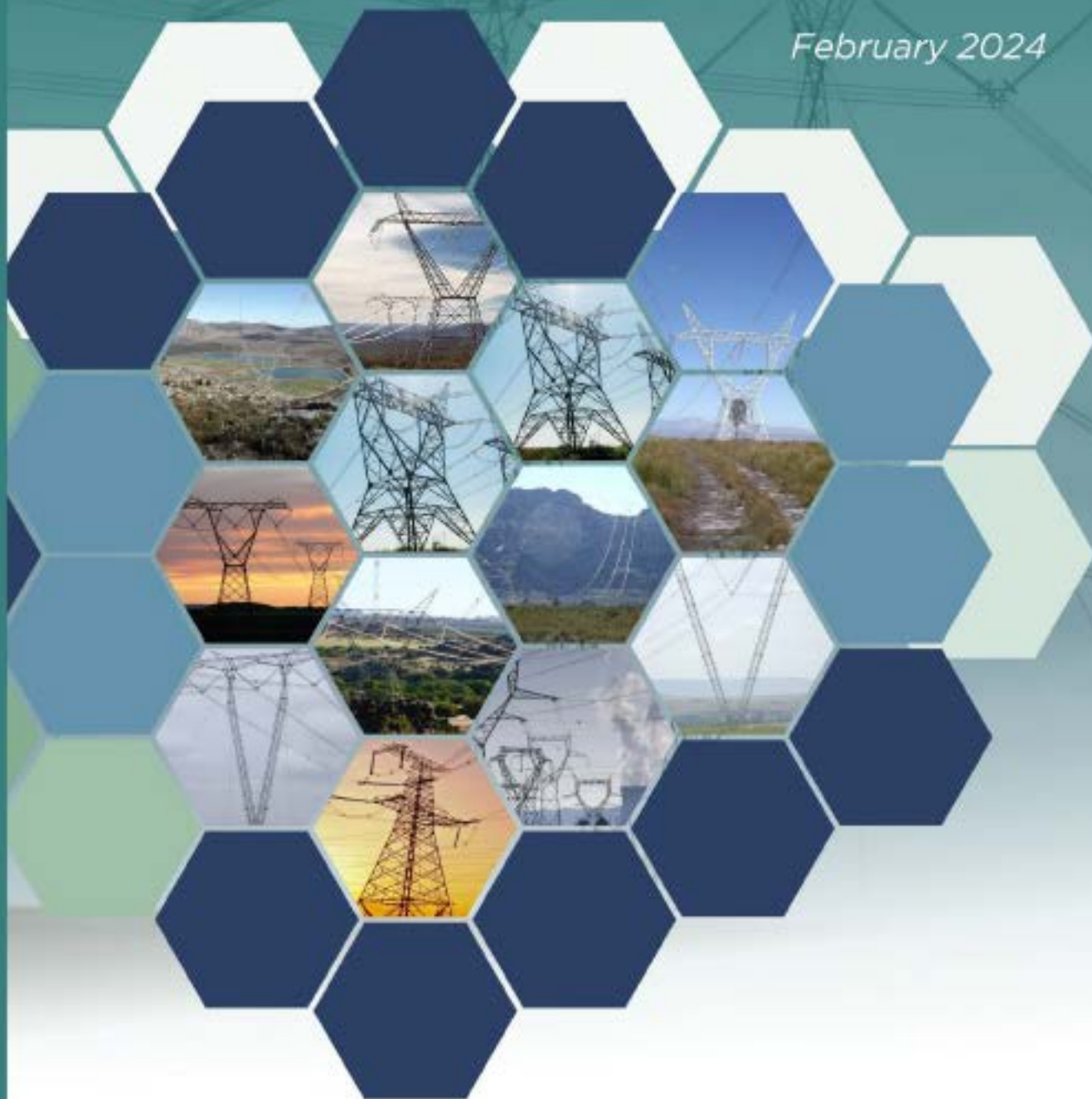
or Government Notice No. 145 in Government Gazette No. 44191 of 26 February 2021, read with the EIA Regulations, or may be withdrawn.

11. An environmental authorisation issued prior to the coming into effect of the Standard and this Notice or as a result of a pending application contemplated in paragraph 10 being finalised, remains valid as if the Standard and exclusion are not in effect.
12. A request for registration submitted in terms of the 2022 Standard must, despite the repeal of such Standard, be dispensed with in terms of the provisions of such Standard, as if such Standard has not been repealed.
13. Any actions undertaken in terms of the 2022 Standard and the exclusion that is based on such Standard must, once repealed, be regarded as having been undertaken in terms of the provisions of the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, 2024*.
14. Any registration issued in terms of the 2022 Standard must be regarded as a registration in terms of the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, 2024*.
15. The 2022 Standard will be repealed and replaced by the Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, 2024 from the date of publication of this Standard and its associated exclusions in the Government Gazette for implementation.
16. The Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, (2024), can be accessed at <https://egis.environment.gov.za/egi>, <https://gasnetwork.csir.co.za/> or at https://www.dffe.gov.za/projectprogrammes/environmental_management_instruments.
17. The *Strategic Environmental Assessment for Electricity Grid Infrastructure in South Africa (2016)* and the *Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Expansion of Electricity Grid Infrastructure Corridors in South Africa (2019)* can be accessed at <https://egi.csir.co.za/> or <https://egis.environment.gov.za/egi> or <https://gasnetwork.csir.co.za/>.

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Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure

February 2024



Prepared by:

*Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)*

Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure

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¹ This project team member has resigned from CSIR, however served as Project Leader from April 2017 to October 2019.

² This project team member resigned from SANBI at end October 2020.

³ Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, 2019. Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Expansion of Electricity Grid Infrastructure Corridors in South Africa. CSIR Report Number: CSIR/SPLA/EMS/ER/2019/0076/B. ISBN Number: ISBN 978-0-7988-5648-5. Stellenbosch and Durban.

⁴ This Author was employed by CSIR during the completion of the relevant SEA Report Chapters; however has subsequently resigned from CSIR.

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DECLARATION FORMS

ABBREVIATIONS and DEFINITIONS

BID	Background Information Document
CBO	community-based organisation
CA	competent authority
CR	Critically Endangered
EAP	environmental assessment practitioner
EIA	environmental impact assessment
ECO	environmental control officer
EGI	electricity grid infrastructure
EMPr	environmental management programme
EN	Endangered
ES	environmental scientist
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HIA	heritage impact assessment
I&APs	interested and affected parties
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended
NEM:BA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), as amended
NGO	non-governmental organisation
OEC	Obstacle Evaluation Committee
SABAP	South African Bird Atlas Project
SACAA	South African Civil Aviation Authority
SACNASP	South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SAGC	South African Grid Code
SEA	strategic environmental assessment
VU	Vulnerable
Vulpro	NGO dedicated to vulture protection
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa

“competent authority” means the organ of state that would have been designated by section 24C of the Act to consider an application for environmental authorisation in respect of a listed or specified activity;

“corridor” means a belt of land linking two locations, in which a final servitude may be registered and within which linear infrastructure is proposed;

“EIA Regulations” means the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, published under Government Notice No. R. 982 in Government Gazette No. 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended from time to time;

“environmental scientist” means a person registered under the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act No. 27 of 2003) by the South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions under the specific field;

“footprint” means the area on which the electricity transmission or distribution power line infrastructure and any associated structures or infrastructure is proposed to be located, including any relevant buffer, but excludes any corridor;

“Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substations” means the Generic Environmental Management Programme for the Development and Expansion of Substation Infrastructure for the Transmission and Distribution of Electricity, published under Government Notice No. R. 435 in Government Gazette No. 42323 of 22 March 2019, as amended from time to time;

“Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of power lines” means the Generic Environmental Management Programme for the Development and Expansion of Overhead Electricity Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure, published under Government Notice No. R. 435 in Government Gazette No. 42323 of 22 March 2019, as amended from time to time;

“linear infrastructure” is characterised by its generally linear spatial form and in the context of this Standard such linear infrastructure must be a transmission or distribution power line or provide either services or access for the transmission or power line;

“Listing Notice 1” means the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, published under Government Notice No. R. 983 in Government Gazette No. 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended from time to time;

“Listing Notice 2” means the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 published under Government Notice No. R. 984 in Government Gazette No. 38282 of 4 December 2014 as amended from time to time;

“Listing Notice 3” means the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 3 of 2014 published under Government Notice No. R. 985 in Government Gazette No. 38282 of 4 December 2014, as amended from time to time;

“pre-negotiation” means discussion prior to formal negotiation, which results in the signing of a letter of no-objection or a letter of agreement which documents an in-principal agreement that the corridor alignment may traverse the landowner’s property.

“screening tool” means the National Web Based Environmental Screening Tool which is accessible at <https://screening.environment.gov.za>;

“specialist” means a person who is skilled in a specific field and is registered under the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act No. 27 of 2003) by the South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions under a specific field of practice;

“the Act” means the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);

“the National Appeals Regulations” means the National Appeals Regulations, 2014, published under Government Notice No. R. 993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 of 8 December 2014, as amended from time to time.

CHAPTER 1. CONTEXT, PURPOSE, ACTIVITIES AND SCOPE

1.1 Context of the Standard

The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) promotes the integrated environmental management of activities that may have a significant impact (positive or negative) on the environment. Section 24(1) of the NEMA states that *“in order to give effect to the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in this Chapter, the potential consequences for or impacts on the environment of listed activities or specified activities must be considered, investigated, assessed and reported on to the competent authority or the Minister responsible for Mineral Resources, as the case may be, except in respect of those activities that may commence without having to obtain environmental authorisation in terms of this Act”*.

