



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B2/32/1021/23
ENQUIRIES: BERNADETTE OSBORNE
DATE OF ISSUE: 10 AUGUST 2023

Mr Pieter Hartzenburg
Breede Valley Municipality
Private Bag X3046
WORCESTER
6849

Cell: 084 6222 060
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Dear Sir

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS, 2014: THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 66KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE FROM THE TRANSHEX SUBSTATION TO THE WORCESTER INDUSTRIAL SUBSTATION ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF ERF NO. 1, ERVEN 13518, 13519, 13433 AND 5, WORCESTER.

1. With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation and **adopt** the Maintenance Management Plan, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered interested and affected parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the Appeal Regulations, 2014, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

Cc: (1) Ms Euonell Visagie (Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants)
(2) Mr Jaco Steyn (Breede Valley Municipality)

E-mail: eg@gnec.co.za
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REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B2/32/1021/23
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001251/2023
ENQUIRIES: Bernadette Osborne
DATE OF ISSUE: 10 AUGUST 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014: THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 66KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE FROM THE TRANSHEX SUBSTATION TO THE WORCESTER INDUSTRIAL SUBSTATION ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF ERF NO. 1, ERVEN 13518, 13519, 13433 AND 5, WORCESTER.

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014, the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activities specified in section B below with respect to the Preferred Layout Alternative 1 described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated 2 June 2023.

In terms of the NEMA, viz, the EIA Regulations, 2014 (Listing Notices 1 and 3 of 2014 in Government Gazette No. 40772 of 7 April 2017) the Competent Authority hereby **adopts the Maintenance Management Plan** for the maintenance activities associated with the 66kV overhead powerline from the Transhex Substation to the Worcester Industrial Substation on the Remaining Extent of Erf No. 1, Erven 13518, 13519, 13433 and 5, Worcester.

The applicant for this Environmental Authorisation is required to comply with the conditions set out in section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Breede Valley Municipality
c/o Mr Pieter Hartzenburg
Private Bag X3046

WORCESTER

6849

Cell: 084 6222 060

E-mail: pieter2@bvm.gov.za

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as "**the holder**".

B. ACTIVITY AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Project Description
Listing Notice 1 – Activity Number: 12 <i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</i> (i) <i>outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or</i> (ii) <i>inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;</i> <i>excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is—</i> (a) <i>temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure;</i> (b) <i>2 kilometres or shorter in length;</i> (c) <i>within an existing transmission line servitude; and</i> (d) <i>will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.</i>	The powerline will have a capacity of 66 kilovolts.
Listing Notice 1 – Activity Number: 12 <i>The development of—</i> (i) <i>dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or</i> (ii) <i>infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such development occurs—</i> (a) <i>within a watercourse;</i> (b) <i>in front of a development setback; or</i> (c) <i>if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; —</i> <i>excluding—</i>	The physical footprint of the pylon footing exceeds 100m² in extent, within 32m of watercourse.

(aa) the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; (bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies; (cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies; (dd) where such development occurs within an urban area; (ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway lines; or (ff) the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of development and where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.	
Listing Notice 1 – Activity Number: 19 The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock or more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse; but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving- (a) Will occur behind a development setback; (b) Is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; (c) Falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies. (d) Occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or (e) Where such development is related to the development of a port or harbor, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.	The pylons to be located within a watercourse will result in the excavation and moving of more than 10 cubic metres of sand/soil/rock within a watercourse.
Listing Notice 3 – Activity Number: 12 The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where	More than 300m² of endangered vegetation will be cleared.

such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

(i) Western Cape:

- i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;**
- ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;
- iii. Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high water mark of the sea or an estuarine functional zone, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line or even in urban areas;
- iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or
- v. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister.

The abovementioned activities are hereinafter referred to as “**the listed activities**”.