Section 24(2)(c) - (e) enables the Minister, or Member of the Executive Council (MEC) in concurrence with the Minister, to identify activities and geographical areas within which activities may be excluded from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation and section 24(2)(d) provides the ability to link such exclusions to compliance with prescribed norms or standards. This Standard, entitled “Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure” (the Standard)⁵ is proposed to be adopted in terms of section 24(10)(a) of NEMA to allow for the exclusion, in terms of section 24(2)(d) of NEMA, of activities for the development and expansion of electricity transmission and distribution power line infrastructure as identified in Listing Notices 1 and 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended (EIA Regulations), promulgated under section 24(5) of NEMA as well as any listed or specified activities necessary for the realisation of such infrastructure as described in the scope of this Standard.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment commissioned the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to undertake two strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) associated with the development of electricity grid infrastructure (EGI) in South Africa.⁶ Among others, the SEA processes identified geographical areas which are of strategic importance for the rollout of electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure in terms of Strategic Integrated Project 10: Electricity Transmission and Distribution for all.⁷ These geographical areas have been pre-assessed for environmental sensitivities and the results extrapolated to apply throughout the country. The extrapolated environmental sensitivities have been incorporated into the national web based environmental screening tool⁸ (screening tool) under a number of different environmental themes. The various environmental sensitivities have been rated into either a two or four tier environmental sensitivity map, with sensitivity ratings from very high, high, medium to low.

As part of the 2016 EGI SEA, Generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) were compiled for the development and expansion of substations as well as the development and expansion of power lines. These Generic EMPrs were gazetted for implementation on 22 March 2019 in Government Notice No. 435 published under Government Gazette No. 42323. The Generic EMPrs apply within South Africa as a whole, and apply to the development of all substations and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure (as contained in the EIA Regulations Listing Notices 1, 2 and where relevant Listing Notice 3 unless a circumstance is identified where it is stated that the Generic EMPrs are not applicable). These Generic EMPrs consist of the following sections:

- (a) Part A – This section includes definitions, acronyms, roles and responsibilities as well as documentation and reporting requirements.

⁵ This Standard replaces the “Standard for the Development and Expansion of Power Lines and Substations within identified Geographical Areas Revision 2 published as Government Notice No. 2313 in *Government Gazette* No. 47095 of 27 July 2022.

⁶ SEA completed in 2016 for the identification and assessment of five EGI Corridors and the SEA initiated in 2017 and completed in 2019 for the identification and assessment of two expanded EGI Corridors.

⁷ The SEAs can be accessed at: <https://egi.csir.co.za/>, <https://gasnetwork.csir.co.za/> and <https://egis.environment.gov.za/>.

⁸ The screening tool is an online application that includes a database of currently available spatial data used to assist Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) identify and consider environmental sensitivities in an area where development is being proposed. The screening tool can be accessed at: <https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool>.

- (b) Part B – Section 1: Contains the pre-approved Generic EMPr template that must be completed by the contractor prior to commencement of construction. This section does not need to be submitted to the competent authority.
- (c) Part B – Section 2: Provision of preliminary infrastructure layout and a declaration that the applicant/holder of the environmental authorisation will comply with the pre-approved Generic EMPr template contained in Part B: Section 1 and understands that the impact management outcomes and impact management actions are legally binding.
- (d) Part C – site specific sensitivities and attributes: If any specific environmental sensitivities or attributes are present on the site which require site specific impact management outcomes and actions that are not included in the pre-approved Generic EMPr (Part B – Section 1), these specific impact management outcomes and actions must be included in Part C and must be submitted to the competent authority for approval in the same format as the pre-approved Generic EMPr template.

For the purpose of this Standard, the pre-approved Generic EMPr template, Part B – Section 1, apply. Part C will apply only if any specific environmental sensitivities or attributes are identified which the pre-approved Generic EMPr template does not cover. However, in the case of this Standard, Part C is to be attached to the registration form, but will not need to be approved by the competent authority as envisaged in the gazetted Generic EMPrs.

1.2 Purpose of the Standard

The purpose of this Standard is to provide rules, which must be complied with, ensuring:

- (a) compliance with the principles contained in section 2 of NEMA and the duty of care, in terms of section 28(1) of NEMA; and
- (b) the sustainable development of the country's electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure as well as any associated structures or infrastructure.⁹

This Standard has been prepared to allow a proponent to achieve planning, routing, siting and remediation objectives that will ensure the acceptability of the environmental impacts of the development of electricity transmission and distribution power line infrastructure and associated activities necessary for the realisation of the infrastructure, independently from a review by the competent authority and thereby facilitating the exclusion of the activities from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation prior to commencement.

This Standard has been informed by the following: the EGI SEAs; the experience gained through the review of a number¹⁰ of applications related to the development or expansion of electricity transmission and distribution power line infrastructure and the associated structures or infrastructure since the implementation of the Regulations regarding activities identified under section 21(1) of the Environment Conservation Act¹¹ in 1997 and subsequently the EIA Regulations in 2006; the implementation of the Standard for the Development and Expansion of Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas in 2022; the preparation and the implementation of a Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of power lines and the development and expansion of substations where relevant.

1.3 Activities

The provisions of this Standard and scope of the exclusion are applicable to the development or expansion of electricity transmission and distribution power line infrastructure and any associated activities, identified in Listing Notice 1, 2 or 3, which are being planned and constructed with the transmission or distribution infrastructure and which are integral to the infrastructure.

⁹ Associated structures include substations integral to the power line infrastructure.

¹⁰ 115 applications have been reviewed in the past five years.

¹¹ Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989).

The activities that are relevant to, and will be excluded based on compliance with this Standard are as follows:

- (a) Listing Notice 1:
 - (i) Activity 11; and
 - (ii) Activity 47;
- (b) Listing Notice 2:
 - (i) Activity 9;
- (c) In addition to the activities identified above, the following activities and infrastructure are generally required for the realisation of transmission and/ or distribution power lines which could trigger additional listed or specified activities. Should any of the associated activities and infrastructure trigger an identified activity, it is regarded as being included in the Standard and scope of the exclusion;
 - (i) Construction camp site and laydown area establishment;
 - (ii) Servitude gate installation to facilitate access to the servitude;
 - (iii) Vegetation clearing to facilitate access, construction and the safe operation of the infrastructure;
 - (iv) Establishing of access roads to the servitude where required;
 - (v) Establishing of a service road within or adjacent to the servitude for maintenance;
 - (vi) Preparation for construction right-of-way and ground preparation;
 - (vii) Pegging of tower positions for construction;
 - (viii) Transportation of equipment, materials and personnel to site and stores;
 - (ix) Installation of foundations for the towers;
 - (x) Tower assembly and erection;
 - (xi) Conductor stringing and regulation;
 - (xii) Transfer of the line from the Contractor for commissioning;
 - (xiii) Rehabilitation of disturbed areas;
 - (xiv) Final inspection of the line, commissioning and transfer of the grid line and servitude for operation; and
 - (xv) Operation and maintenance of the infrastructure.

Transmission and distribution power lines are to be located within a registered servitude. Maintenance of this servitude is required to retain access and reduce the risk of obstruction and lightning strikes to the power line. Servitude widths vary from 15 m – 80 m depending on the size of the power line and an access road of 4 m – 6 m in width is typically required as well as a service road within or adjacent to the servitude. The servitude agreement with the landowner will specify the requirements of the power line operator. Maintenance activities will include cleaning, inspections, and repair (as required).

1.4 Scope of the Standard and Exclusion

The activities contemplated in paragraph 1.3 of this Standard are excluded from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation prior to commencement:¹²

- (a) when undertaken in compliance with the requirements contemplated in Chapters 2 and 3, and Appendices A, B, D and E of this Standard;
- (b) when developed in areas of “low” or “medium” environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool, and confirmed to be such by the relevant specialist for the following identified environmental themes:
 - (i) Agriculture;
 - (ii) Aquatic biodiversity;

¹² Section 24G of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) does not apply to proposals falling within the ambit of the Standard.

- (iii) Terrestrial biodiversity;
 - (iv) Avifauna species;
 - (v) Plant species;
 - (vi) Animal species; and
 - (vii) Visual;
- (c) where the site sensitivity verification identifies that a “very high” or “high” environmental sensitivity rating as identified on the screening tool is in fact “medium” or “low” for the environmental themes contemplated in sub paragraphs 1.4(b), and evidence is provided in the site sensitivity verification report;
- (d) when the aerial component of the power line is to traverse areas of “high” or “very high” environmental sensitivity for the environmental themes contemplated in sub paragraphs 1.4(b), if the relevant specialist confirms in the site sensitivity verification report that mitigation measures for any impacts of the aerial component are included in the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of power lines, and where relevant, have been added in Part C of such Generic EMPrs, and that any remaining impacts are acceptable after mitigation;
- (e) where the ground-based infrastructure¹³ is proposed to be located in areas of “high” or “very high” environmental sensitivity for the environmental themes contemplated in sub paragraphs 1.4(b) if the relevant specialist conducts a site sensitivity verification investigation and confirms in the site sensitivity verification report that -
- (i) in the case of agricultural land, the ground-based infrastructure is to be placed in areas of the least commercial value as possible due to size and/or location;
 - (ii) in the case of avifaunal impacts, mitigation measures have been identified and that the impacts are acceptable after mitigation;¹⁴
 - (iii) in the case of plant and animal species, no plant species of conservation concern are destroyed or removed and no breeding areas of animal species of conservation concern are destroyed;
 - (iv) in the case of animal species, mitigation measures have been identified and impacts are acceptable after mitigation (in particular, this applies to Riverine Rabbit);
 - (v) the mitigation measures for any identified environmental impacts are included in the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of power lines and, where relevant, the development or expansion of substations or have been added in Part C of either of the Generic EMPrs, whichever is appropriate¹⁵ and that any remaining environmental impact is acceptable after mitigation; and
 - (vi) in all cases the relevant specialists confirm that the mitigation hierarchy has been applied as far as possible.