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative that includes the listed activities:

The construction of a 66kV overhead powerline from the Transhex Substation to the Worcester Industrial Substation on 23 pylon footing structures. The pylons will be located within, and within 32m of a watercourse. The total length of the overhead powerline will be approximately 3km. The vertical length of the powerline structures will vary between 18m and 29m, with the tallest structure being approximately 28.60m. The development footprint of the 23 pylon footing structures will be approximately 931.5m². Existing access is available.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activities will be undertaken on the Remaining Extent of Erf No. 1, Erven 13518, 13519, 13433 and 5, Worcester and has the following co-ordinates:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Co-ordinates of starting point:	-33° 38' 5.47" South	19° 28' 54.97" East
Co-ordinates of middle point:	-33° 38' 41.75" South	19° 28' 46.66" East
Co-ordinates of end point:	-33° 39' 25.94" South	18° 28' 32.91" East

The SG digit codes are:

C08500040000000100000
C08500040001351800000
C08500040001351900000
C08500040001343300000
C08500040000000500000

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Map and Annexure 2: Site Plan.

The above is hereinafter referred to as "**the site**".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants
c/o Ms Euonell Visagie
PO Box 2636
PAARL
7620
Tel: (021) 870 1874
Email: eg@gnec.co.za

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activities specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to the Preferred Layout 1 described in the BAR dated 2 June 2023 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. The holder must commence with the listed activities on the site within a period of **five years** from the date issue of this Environmental Authorisation.

3. The development must be concluded within **ten years** from the date of commencement of the listed activities.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities.
 - 6.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 6.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8, 12 and 18

Notification and administration of appeal

7. The holder must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision–
 - 7.1 notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 7.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 7.1.2 the reasons for the decision as included in Annexure 3;
 - 7.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 7.1.4 the date when the decision was issued.
 - 7.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, 2014 detailed in Section F below;
 - 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision;

- 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
- 7.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 7.4.3 postal address of the holder,
 - 7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
 - 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder,
 - 7.4.6 the contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the 2014 National Appeals Regulations.

8. The listed activities, including site preparation, may not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided.

Management of activity

9. The draft or Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The MMP adopted as part of this Environmental Authorisation must be implemented.
11. The EMPr and MMP must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

12. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before commencement of construction activities to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained herein. The ECO must conduct site visits and must submit ECO reports on a monthly basis to the competent authority.
13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, MMP, audit reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activities, and must be made available to anyone on request, including a publicly accessible website.
14. Access to the site referred to in Section C above must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

Auditing

15. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the EMPr and the MMP. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person (other than the appointed Environmental Assessment Practitioner or Environmental Control Officer) and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014.

The Audit Reports must be compiled and subsequently submitted to the Department in the following manner:

- The holder must undertake an environmental audit and submit an Environmental Audit Report to the competent authority within 3 (three) months of commencement of construction; and
- A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted within 3 (three) months of completion of the proposed development.

The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of each of the above-mentioned reports to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (if applicable).

Specific Conditions

16. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any other actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape.

Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or palaeontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.

17. A qualified archaeologist and/or palaeontologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the holder) to remove any heritage remains. Heritage remains can only be disturbed by a suitably qualified heritage specialist working under a directive from the relevant heritage resources authority.

18. The development areas must be clearly demarcated prior to the commencement of construction activities. All areas outside the demarcated areas must be regarded as “no-go” areas.

F. GENERAL MATTERS

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
2. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.
3. If the holder does not commence with a listed activity within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activity, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
4. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the Competent Authority must only be notified of such changes.

5. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:
Amendments to the EMPr, must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the EIA Regulations 2014 or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations 2014.

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority –
 - 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 to the Appeal Administrator; and

- 1.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision. -
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
 - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organ of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post: Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs
and Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 2659)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za.

5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY

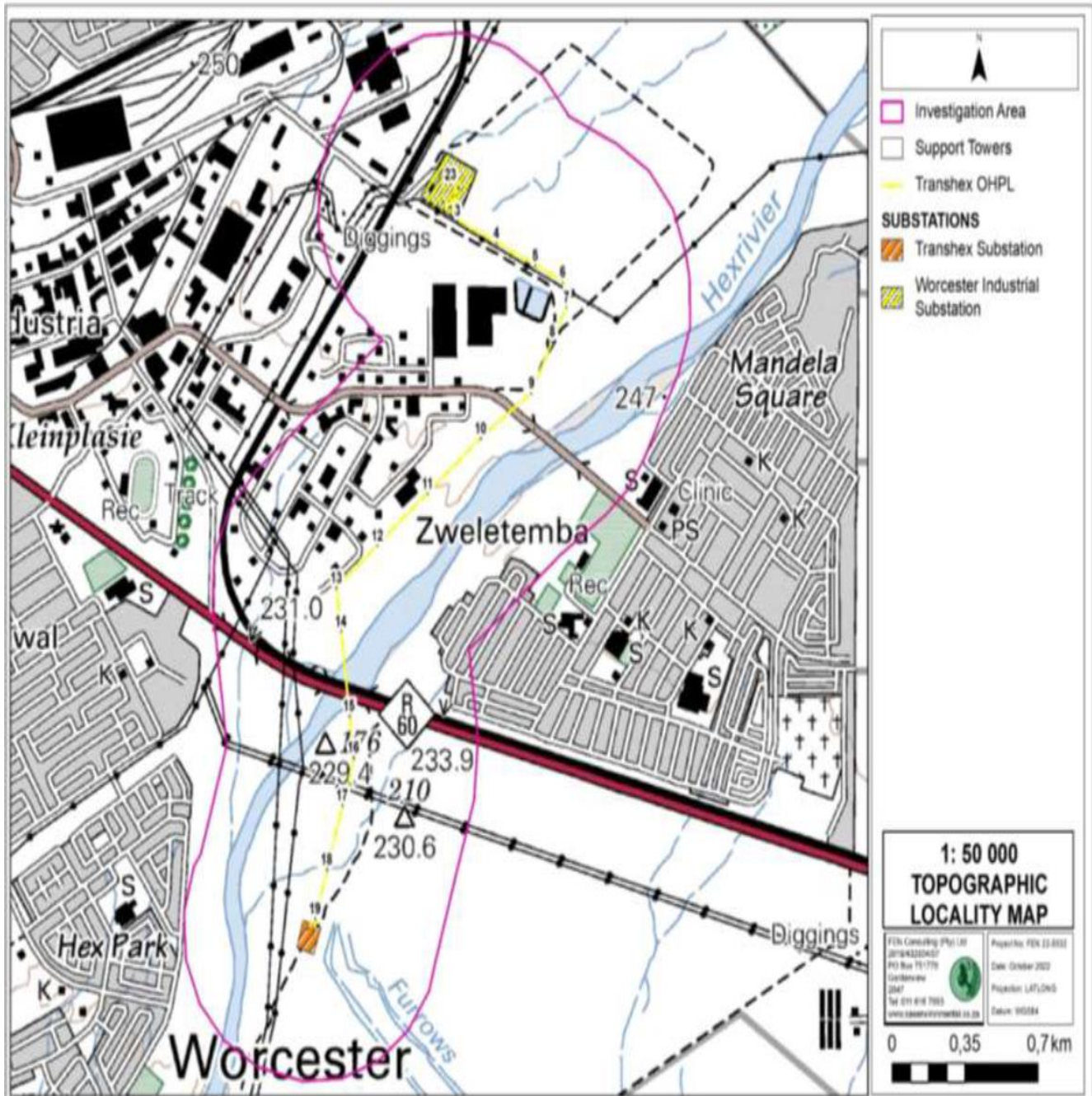
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 10 AUGUST 2023