Where any of the requirements contemplated in paragraph 1.4 (a) to (e) are not met for all of the environmental themes contemplated in sub paragraph 1.4(b), this Standard and exclusion does not apply and an application for an environmental authorisation must be submitted.

1.5 General

The provisions of the National Appeals Regulations are applicable to decisions taken based on this Standard and an appeal against any registration decision related to this Standard may be lodged.

Compliance with this Standard and exclusion from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation does not negate the need for the proponent to comply with all other applicable legislation.¹⁶

¹³ The ground-based infrastructure could include the components in section 1.3 such as the towers, roads or the construction camp.

¹⁴ In the case of Verreaux’s Eagle, the Verreaux’s Eagles risk assessment tool must be used to determine risk.

¹⁵ If Part C is applicable, this section of the Generic EMPr must be submitted with the registration documentation.

¹⁶ For example, the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) and KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute Act 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018) and associated regulations.

CHAPTER 2. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The proponent must appoint a professionally registered environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) registered environmental scientist (ES)¹⁷ and must ensure that the EAP/ES fulfils the requirements to register the proposed development in accordance with this Standard.
2. The EAP/ES must identify a preliminary corridor¹⁸ and locations for relevant associated infrastructure,¹⁹ using the screening tool, their professional knowledge and any additional relevant fine scale spatial datasets as available from the provincial department responsible for the environment and the relevant local municipality. In identifying the preliminary corridor and locations for relevant associated infrastructure, the proponent and EAP/ES must consider and implement:
 - (a) the mitigation hierarchy;
 - (b) the procedural requirements contained in Chapter 2; and
 - (c) any engineering constraints.
3. The EAP/ES must prepare a database of interested and affected parties (I&APs) along the preliminary corridor which must be updated regularly throughout the process.
4. As part of the public participation process, the EAP/ES must identify and consult with:
 - (a) landowners and land occupiers along the preliminary corridor;
 - (b) relevant conservation and biodiversity entities/agencies;
 - (c) relevant government departments and state owned entities;
 - (d) relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved with ecology, bird preservation and game farmers;
 - (e) relevant tourist and farmers organisations in the area;
 - (f) the relevant heritage authority;²⁰ and
 - (g) stakeholders involved in activities potentially affected by the visual impact of the power lines such as ecotourism.
5. The EAP/ES must announce the proposed development by making available a Background Information Document (BID),²¹ including any supporting documents, to I&APs identified on the database and must include the information on a publicly accessible website until the end of the appeal period.
6. The BID must include as a minimum the following information:
 - (a) Purpose of the BID;
 - (b) Legal context;
 - (c) Background and project description;
 - (d) The need and desirability of the project;
 - (e) Process and timeline;
 - (f) Summary of the implications of the screening tool report for the preliminary corridor and associated infrastructure, including the substation where relevant. The screening tool report must be appended to the BID as part of the supporting documentation;

¹⁷ An environmental assessment practitioner or environmental scientist may work on behalf of the proponent, however the proponent remains responsible for undertaking all legislated tasks.

¹⁸ The *preliminary corridor* is to be wide enough to provide options to avoid environmental and engineering constraints. The width of the *preliminary corridor* shall be determined by the proponent based on best practice. The corridor planning has three phases:

- Preliminary corridor (before specialists have input).
- Draft pre-negotiated corridor (in the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report).
- Final pre-negotiated corridor (in the Final Environmental Sensitivity Report).

¹⁹ The associated infrastructure includes the substation where relevant.

²⁰ Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) applies to developments and expansions contemplated in this Standard, and the relevant heritage resources authority identified at the link provided must be contacted (<https://www.sahra.org.za/development-applications-unit/>).

²¹ The purpose of the BID is not to obtain comments within a dedicated comment period but rather to announce the project, call for interested and affected stakeholders to register their interest and to update the stakeholder database.

- (g) Location of the preliminary corridor and associated infrastructure including a map generated at an appropriate scale that displays the extent of the preliminary corridor and associated infrastructure in as much detail as possible;
 - (h) Contact details of the EAP/ES; and
 - (i) I&AP registration forms and a date by when the interest of the stakeholder should be registered.
7. The proponent assisted by the EAP/ES must appoint a specialist team to assist with the pre-negotiated corridor planning by –
 - (a) undertaking the site sensitivity verification which must be a physical inspection of the environmental themes contemplated in paragraph 1.4(b);²²
 - (b) undertaking the required walkthrough²³ inspections of areas that need verification in the opinion of the EAP/ES and specialist; and
 - (c) considering various corridor alternatives and determining a draft pre-negotiated corridor based on the verified site sensitivity, as well as information provided by the screening tool, additional spatial data provided by municipal or provincial authorities and the EAP/ES's professional knowledge.
 8. As the draft pre-negotiated corridor is being identified, the initial servitude negotiations²⁴ are to be undertaken to ensure that the final pre-negotiated corridor location is not fatally flawed in relation to servitude access.
 9. The process to identify the draft pre-negotiated corridor location and the outcome of the initial servitude negotiations must be documented in a draft environmental sensitivity report, which must be subjected to a minimum public comment period of 30 days as part of the public participation process. The draft environmental sensitivity report must be made available on a publicly accessible website for the duration of the comment period and to the identified I&APs contemplated in paragraph 4.
 10. The draft environmental sensitivity report must include, as a minimum, the following information:
 - (a) The details and relevant expertise of the EAP/ES and specialists preparing the report, including evidence of current professional registration, where applicable;
 - (b) In the case of the need to develop or expand non-linear infrastructure or structures, the written consent from the owner or person in control of the land on which the proposed development is to be undertaken;
 - (c) Proof of the initial servitude negotiations with the landowners within the draft pre-negotiated corridor;
 - (d) The outcome of the screening exercise undertaken using the screening tool, the expert knowledge of the specialists where necessary, results of the site sensitivity verification.²⁵ the adoption of the mitigation hierarchy and the procedural requirements contained in this Chapter of this Standard;
 - (e) A discussion on the corridor alternatives considered;
 - (f) Location map of the draft pre-negotiated corridor and associated infrastructure at a scale not coarser than 1:15000 to identify environmental features;
 - (g) Details of the public participation process undertaken at the time of preparing the draft report;
 - (h) A documented discussion by the specialists and EAP/ES of the process used to consider²⁶ and to confirm that the draft pre-negotiated corridor has applied the procedural requirements contained in this Chapter of this Standard, and the process used to confirm that the site sensitivity of the proposed draft pre-negotiated corridor is of low or medium environmental sensitivity and/or fulfils the requirements contemplated under Paragraphs 1.4 (c), (d) and/or (e);

²² The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken in line with the guidance provided in the Environmental Assessment Guideline for Ecosystems available at <https://begis.sanbi.org/>.

²³ It is not intended that a walkthrough inspection would be required for the entire footprint, but rather areas that need verification in the expert view of the environmental specialist or EAP/ES.

²⁴ Initial servitude negotiations do not entail the signing of actual servitude agreements but should indicate proof of the negotiations which can be in the form of a letter of no objection or a letter of agreement signed by the landowner indicating that they are aware of the proposed corridor and have no objection to the corridor traversing their property.

²⁵ The results of the site sensitivity verification must include any evidence e.g. photographs, should the outcome of the site sensitivity verification be different to that which is identified by the screening tool.

²⁶ This process would include a discussion on the alternative corridor configurations considered by the specialists and EAP/ES as part of the corridor planning process.

- (i) where applicable, Part C of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of power lines and/or Part C of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substations;²⁷ and
 - (j) The confirming statement by the various specialists in the format as identified in Appendix B of this Standard.
11. The EAP/ES and specialists must refine, where needed, the draft pre-negotiated corridor in order to plan, identify and confirm the final pre-negotiated corridor.²⁸ This must be achieved by considering and implementing the mitigation hierarchy and the requirements of this Chapter; considering engineering constraints; and taking into consideration comments received from stakeholders during the minimum 30 day public comment period on the draft environmental sensitivity report.
12. A final environmental sensitivity report must be prepared by the EAP/ES supported by the specialists, which documents the following:
- (a) map showing the location of the final pre-negotiated corridor²⁹ including associated infrastructure and areas requiring mitigation devices such as bird flight diverters (where relevant);
 - (b) proof of the initial servitude negotiations with the landowners within the final pre-negotiated corridor;³⁰
 - (c) landowner's consent for the location of the associated non-linear infrastructure where relevant;³¹
 - (d) database of I&APs consulted on the project;
 - (e) records of comments and responses;
 - (f) where applicable, Part C of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of powerlines, and/or Part C of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substations;
 - (g) final confirming statements by the various specialists in the format as identified in Appendix B of this Standard; and
 - (h) all other relevant information stipulated in paragraph 10.
13. The EAP/ES on behalf of the proponent, must submit the relevant registration form and supporting documents contained in Appendix D of this Standard, to the competent authority and must notify all registered I&APs of the associated submission. A copy of the final environmental sensitivity report must be made available electronically to registered I&APs or through another means where the I&AP does not have access to electronic mail and uploaded onto the website as identified in paragraph 9 for information purposes.
14. The registration form must be accompanied by:
- (a) The final pre-negotiated corridor and the signed declaration by the proponent of commitment to implement the Standard (included as Appendix 9 to the registration form);
 - (b) A signed statement from the proponent that initial servitude negotiations have been concluded;
 - (c) The signed declaration that the proponent will comply with the pre-approved Generic EMPr template and Part C of the Generic EMPrs if applicable;
 - (d) The final environmental sensitivity report; and
 - (e) All supporting documents stipulated in the registration form.
15. On receiving the relevant information identified in paragraph 14, the competent authority must issue a registration number within 30 days of receipt of the information submitted; or, if the information is incomplete, indicate to the proponent within 14 days of receipt of the information submitted³² that the submission is incomplete and identify the outstanding information required. A register of all registrations must be kept by the competent authority.

²⁷ Part B – section 1 of the generic EMPrs must be completed and signed by the relevant parties but are not required to be submitted as part of the registration documentation.

²⁸ The pre-negotiated corridor width is set at the discretion of the proponent to allow for negotiation of the final servitude, noting that the site sensitivity verification is required to have been undertaken for the area of the pre-negotiated corridor.

²⁹ The width of the pre-negotiated corridor must be included in the final environmental sensitivity report.

³⁰ A template for the proof of pre-negotiation can be accessed at <https://www.dffe.gov.za/forms-and-permits>.

³¹ A template for the landowner consent letter can be accessed at <https://www.dffe.gov.za/forms-and-permits>.

³² Where the registration is incomplete, it is the responsibility of the EAP/ES on behalf of the proponent to determine if the outstanding information would warrant a further consultation process before being resubmitted to the competent authority.

16. Upon receipt of a registration number, the proponent must inform all registered I&APs within 14 days of the registration and the opportunity to appeal.³³
17. Registration contemplated in paragraph 15 will be valid for a period of 10 years from receipt of the registration number in order for commencement to take place (validity period). If commencement does not take place within the validity period, the process contemplated in Chapter 2 will apply afresh.
18. The proponent must provide written notice to the compliance monitoring unit within the competent authority 14 days prior to the date on which the first of the activities contemplated in the scope of this Standard, including site preparation, will commence in order to facilitate compliance inspections.
19. Proof of registration must be:
 - (a) made available by the proponent on request to any member of the public or any government authority; and
 - (b) made available, on the owner's publicly accessible website.
20. Where a change of ownership of a development registered in terms of paragraph 15 occurs during the pre-construction or construction phases of the infrastructure, the registration number is retained by the new owner, however the new owner must submit to the competent authority for re-registration the following documents within 30 days upon finalisation of such change;
 - (a) a completed re-registration form contemplated in Appendix E;
 - (b) the declaration by the new owner of his/her commitment to implement Part B – Section 1 of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of power lines, and where relevant the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substations (Appendix 10);
 - (c) where applicable, Part C of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of power lines and/or Part C of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substations (Appendix 10); and
 - (d) the declaration by the new owner of his/her commitment to implement the Standard (to be included as Appendix 9 to the registration form).
21. Where a change of ownership of a portion of the infrastructure registered in terms of paragraph 15 occurs during the pre-construction or construction phase of the infrastructure, a new registration number must be issued by the competent authority for the portion transferred, while the remaining portion is to be re-registered by the original holder and which portion will retain the original registration number. The owner of the transferred portion must submit to the competent authority for re-registration the following documents within 30 days upon finalisation of such change to enable the issuing of a new registration number to the new owner:
 - (a) a completed re-registration form contemplated in Appendix E;
 - (b) the declaration by the new owner of his/her commitment to implement Part B – Section 1 of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of power lines, and where relevant the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substations;
 - (c) where applicable, Part C of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of powerlines and/or Part C of the Generic EMPr for the development and expansion of substations;
 - (d) an updated locality map indicating clearly the portion to be transferred and the remaining portion including the existing registration number.
22. Where a change of ownership of a development registered in terms of paragraph 15 occurs after the finalisation of the construction phase, the new owner must submit to the competent authority within 30 days upon finalisation of such change, for re-registration, a completed re-registration form contemplated in Appendix E. The intention of re-registering the infrastructure in the name of the new owner is to ensure that there is a correct record of ownership for the registered infrastructure.

³³ Any appeal must be lodged and processed according to the NEMA National Appeals Regulations promulgated in Government Notice No. 993 published in Government Gazette No. 38303 of 8 December 2014; and the NEMA National Appeal Amendment Regulations promulgated in Government Notice 205 published in Government Gazette 38559 of 12 March 2015, as amended from time to time.

23. Where a change of ownership of a portion of the infrastructure registered in terms of paragraph 15 occurs after the finalisation of the construction phase, a new registration number must be issued by the competent authority for the portion transferred, while the remaining portion is to be re-registered by the original holder, and which portion will retain the original registration number. The owner of the transferred portion must submit to the competent authority within 30 days upon finalisation of such change, a completed re-registration form contemplated in Appendix E, together with an updated locality map indicating clearly the portion to be transferred and the remaining portion, as well as the existing registration number, to enable the issuing of a new registration number to the new owner for the portion to be transferred.

Appendix C of this Standard contains a process flow diagram of the procedural requirements.

CHAPTER 3. COMPLIANCE – AUTHORITY INSPECTIONS

The proponent must provide the competent authority and any authorised official, including duly designated Environmental Management Inspectors, with access to the facility where the activity included under this Standard is undertaken, for the purposes of monitoring compliance with the Standard.

CHAPTER 4. OFFENCES

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Standard and exclusion constitutes an offence in terms of section 49A(1)(b) of NEMA.

CHAPTER 5. REFERENCES

Parties using the Standard and exclusion shall also consider, *inter alia*, the most recent edition of the documents listed hereunder:

- The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEM: BA);
- The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 59 of 2003) (NEM:PAA);
- The National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998);
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983) and relevant regulations;
- National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998) and any Notices of protected tree species issued under the National Forest Act; and
- Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947).
- NEM: BA Government Notice No. 2747 of 2022– Revised National list of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection.
- NEM: BA GNR 152 of 2007 – Threatened or Protected Species Regulations.
- NEM: BA: GNR 1020 of 2020– Alien and Invasive Species Regulations.
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005).
- Government Notice No. 2423 of 26 August 2022 - Revised National Biodiversity Framework (2019 - 2024).
- National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (2016).
- National Biodiversity Assessment (2018).
- Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act No. 16 of 2013).
- Heritage Western Cape Short Guide to and Policy Statement on Grading issued in 2012³⁴;
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Minimum Standards for Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessments issued in 2007³⁵.
- SANS 10280-1:2013 Overhead power lines for conditions prevailing in South Africa. Part 1: Safety.
- Eskom Specifications including any updates thereof:
 - Land and Biodiversity Policy, 32-736.
 - SHEQ Policy, 32-736 Rev 2, October 2023.
 - Land and Biodiversity Standard, 32-815, Rev 2, September 2019.
 - Wildlife Interaction and Management Standard, 32-829, Rev 2, August 2020.

³⁴https://www.westerncape.gov.za/other/2012/9/grading_guide_&_policy_version_5_app_30_may_2012.pdf

³⁵ <http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/sites/default/files/website/articledocs/ASG2-2%20SAHRA%20A%26PIAs%20MIN%20STDS%20Ph1-2%2016May07.pdf>

- Transmission servitude gates Standard, TGL41-338, November 2009.
- Vegetation Management on Eskom Land, Servitudes, Rights of Way, 240-70172585 Rev 22, June 2019.
- Herbicide Usage in Eskom Prohibited and Restricted Areas, Live Chambers, Telecommunication Infrastructure Yards and Security Fences 240-125477962 Rev 1, January 2018.
- Guideline on the electrical coordination of pipelines and power lines, 240-66418968, April 2015, January 2018.
- Erosion Guideline, TGL41-337, November 2009.
- Vegetation Management on Eskom Land, Servitudes, Rights of Way, 240-70172585 Rev 2, June 2019.
- Transmission and Distribution Power line Nesting Guideline 240-139833237 Rev 1, November 2009.
- Utilisation of Bird Flight Diverters on Eskom Overhead Lines 240-93563150, Rev 4, May 2021. Plastic Bird Perch Diverter Installation Guideline 240-156074235 Rev 1, July 2020.
- Proactive bird mitigation in distribution, 240-115756171, Rev 1, April 2017.
- TRMSCAAC 6: The Standard for the construction of overhead power lines, 240-47172520 Rev 2, July 2021.
- Contractor Specification for Vegetation Management, 240-52456757, March 2013.
- Vegetation Management on Eskom Land, Servitudes, Rights of Way, 240-70172585, Rev 2, June 2019.
- Environmental Procedure for vegetation clearance and maintenance within overhead power line servitudes and on Eskom owned land, 32-247, September 2007.

APPENDIX A – ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS

Appendix A includes specifications per environmental theme that need to be carried out to verify the environmental sensitivity of the site and undertake the walkthrough to guide the planning of the corridor and to identify the final pre-negotiated corridor.

Unless otherwise indicated, these environmental specifications apply to the three phases of the corridor planning which include the preliminary corridor identification undertaken by the EAP/ES; the draft pre-negotiated corridor that is informed by specialist input and then taken through an engagement process (i.e. public comments period on the draft environmental sensitivity report); and the final pre-negotiated corridor that incorporates these previous inputs.

A.1. Agriculture

1. The placement of pylons must be avoided in demarcated high value agricultural areas with a priority rating of A and/or B.
2. Where pylons are located in the following areas, the placement must be undertaken in a manner in which the impact on these areas are minimised:
 - (a) Land capability evaluation values 15 – 8.
 - (b) Irrigated land.
 - (c) Horticulture and viticulture.
 - (d) Demarcated high value agricultural areas with a priority rating of C and/or D.
3. All reasonable measures must be taken through micro-siting of the proposed development to minimize fragmentation and disturbance of agricultural activities.
4. Self-supporting lattice or monopole structures are to be used in crop fields, orchards and vineyards.