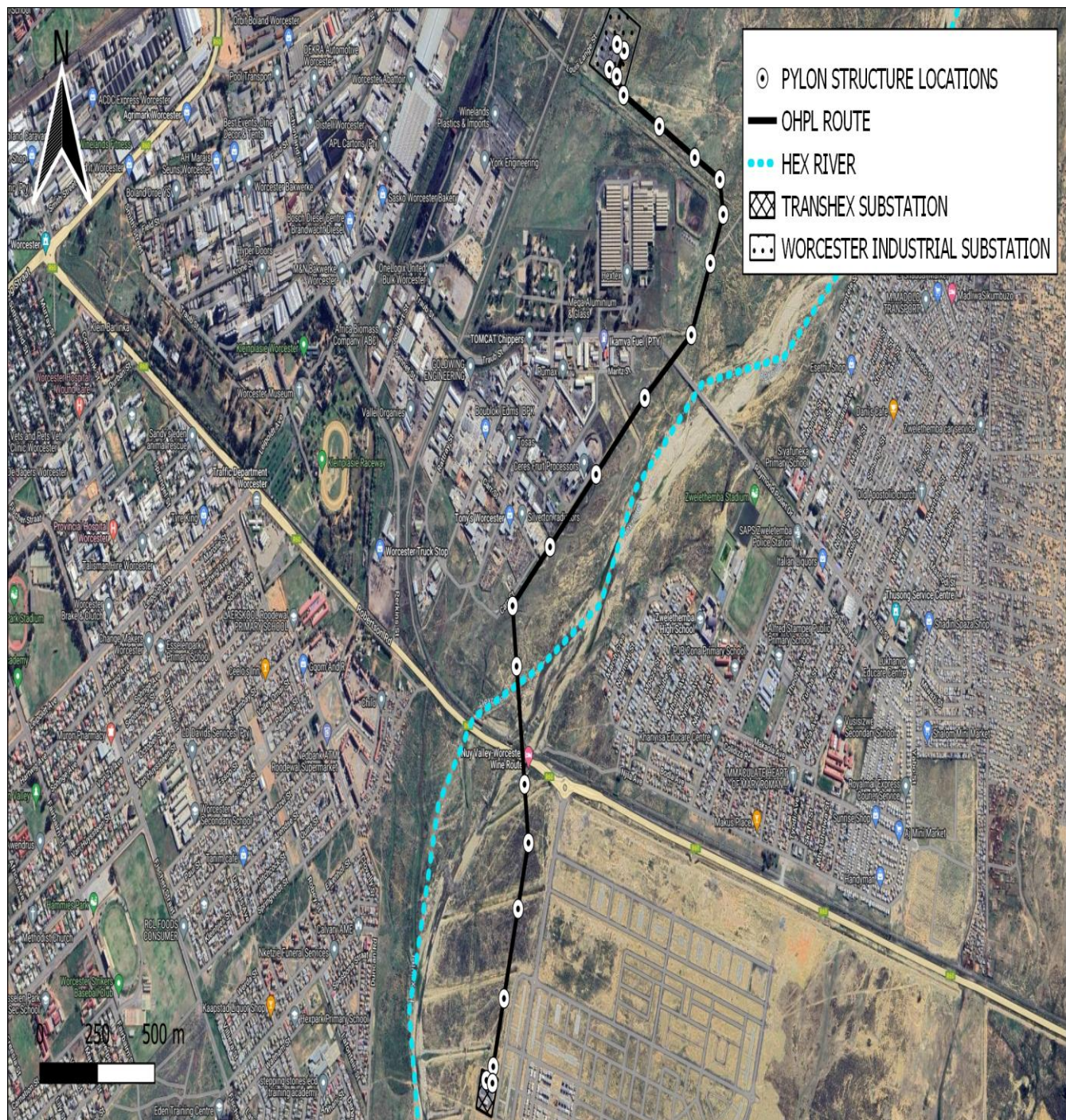
Cc: (1) Ms Euronell Visagie (Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants)
(2) Mr Jaco Steyn (Breede Valley Municipality)

E-mail: eg@gnec.co.za
E-mail: jsteyn@bvm.gov.za

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY MAP



ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority considered, inter alia, the following:

- a) The information contained in the Application Form dated 23 March 2023, the EMPr and the MMP submitted together with the final BAR dated 2 June 2023;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including the Guidelines on Public Participation and Alternatives (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from I&APs and responses to these, included in the BAR dated 2 June 2023; and
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

No site visits were conducted. The Competent Authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues that were considered to be the most significant for the decision is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- Site notices were placed at the start, middle and end points of the powerline.
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Worcester Standard' on 10 November 2022;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councillor, and the various organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activities on 14 November 2022;
- making the pre-application Draft BAR available for comment from 14 November 2022; and
- making the in-process Draft BAR available for comment from 23 March 2023.