A.2. Aquatic Biodiversity

5. Wetlands must be avoided or, where wetland crossing is unavoidable, the power line should be routed over the narrowest part of the wetland. For the most part, wetlands and rivers can be traversed by the power line with little to no impact by placing the pylons outside of the wetland.
6. Engage with the department responsible for water affairs to discuss the requirements of a General Authorisation or Water Use Licence.
7. The outcomes of the engagement process contemplated in subparagraph 6 of Paragraph A.2, where required, must be documented in the final environmental sensitivity report, including any restrictions or design requirements.
8. Identify and locate on the final layout map freshwater features that are prone to impacts resulting from the construction of power lines within the final pre-negotiated corridor.
9. Avoid the freshwater features in the final pre-negotiated corridor.

A.3. Terrestrial Biodiversity including Plant and Animal Species

10. The Terrestrial Biodiversity, Plant and Animal Specialists must:
 - a) Use the most recently obtainable and available information (spatial and otherwise) to verify, on a desktop level, the environmental sensitivity of the draft pre-negotiated corridor. This includes, *inter alia*, most recent versions of the provincial or municipal conservation plans.
 - b) Identify ecosystem types and faunal species that are prone to impacts resulting from power lines within the draft pre-negotiated corridor and ultimately the final pre-negotiated corridor.
 - c) Verify with a walkthrough, the presence and status of the ecosystem types and species.
 - d) Avoid threatened ecosystem types (CR, EN and VU) or threatened or rare/range restricted species in the final pre-negotiated corridor.
 - e) Identify and locate on the final layout map any areas within the final pre-negotiated corridor where development must not take place due to terrestrial ecological sensitivity.

- f) Ensure that the power line alignment is not located within 1 km of major³⁶ piggeries and poultry farms.

A.4. Avifauna

11. During the planning phase³⁷:

- a) A 1 km buffer either side of the centre line of the preliminary corridor must be drawn for verification of avifaunal sensitivity.
- b) The boundary of the corridor within which the power line is to be located shall not be located within 500 m of the edge of waterbodies found to be suitable for Greater Flamingo, Black Stork, Blue Crane, Great White Pelican, Lesser Flamingo and African Marsh-harrier.
- c) Avoid Cape Vulture and White-backed Vulture breeding colonies by a 5 km buffer. In addition, management of the potential impacts on the breeding birds is required once construction commences, which would necessitate the involvement of the avifaunal specialist.
- d) Avoid Vulture restaurants by a 5 km buffer. Should the full extent of the buffering at vulture restaurants not be practically possible, the vulture restaurant should be relocated in consultation with the owner of the restaurant.
- e) Avoid all known Blue Swallow breeding habitat by a 2.5 km buffer. Should the full extent of the buffering not be practically possible, a thorough investigation must be conducted by a suitably experienced avifaunal specialist with experience of Blue Swallows to identify any potential nesting holes, which must then be appropriately buffered, in consultation with any relevant wildlife association in the province (e.g. Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife, or Cape Nature etc.) and BirdLife South Africa to prevent destruction of the nest holes.
- f) The Avifauna specialist must:
 - i. use the **most recently obtainable and available information** (spatial and otherwise) as well as the screening tool, professional knowledge of the EAP/ES and the avifauna specialist to determine, on a desktop level, the habitat sensitivity for avifaunal species along the corridor and/or substation location. BirdLife South Africa, World Wildlife Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and VULPRO, must be contacted for their input.
 - ii. establish habitat and migratory routes and likely flight paths³⁸ based on the most recently obtainable and available desktop data and site sensitivity verification.
 - iii. consult Eskom's central incident register to determine which of the species occurring in the broader study area are typically impacted upon by power lines.
 - iv. based on information from the most recent iteration of the South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP), and the most recent iteration of the list of threatened species and the IUCN Red Data List of Birds, establish the conservation status of all avifaunal species within the 1 km buffer established as per the requirement in subparagraph paragraph 11(a) of Paragraph A.4.
 - v. based on the information collected on birds typically impacted upon by power lines, confirm the presence of threatened species which include, as a minimum, Cranes, Flamingos, Vultures, Kori Bustards, and Pelicans.
 - vi. use the Verreaux's Eagle Risk Assessment tool to model areas of high risk for Verreaux's Eagle collision with power lines. In addition, the Cape Vulture Risk map³⁹ must be used to determine areas of high collision risk for Cape Vultures with power lines.
 - vii. where high risk areas are identified, these areas must be confirmed with EWT by using Eskom's central incident register and discussed with BirdLife South Africa.
 - viii. Where the risk assessment tool identifies that mitigation measures can be applied, apply these mitigation measures in consultation with EWT, BirdLife South Africa and the local conservation agency.

³⁶ A major facility is a facility as described in Listing Notice 1, Activity 4 and 5, of the EIA Regulations.

³⁷ The distance of the buffer should be measured from the center line of the preliminary, draft pre-negotiated or final pre-negotiated corridor.

³⁸ Likely flight paths being areas between breeding sites, roosts, and foraging areas of species at risk.

³⁹ Available on the screening tool.

- g) The power line design must comply with the latest version of the grid code design requirements to reduce the electrocution risk for birds. The code can be obtained from Eskom.

Where no acceptable mitigation measures can be applied, re-routing options or engineering solutions, for example routing under the risk area identified or increasing the height of the power line in order to avoid potential collision risk areas, must be applied. Where engineering options are considered these must be discussed with EWT, BirdLife South Africa and the local conservation agency.

A.5. Bats

12. Avoid bat roosts that are known and/or have been identified within a 500 m buffer of the corridor⁴⁰.

A.6. Estuaries

13. Pylons shall not be placed within the estuarine functional zone⁴¹ or within its associated inflowing coastal wetlands and rivers.
14. Estuarine vegetation and associated coastal freshwater riparian vegetation flowing into and/or associated with estuaries shall not be cleared.

A.7. Visual

15. Sensitive receptors - including, but not limited to human receptors such as residents, commuters, visitors and tourists, as well as sensitive scenic routes such as wilderness zones⁴² must be identified. A visual sensitivity map must be compiled to inform the location of the draft, and ultimately the final, pre-negotiated corridor.
16. The precautionary principle must be followed, whereby negotiations must be undertaken with the sensitive human receptors.
17. If the negotiations stipulated in subparagraph 16 of Section A.7 are unsuccessful, the appeals process is available to any aggrieved party.

A.8. Civil Aviation

18. In areas identified as having a high or very high sensitivity related to hazards and obstacles to civil aviation installations, engage with Civil Aviation Authority as described in the South African Civil Aviation Regulations of 2011.
19. The outcomes of the engagement process contemplated in subparagraph 18 of paragraph A.8, where required, must be documented in the final environmental sensitivity report, including any restrictions or design requirements.

A.9. Defence

20. Engage with the defence authorities in the event of the power line being located within:
- (a) 1 km of forward airfields, high sites, operational military bases, military training areas, shooting ranges, border posts, all other Department of defence features (including naval bases, housing, offices, workshops);
 - (b) 8 km from air force bases;
 - (c) 10 km from ammunition depots; or
 - (d) 56 km from bombing ranges⁴³.

⁴⁰ Bat roosts have been identified on the screening tool under the wind energy methodology.

⁴¹ In South Africa the estuary functional zone is generally defined by the +5 m topographical contour (as indicative of 5 m above mean sea level) and includes all the estuarine open water area; estuarine habitats (sand and mudflats, rock and plant communities) and adjacent floodplain area whether developed or undeveloped. It therefore encompasses not only the estuary water-body but also all the habitats that support physical and biological processes that characterise an estuarine system.

⁴² Wilderness zones are defined as areas of pristine wilderness that do not have any anthropogenic impacts including visual impacts.

⁴³ This information can be obtained from the screening tool under the wind methodology.

21. The outcomes of the engagement process contemplated in subparagraph 20 of paragraph A.9, where required, must be documented in the final environmental sensitivity report, including any restrictions or design requirements.

APPENDIX B – FORMAT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST CONFIRMING STATEMENTS

Appendix B provides the formats of the confirming statements to be provided by the specialist(s) or EAP/ES per theme. The overall aim of the confirming statement is to:

- Confirm that the environmental sensitivity is low or medium as per the sensitivity identified by the screening tool or fulfils the requirements contemplated under Paragraph 1.4 (c), (d) or (e);
- state whether the final pre-negotiated corridor is considered to be optimal in relation to the mitigation hierarchy, based on the specialist walkthrough.

In all the confirming statements the following information must be provided:

1. Contact details, relevant qualifications and curriculum vitae of the specialist or EAP/ES, including a description of expertise in preparing the statement;
2. A signed declaration of independence by the EAP/ES or specialist on the form respectively contained in Appendix 11 or Appendix 12 of Appendix D of this Standard;

B.1. Agriculture

The confirming statement must be prepared by a soil scientist or agricultural specialist registered with the SACNASP, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

1. A statement on the duration, date and season of the site sensitivity verification inspection and walkthrough as well as the relevance of the season to the outcome of the confirming statement;
2. Confirmation that the affected environment within the final pre-negotiated corridor, as it pertains to agricultural resources is low to medium sensitivity, based on desktop information, site sensitivity verification and walkthrough information;
3. Confirmation that impacts after mitigation are acceptable should the final pre-negotiated corridor intersect an area of high or very high agricultural sensitivity (as contemplated under Paragraph 1.4 (d) or (e));
4. Identification of agricultural resource areas in which development must not take place within the final pre-negotiated corridor, including buffers;
5. An agricultural resources sensitivity map generated by the screening tool and enhanced by any relevant additional information, overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement as well as supporting and associated infrastructure);
6. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, as it pertains to agricultural resources, has been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
7. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, as it pertains to agricultural resources, have been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
8. A confirmation that all reasonable measures have been considered in the micro-siting of the development to minimise fragmentation and disturbance of agricultural activities;
9. How the inputs of I&APs were considered when determining the final pre-negotiated corridor; and
10. A statement confirming that:
 - a. impact management actions as contained in the pre-approved Generic EMPr template are sufficient for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks; or
 - b. where required specific impact management outcomes and actions are required and have been provided as part of the site specific EMPr.

B.2. Aquatic Biodiversity

The confirming statement must be prepared by a specialist registered with the SACNASP with relevant expertise in aquatic biodiversity or similar, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

11. A statement on the duration, date and season of the site sensitivity verification inspection and walkthrough as well as the relevance of the season to the outcome of the confirming statement;
12. Confirmation that the aquatic biodiversity (flora and fauna) and existing environmental impacts within the final pre-negotiated corridor is low or medium, based on the most recently available desktop data, site sensitivity verification inspection and walkthrough;
13. Confirmation that impacts after mitigation are acceptable should the final pre-negotiated corridor intersect an area of high or very high aquatic biodiversity sensitivity (as contemplated under paragraph 1.4 (d) or (e));
14. Identification of aquatic biodiversity areas to be avoided within the final pre-negotiated corridor, including buffers;
15. An aquatic biodiversity sensitivity map, generated by the screening tool and enhanced by any relevant additional information obtained from the walkthrough or any other sources, identifying any areas of sensitivity including a buffer in which no development must take place, overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement as well as supporting and associated infrastructure);
16. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, relating to aquatic biodiversity, has been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
17. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, relating to aquatic biodiversity, have been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
18. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the *final pre-negotiated corridor*;
19. How the inputs made by I&APs were considered when determining the final pre-negotiated corridor; and
20. A statement confirming that:
 - a. impact management actions as contained in the pre-approved Generic EMPr template are sufficient for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks; or
 - b. where required, specific impact management outcomes and actions are required and have been provided as part of the site specific EMPr.

B.3. Terrestrial Biodiversity including Plant and Animal Species

The confirming statement must be prepared by a specialist registered with SACNASP with relevant expertise in terrestrial biodiversity or similar, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

21. A statement on the duration, date and season of the site sensitivity verification inspection and walkthrough as well as the relevance of the season to the outcome of the confirming statement;
22. Confirmation that the terrestrial biodiversity (flora and fauna) within the final pre-negotiated corridor is low or medium sensitivity based on the most recently available desktop data, site sensitivity verification inspection and walkthrough or how the requirements contemplated under Paragraph 1.4 (c), (d) and (e) have been met, as relevant;
23. Identification of terrestrial biodiversity areas to be avoided within the final pre-negotiated corridor, including buffers;
24. A terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity map, using the information generated by the screening tool and enhanced by any relevant additional information including from the walkthrough or any other sources, identifying any areas of sensitivity including a buffer in which no development must take place, overlaid with the proposed development footprint⁴⁴ (i.e. pylon placement as well as supporting infrastructure);
25. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, relating to terrestrial biodiversity, has been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
26. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, relating to terrestrial biodiversity, have been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;

⁴⁴ It is acknowledged that the final footprint may not have been confirmed and the layout may change without submitting a new registration. The initial layout may be amended should it remain within the pre-negotiated corridor and avoids any identified areas of no development. Should the layout move outside of the pre-negotiated corridor a new registration will be required.

27. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the final pre-negotiated corridor;
28. How the inputs made by I&APs were considered when determining the final pre-negotiated corridor; and
29. A statement confirming that:
 - a. impact management actions as contained in the pre-approved Generic EMPr template are sufficient for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks; or
 - b. where required, specific impact management outcomes and actions are required and have been provided as part of the site specific EMPr.

B.4. Avifauna

The confirming statement must be prepared by an avifaunal specialist registered with the SACNASP, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

30. A statement on the duration, date and season of the site sensitivity verification inspection and walkthrough as well as the relevance of the season to the outcome of the confirming statement;
31. A description of the affected environment relating to avifauna and confirmation that the sensitivity within the final pre-negotiated corridor is low or medium sensitivity, based on the most recently available desktop data, site sensitivity verification inspection and walkthrough information or how the requirements contemplated under Paragraph 1.4 (c), (d) and (e) have been met, as relevant;
32. Identification of avifaunal sensitive areas in which development must not take place within the final pre-negotiated corridor, including buffers;
33. An avifauna sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement as well as supporting infrastructure);
34. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, relating to avifauna, has been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
35. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, relating to avifauna, have been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
36. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the final pre-negotiated corridor;
37. How the inputs of I&APs were considered when determining the final pre-negotiated corridor; and
38. A statement confirming that:
 - a. impact management actions as contained in the pre-approved Generic EMPr template are sufficient for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks; or
 - b. where required specific impact management outcomes and actions are required and have been provided as part of the site specific EMPr.

B.5. Estuaries

The confirming statement is only required if the development is proposed within 2 km of an estuary, and must be prepared by an EAP/ES, or a specialist with relevant expertise in aquatic and/or terrestrial ecology, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

39. A description of the affected environment in relation to the presence of estuaries within the pre-negotiated corridor and their existing condition, based on available desktop information and where relevant information from the site sensitivity verification;
40. Identification of the estuary functional zone to be avoided within the final pre-negotiated corridor, including buffers that are delineated from the channel margin;
41. A map identifying the estuary and buffer if relevant overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
42. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, as it pertains to estuaries, has been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
43. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, as it pertains to estuaries, have been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;

44. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the final pre-negotiated corridor;
45. How the inputs made by I&APs were considered when determining the final pre-negotiated corridor; and
46. A statement confirming that:
 - a. impact management actions as contained in the pre-approved Generic EMPr template are sufficient for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks; or
 - b. where required, specific impact management outcomes and actions are required and have been provided as part of the site specific EMPr;

B.6. Visual

The confirming statement must be prepared by a visual specialist. In the context of this Standard, a visual specialist is a person that has relevant academic qualifications and expertise in the domain of visual impact assessments. The confirming statement must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

47. A description of the affected environment as it pertains to visual aspects, including the identification of possible sensitive human visual receptors and sensitive scenic routes.
48. A description of the findings of the engagement with the sensitive visual receptors;
49. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the final pre-negotiated corridor;
50. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on the sensitive visual receptors, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
51. How the inputs of I&APs were considered when determining the final pre-negotiated corridor, and
52. A statement confirming that:
 - a. impact management actions as contained in the pre-approved Generic EMPr template are sufficient for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks; or
 - b. where required, specific impact management outcomes and actions are required and have been provided as part of the site specific EMPr.

B.7. Civil Aviation

The confirming statement must be prepared by an EAP/ES and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

53. Confirmation that the affected environment within the final pre-negotiated corridor is low or medium, as it pertains to aspects of civil aviation based on desktop information, the site sensitivity verification inspection and the walkthrough;
54. Identification of civil aviation areas in which development must not take place within the final pre-negotiated corridor, including buffers;
55. A civil aviation sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement as well as supporting and associated infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
56. Where required, a written comment from the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), which may require input from the Obstacle Evaluation Committee (OEC), confirming that there is no unacceptable impact on civil aviation installations;
57. Confirmation that any restrictions or design requirements as required by the SACAA and/or OEC have been incorporated and considered;
58. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, as it pertains to civil aviation, has been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
59. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, as it pertains to civil aviation, have been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
60. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the final pre-negotiated corridor;
61. How the inputs of I&APs were considered when determining the final pre-negotiated corridor; and
62. A statement confirming that:

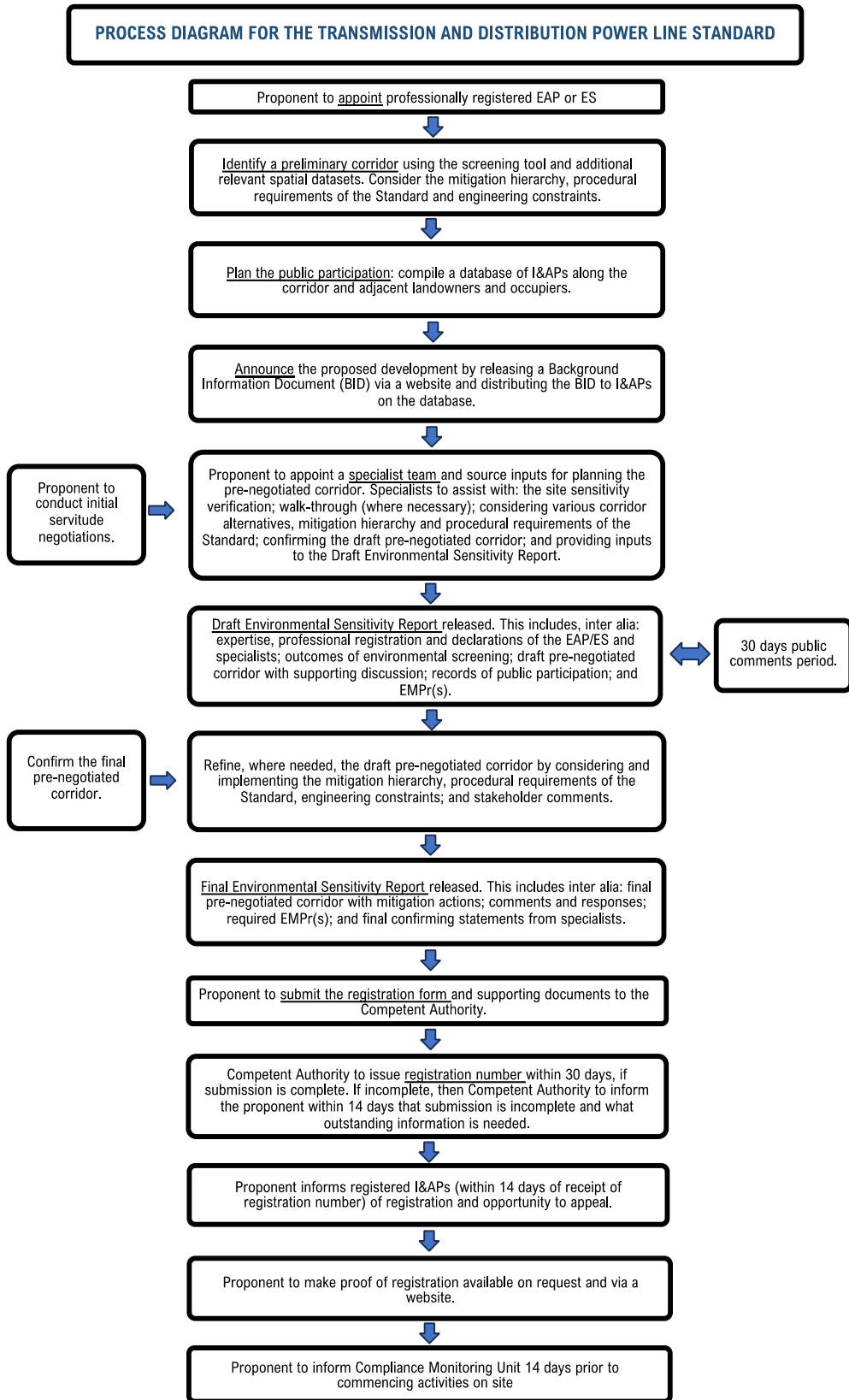
- a. impact management actions as contained in the pre-approved Generic EMPr template are sufficient for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks; or
- b. where required, specific impact management outcomes and actions are required and have been provided as part of the site specific EMPr.