The Department is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and the comments raised and responses thereto were included in the comments and response report.

Specific alternatives, management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation and EMPr to adequately address the concerns raised.

2. Alternatives

Layout Alternative 1 (Preferred and herewith authorised)

This alternative entails the development of a 66kV overhead powerline from the Transhex Substation to the Worcester Industrial Substation on 23 pylon footing structures. The total length of the overhead powerline will be approximately 3km. The vertical length of the powerline structures will vary between 18m and 29m, with the tallest structure being approximately 28.60m. The development footprint of the 23 pylon footing structures will be approximately 931.5m².

This alternative was preferred since the pylon footing structure of the powerline where it crosses the Hex River will not be directly within the delineated extent of the Hex River.

Layout Alternative 2

This alternative entails the construction of a 66kV overhead powerline from the Transhex Substation to the Worcester Industrial Substation on 23 pylon footing structures on the Remaining Extent of Erf No. 1, Erven 13518, 13519, 13433 and 5, Worcester. This alternative was not preferred since the pylon footing structures of the powerline where it crosses the Hex River is located within the delineated extent of the Hex River. This is not preferred as it will result in a direct impact on the ecological integrity of the watercourse.

No-go Alternative

The No-go alternative is not preferred since the need for increased electrical infrastructure capacity and distribution will not be met.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activity need and desirability

Worcester has undergone rapid growth, which has resulted in the rise in demand on the existing electricity distribution network. The development will provide the town of Worcester with adequate service delivery through the provision of electricity and the expansion of electrical infrastructure capacity.

3.2 Biophysical Impacts

The site is mapped to contain Breede Alluvium Renosterveld vegetation, which is classified as endangered. However, based on the findings of the Botanical Impact Assessment (dated 27 September 2022, compiled by Capensis), most of the route has been highly degraded or transformed. Breede Alluvium Renosterveld vegetation that is of high sensitivity is only located to the south of the route. The remaining parts of the route is regarded as having a very low sensitivity rating. The study is in support of the development from a botanical perspective if the

recommended mitigation measures are implemented. The proposed mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr.

According to the Freshwater Impact Assessment (dated February 2023, compiled by FEN Consulting), ephemeral drainage lines and the Hex River and its braided channels are present along the powerline route. It was determined that pylon footing structures 6 and 14 will be located within an ephemeral drainage line and a braided channel of the Hex River. The Hex River will be traversed by the overhead powerline between pylon footing structures 14 and 15. Pylon footing structures 1 – 7, 22 and 23 will be located within 100 metres of ephemeral drainage lines. Pylon footing structures 11 – 14 and 17 will be located within the 1:100-year flood line of the Hex River. The Hex River and the ephemeral drainage lines is determined to be in a moderately to largely modified ecologically condition. The study is in support of the development from a freshwater perspective since it will have a low impact if the recommended mitigation measures are implemented. The proposed mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr.

According to the avifaunal compliance statement (dated 11 October 2022, compiled by Scientific Terrestrial Services), the study area is of low and intermediate avifaunal importance. The Hex River is an important landscape feature because of its water channelling properties and as a corridor for avifaunal movement. However, because of its position within the town of Worcester and the associated anthropogenic impacts (dumping, fragmentation, industrial and residential development, and the increased human presence) the habitat is not considered optimal for most avifauna. The probability of avifaunal species of conservation concern ("SCC") occurring or establishing viable populations in the long term within the study area is highly unlikely. The specialist regards the potential impacts on SCC and avifauna as being of low negative significance after mitigation. The proposed mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr.

Negative Impacts:

- Loss of indigenous vegetation.
- Disturbance to the beds and banks of the watercourses during construction.

Positive impacts:

- The development will provide the town of Worcester with adequate service delivery through the provision of electricity and the expansion of electrical infrastructure capacity.
- Temporary employment opportunities will be created during the construction phase.

4. National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the Competent Authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

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