B.8. Defence

The confirming statement must be prepared by an EAP/ES, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

63. Confirmation that the affected environment within the final pre-negotiated corridor is low or medium, as it pertains to aspects of Defence;
64. Identification of defence areas to be avoided within the final pre-negotiated corridor, including buffers;
65. A defence sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement as well as supporting and associated infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
66. **Where required**, a written comment from the defence authority confirming that there is no unacceptable impact on military areas of interest;
67. Confirmation that any restrictions or design requirements as required by the defence authority have been incorporated and considered;
68. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, as it pertains to defence, has been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
69. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, as it pertains to defence, have been considered in determining the final pre-negotiated corridor;
70. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the final pre-negotiated corridor;
71. How the inputs of I&APs were considered when determining the final pre-negotiated corridor; and
72. A statement confirming that:
 - a. impact management actions as contained in the pre-approved Generic EMPr template are sufficient for the avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts and risks; or
 - b. where required, specific impact management outcomes and actions are required and have been provided as part of the site specific EMPr.

APPENDIX C - GENERIC PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM OF THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS



APPENDIX D – REGISTRATION FORM⁴⁵

Registration form to request registration and intent to comply with the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, February 2024*: in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date of receipt of the registration form	
Registration number	

PROJECT TITLE (This must include local municipality and/or district municipality and province)

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1. This form must always be used when requesting registration in terms of the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, February 2024* which allows for the exclusion from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation from the competent authority for listed and specified activities identified in the scope of this Standard which are associated with the development of electricity transmission and distribution power lines and the associated infrastructure when developed in areas of low or medium environmental sensitivity or very high and high sensitivity under certain conditions.
2. All fields must be completed in full. The submission of incomplete information will lead to the registration being returned for inclusion of the missing information.
3. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing. A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form. The font size should not be smaller than 10pt (e.g., Arial 10).
4. Maps must be produced using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system.
5. Unless protected by law, all information contained in and attached to this registration form, will become public information on receipt by the competent authority other than the personal information of the landowner/s.
6. Please note that where the competent authority is the national department responsible for the environment, this form must be copied to the relevant Provincial Environmental Department(s) for their information.
7. Where the provincial environmental department is the competent authority, this form⁴⁶ must be copied to the national department responsible for the environment at Norm_Standard@dfe.gov.za.

Departmental Details (example provided is for the national competent authority):

⁴⁵ Once implemented, each competent authority must customize this template providing the minimum information for registration and must make the registration form available on the website of the competent authority.

⁴⁶ Only the registration form is required to be submitted not the supporting documentation.

Online submission only:
[\(https://sfiler.environment.gov.za:8443/\)](https://sfiler.environment.gov.za:8443/).

Click <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms/legal> for guidance document which must be complied with in order to upload/submit files to this Competent Authority.

Physical address:
 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
 Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
 Environment House
 473 Steve Biko Road
 Arcadia

For submission enquiries: Contact the Directorate: IEA Strategic Support, Coordination and Reporting at:
 Email: EIApplications@dffe.gov.za

For EIA related implementation queries:
 Email: EIAdmin@dffe.gov.za

For EIA related interpretation queries in terms of the Listed Activities:
 Email: IQ@dffe.gov.za

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Identified competent authority to consider the application:	
Reason(s) in terms of section 24C of NEMA ⁴⁷ :	

DETAILS OF THE PROPONENT

All notifications regarding the registration will be sent to the proponent using the details provided in this section.

Title	Choose a title.
Name of the Proponent	Click or tap here to enter text.
Surname of the Proponent	Click or tap here to enter text.
Name of contact person for proponent (name and surname) (if other)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Company/ Trading name (if any)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Company Registration Number	Click or tap here to enter text.
Physical address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal code	Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cellphone	Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail	Click or tap here to enter text.

The originally signed declaration by the proponent confirming commitment to comply with the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure: Revision 0* in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), must be submitted as Appendix 9 of the registration form.

⁴⁷ National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP) / ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST INFORMATION

Company of Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) or environmental scientist (ES):		
EAP or ES's name:		
EAP or ES's qualifications:		
Professional affiliation/registration ⁴⁸ :		
Physical address:		
Postal address:		
Postal code:	Cell:	
Telephone:		
E-mail:		

The appointed EAP/ES must meet the requirements of regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The declaration of independence of the EAP/ES that all the information submitted for the purposes of the registration is true and correct must be submitted and included in Appendix 11. Curriculum Vitae and current professional registration certificate of the EAP/ES and specialists must be included in Appendix 13.

PROJECT INFORMATION AND MAPS

Please provide a **detailed** description of the project, which must include the following:

- preliminary technology to be used;
- associated infrastructure including the details of this infrastructure and a motivation as to the reason that it is regarded as integral to the power line.

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A copy of the final Screening Tool Report generated on the National Web Based Environmental Screening Tool for the proposed final pre-negotiated corridor must be attached as Appendix 1 of the registration form.

A copy of the final environmental sensitivity report and supporting documents as required in the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Transmission or Distribution Power Line Infrastructure: Revision 0* must be submitted as Appendix 2 of the registration form.

A locality map must be attached to Appendix 6 of the registration form. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a small scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must include the following:

- the project site location;
- road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s)
- a north arrow;
- a legend; and
- a scale bar.

A final pre-negotiated corridor location must be attached to Appendix 7 of the registration form. The corridor location must include the location, set out as GPS co-ordinates at strategic points, of the final pre-negotiated corridor, and any corridor related to associated infrastructure as well as any structures associated with the

⁴⁸ A copy of the actual professional registration or confirmation of affiliation must be attached.

power line, overlaid with site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, world heritage site, etc.

Areas within the final pre-negotiated corridor in which development must not take place, must be clearly shown. Accompanying spatial data must be submitted electronically in shape file format (.shp) files with associated metadata, packaged as a ZIP file (.zip) using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system.

The sensitivity map must be attached as Appendix 8 of the registration form. This map must be generated using, among others, the sensitivities identified by the screening tool for the identified environmental themes in paragraph 1.4(b) and supplemented by desktop information, information gained from other government departments (local, provincial or national), environmental NGOs and the walkthrough.

The map must include the following:

- a north arrow;
- a legend;
- a scale bar; and
- site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, world heritage site, etc.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Provide a detailed description of the site involved in the registration.

Province/s	
District Municipality/ies	
Local Municipality/ies	
Ward number/s	
Nearest town/s	
Farm name/s and number/s	
Portion number/s	

LIST OF APPENDICES

		SUBMITTED	
APPENDIX 1	Final screening tool report for the proposed final pre-negotiated corridor	YES	NO
APPENDIX 2	Final environmental sensitivity report and supporting documents	YES	NO
APPENDIX 3	List and contact details of landowners	YES	NO
APPENDIX 4	List and contact details of provincial environmental authority and local municipality	YES	NO
APPENDIX 5	Tabulated list of coordinates of the boundary of the property or properties as provide by the screening tool report	YES	NO
APPENDIX 6	Locality map	YES	NO
APPENDIX 7	Final pre-negotiated corridor plan of the power line infrastructure	YES	NO
APPENDIX 8	Sensitivity map	YES	NO
APPENDIX 9	Declaration of the proponent: commitment to implement the Standard	YES	NO
APPENDIX 10	Declaration of the proponent: commitment to implement the Generic and where relevant the site specific environmental management programmes (Part C of the Generic EMPs)	YES	NO
APPENDIX 11	Declaration of EAP/ES	YES	NO
APPENDIX 12	Declaration of the specialists	YES	NO
APPENDIX 13	Curriculum vitae and current professional registration certificate of the EAP/ES and specialists	YES	NO

APPENDIX E – RE-REGISTRATION FORM

Form to request re-registration in terms of the “*Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, 2024*” in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date of receipt of the re registration form	
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PROJECT TITLE (This must include local municipality and/or district municipality and province)

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1. This form must always be used when requesting re-registration in terms of the “*Standard for the Development and Expansion of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure, 2024*”. Registration in terms of this Standard allows for the exclusion from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation from the competent authority for listed and specified activities identified in paragraph 1.3 of the Standard.
2. All fields must be completed in full. The submission of incomplete information will lead to the registration being returned for inclusion of the missing information.
3. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing. A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form. The font size should not be smaller than 10pt (e.g., Arial 10).
4. Maps must be produced using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system.
5. Unless protected by law, all information contained in and attached to this registration form, will become public information on receipt by the competent authority other than the personal information of the landowner/s.
6. Please note that where the competent authority is the national department responsible for the environment, this form must be copied to the relevant Provincial Environmental Department(s) for their information.
7. Where the provincial environmental department is the competent authority, this form must be copied to the national department responsible for the environment at Norm_Standard@dffe.gov.za.

Departmental Details (example provided is for the national competent authority, where the provincial department is the competent authority, the details hereunder should be changed as relevant):

Online submission only:

[\(https://sfiler.environment.gov.za:8443/\)](https://sfiler.environment.gov.za:8443/).

Click <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms/legal> for guidance document which must be complied with in order to upload/submit files to this Competent Authority.

Physical address:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
 Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
 Environment House
 473 Steve Biko Road
 Arcadia

For submission enquiries: Contact the Directorate: IEA Strategic Support, Coordination and Reporting at:
 Email: EIApplications@dffe.gov.za

For EIA related implementation queries:
 Email: EIAdmin@dffe.gov.za

For EIA related interpretation queries in terms of the Listed Activities:
 Email: IQ@dffe.gov.za

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Identified competent authority to consider the application:	
Reason(s) in terms of section 24C of NEMA ⁴⁹ :	

PROJECT DETAILS

Existing Project Name	
New Project Name ⁵⁰	
Existing Registration number ⁵¹	
New Registration number ⁵²	

DETAILS OF THE EXISTING REGISTERED DEVELOPER

Information regarding the re-registration will be sent to the existing registered developer using the details provided in this section.

Title	Choose a title.
Name of the existing registered developer	Click or tap here to enter text.
Surname of the existing registered developer	Click or tap here to enter text.
Name of contact person for existing registered developer (name and surname) (if other)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Company/ Trading name (if any)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Company Registration Number	Click or tap here to enter text.

⁴⁹ National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

⁵⁰ A new project name can be provided in the case of a change of ownership of a portion of the facility or associated or linear infrastructure.

⁵¹ The existing registration number will be maintained in the case of a change of ownership of all the infrastructure registered in terms of paragraph 15 during the pre-construction or construction phases or after the construction phase of the infrastructure.

⁵² A new registration number will be provided by the competent authority in the case of a change of ownership of a portion of the infrastructure registered in terms of paragraph 15 during the pre-construction or construction phases, or after the finalisation of the construction phase. The new registration number will be issued for the portion transferred, while the remaining portion will be re-registered but retain the original registration number.

Physical address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal code	Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cellphone	Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail	Click or tap here to enter text.

DETAILS OF THE NEW OWNER

Information regarding the re-registration will be sent to the new owner using the details provided in this section.

Title	Choose a title.
Name of the new owner	Click or tap here to enter text.
Surname of the new owner	Click or tap here to enter text.
Name of contact person for new owner (name and surname) (if other)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Company/ Trading name (if any)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Company Registration Number	Click or tap here to enter text.
Physical address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal address	Click or tap here to enter text.
Postal code	Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cellphone	Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail	Click or tap here to enter text.

DETAILS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE REGISTERED

Provide details of the existing registered development	
--	--

A locality map of the existing registered development must be attached as Appendix 6 of the registration form. The map must include the following:

- the project site location;
- road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s);
- a north arrow;
- a legend;
- a scale bar; and
- the GPS co-ordinates of the power line corridor (strategic points along the corridor);
- the GPS co-ordinates of any associated infrastructure or structures (in the case of linear infrastructure, strategic points along the corridor) and
- the facilities and/or infrastructure including the GPS co-ordinates of the facilities and/or infrastructure for which a change of ownership is being requested.

This section must be completed by the existing registered developer in the case of a change of ownership related to a transfer of a portion of the facility or associated infrastructure

DETAILS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH IS TO BE TRANSFERRED AND FOR WHICH THE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP IS TO BE REGISTERED

Existing Project Name	
New Project Name ⁵³	
Description of the facility or infrastructure to be transferred	

LIST OF APPENDICES TO BE POPULATED

APPENDIX 6	Locality map ⁵⁴	YES	NO
APPENDIX 9	Declaration of the proponent: commitment to implement the Standard	YES	NO
APPENDIX 10	Declaration of the proponent: commitment to implement the Generic and where relevant the site specific environmental management programmes (Part C of the Generic EMPs)	YES	NO

⁵³ A new project name can be provided in the case of a change of ownership related to a transfer of a portion of the facility or associated infrastructure.

⁵⁴ In the case of a change of ownership related to a transfer of a portion of the facility or associated infrastructure.

DECLARATION FORMS

APPENDIX 9:

DECLARATION OF THE PROPONENT COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE STANDARD⁵⁵

I, _____, hereby declare that:

- I am the proponent in this registration;
- I have appointed an environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or environmental scientist (ES) to act as the independent EAP/ES for this registration;
- I have taken all reasonable steps to verify whether the EAP/ES and specialist/s appointed are independent and have relevant expertise, including knowledge of the Act, the EIA Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I have provided the EAP/ES and specialists with access to all information at my disposal that is relevant to the registration;
- I am responsible for implementing the Generic EMPr;
- I am responsible for the costs incurred in complying with the Standard, including but not limited to –
 - costs incurred in connection with the appointment of the EAP/ES or any person contracted by the EAP/ES;
 - costs incurred in respect of the undertaking of any process required in terms of the Standard; and
 - costs associated with implementing the Generic EMPr;
- I hereby indemnify the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the competent authority and all its officers, agents and employees, from any liability arising out of the content of any registration, any procedure or any action which I as the proponent or the EAP is responsible for in terms of the Standard;
- I will not hold the competent authority responsible for any costs that may be incurred in proceeding with an activity prior to obtaining confirmation of registration or prior to an appeal being decided in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
- I have performed all obligations as expected from a proponent in terms of the Standard;
- I have read the completed registration form and supporting documents and hereby confirm that the information provided is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct;
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;
- I have not commenced with the project as described in paragraph 1.3 of Chapter 1 of this Standard and will not commence until a registration number has been received as contemplated in the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure: Revision 0*; and
- I am fully aware of my responsibilities in terms of the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure: Revision 0* in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and failure to comply with these requirements constitutes an offence. I am aware of what constitutes an offence in terms of the Standard and that a person convicted of an offence is liable to the penalties as contemplated in section 49B of the Act.

Proponent (Name and Surname) _____

Name of Company (If Applicable) _____

Designation _____

Signature⁵⁶ _____

Date _____ Place _____

⁵⁵ This registration form must be signed by the proponent.

⁵⁶ Only original signatures will be accepted. No scanned, copied or faxed signatures will be accepted. An EAP/ES may not sign on behalf of the proponent.

APPENDIX 10:

DECLARATION OF THE PROPONENT COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE GENERIC AND WHERE RELEVANT THE SITE SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

I, _____, the proponent, affirm that I will abide by and comply with the prescribed impact management outcomes and impact management actions as stipulated in Part B: Section 1 / Part C [delete what is not applicable] of the Generic Environmental Management Programmes for the Development and Expansion of Substation Infrastructure for the Transmission and Distribution of Electricity and for the Development and Expansion of Overhead Electricity Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure (as published under Government Notice No. 435 in Government Gazette No. 42323 of 22 March 2019).

I declare that I have the understanding that the impact management outcomes and impact management actions are legally binding.

I affirm that I will provide written notice of commencement of construction to the competent authority 14 days prior to the date on which the activity will commence in order to facilitate compliance inspections.

Proponent (Name and Surname) _____

Name of Company (If Applicable) _____

Designation _____

Signature⁵⁷ _____

Date _____ **Place** _____

⁵⁷ An EAP may not sign on behalf of the proponent.

APPENDIX 11:

DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER/ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

Declaration of environmental assessment practitioner/environmental scientist

I, _____, declare that –

- I act as the independent environmental assessment practitioner/environmental scientist in the Standard registration process;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) (the Act), the *Standard for the Development and Expansion of Transmission and Distribution Power Line Infrastructure: Revision 0* (the Standard), the Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, the *Standard*, the Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have performed the work relating to the Standard registration process in an objective manner;
- I have taken into account, to the extent possible; the requirements of the Standard, matters listed in regulation 13 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) when preparing the Standard registration process; and the reports relating to the Standard registration process;
- I have disclosed to the Proponent all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing the Standard registration process; and the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself to support the registration process, unless access to that information is protected by law, in which case, I have indicated that such information exists and will be provided to the competent authority as part of the registration process; and
- I have performed all obligations as expected from an EAP/ES in terms of the Standard and the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Disclosure of vested interest (delete whichever is not applicable)

- I do not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Standard;
- I have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding, such vested interest being:

I, _____, declare that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this registration is true and correct.

Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner/Environmental Scientist

Name of Company

Date

APPENDIX 12:

DECLARATION OF SPECIALISTS

Declaration of environmental specialists

Specialist Company Name:			
Specialist name:			
Specialist Qualifications:			
Professional affiliation/registration ⁵⁸ :			
Physical address:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			

DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST

I, _____, declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this Standard registration process;
- I have performed the work relating to the specialist assessment to identify the pre-negotiated corridor location confirmation in an objective manner;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist input and confirming statement relevant to this request for registration, including knowledge of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (the Act), Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the proponent all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing compliance with the Standards registration process; and
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct.

Signature of the Specialist:

Name of Company:

Date:

⁵⁸ A copy of the most recent registration certificate must be appended as appendix 13.