

**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**

DEA&DP Reference: 16/3/3/1/B2/32/1021/23

FORMAL ECO AUDIT REPORT

Prepared for:

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ABBREVIATIONS

DEA&DP	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
DWS.....	Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Programme
DEO	Designated Environmental Officer
GNEC	Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants
I&AP	Interested and Affected Parties
ER	Engineer's Representative

INTRODUCTION

This **Formal ECO Audit Report** is distributed to the project team after the site audit was undertaken. The contractor has 3 working days to provide a rectification report with photographic evidence of how the findings in this report were rectified, if rectification is required. This report together with the rectification report is then submitted to DEA&DP.

The ECO Report is compiled in order to ensure continuous improvement with regards to environmental related matters. The aim is furthermore, to increase the contractor's compliance rating in terms of the approved Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), and to advise on environmental matters which might occur during construction activities. This ECO report incorporates the monthly environmental findings and furthermore may include corrective measures/actions which were taken by the contractor.

CLOSE OUT ON FINDINGS REQUIRED

	Finding	Close Out Recommendation
1	Site documentation Please create an Environmental file on site with the following documentation: • EA • EMPr • MMP • Complaints register • Environmental Induction Register • Method Statement (below) • Incident Reports	Please supply an Environmental File on site
2	Site documentation The holder to supply proof to the ECO of the EMPr and MMP was included in the contract documentation.	
3	Concrete remains Concrete remains were seen during the audit	The contractor is advised to please remove the concrete remains from site
4	Demarcation The entire development footprint of each of the pylons must please be demarcated as per the EA	The contractor should please demarcate the construction footprint at each of the pylons with droppers
5	External Audit The external audit should be done as soon as possible, quotes have been sent	The timeframe for the External audit is 3 months after commencement, and should be done as soon as possible.

GENERAL FINDINGS DURING THE SITE VISIT ON THE 26TH OF SEPTEMBER 2024

Site documentation

The following documentation must please be placed on file in the site camp:

- EA
- EMPr
- MMP
- Complaints register
- Environmental Induction Register
- Method Statement (below)
- Incident Reports

Method Statements required:

- Emergency spills procedures for the contamination of soils from spills and fire.
- Handling & storage of oils and chemicals.
- Cement and concrete batching, which includes the storage, washing & disposal of cement, packaging, tools and plant.
- Diesel tanks and refuelling procedures.
- Crew camps and construction lay down areas.
- Workshop maintenance and cleaning of plant.
- Dust
- Fires
- Soil: Topsoil Storage and Stockpiling
- Solid waste management

Please note according to Condition 15 of the EA:

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.

Fauna

All possible sensitive faunal species present on the site must be rescued and relocated to another suitable location prior to the commencement of construction activities. They can be re-located to the wetland area in the Wellington Industrial Park.

Compliance:

The contractor is advised to please walk in front of the machinery to relocate any faunal species prior to commencing within that section.

Freshwater Management

Site preparation prior to construction activities at least 32m away from freshwater ecosystems but within the 100m GN509 of the EDLs and the 1:100-year flood line of the Hex River (Support Tower 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 13, 17, 22, 23).

- Additional freshwater ecosystem crossings must be limited, and use made of existing freshwater ecosystem crossings to access the project sites which will limit edge effects, erosion and sedimentation of the freshwater ecosystems during the construction phase;
- The reaches of the freshwater ecosystems where no OHPL activities are planned must be considered no-go areas;
- Contractor laydown areas, vehicle re-fuelling areas and material storage facilities to remain outside of the freshwater ecosystems and their associated 32 m NEMA exclusion buffer and outside of the 100 m GN509 ZoR (due to the potential risk of pollution associated with these dangerous goods
- Vehicles to be equipped with drip trays to prevent spillage in the environment ;
- Removed vegetation must be stockpiled outside of the delineated boundary of the freshwater ecosystem. The footprint areas and height of these stockpiles must be kept to a minimum. Should the

vegetation not be suitable for reinstatement after the construction phase or be alien/invasive vegetation species; the material must be disposed of at a registered garden refuse site a.s.a.p. and may not be burned or mulched on site;

- The clearing of vegetation must be limited to woody vegetation above a certain minimum clearance height within a strip width not exceeding 4 m wide and must remain within the proposed road/jeep track servitude only and may not extend beyond this area. No unnecessary disturbance within the active channel of the EDLs will be acceptable and lower lying shrub growth must be retained both within the freshwater ecosystems as well as their immediate catchment to afford them protection from erosion and sedimentation;
- Activities must take place in the summer period to prevent erosion and sedimentation of freshwater ecosystems; and
- The EDL and braided channel must be suitably rehabilitated in terms of erosion control, alien vegetation removal and reinstatement of indigenous vegetation.

Compliance:

During the audit the contractor was busy with the backfilling of the pylon bases, no works were done near the watercourse.

Site demarcation

Topsoil stockpiles are to be demarcated with danger tape and seen as no-go areas.

All construction activities must remain within the boundaries of the development area, as demarcated at the start of the construction phase. There must be no vehicular access to the drainage lines outside the development area thus reducing the infringement of the development on natural habitat.

The construction footprint must be kept to a minimum by constructing boundaries and demarcated areas not to be disturbed.

These No-go areas must be demarcated with fencing / warning tape and signs before any construction activities commence.

Compliance:

The topsoil was not demarcated during the audit, and the development footprint was not demarcated during the audit, the contractor is advised to please demarcate the footprint of each pylon with droppers.



Toilets

Please ensure that the construction site is equipped with a sufficient number of chemical toilets for the number of workers on site. At least 1 chemical toilet per 15 workers is required no more than 100m away from the construction activities. All chemical toilets have to be properly secured to prevent the toilet from falling over in windy conditions.

Compliance:

Toilets were noted on site, within close proximity to where the works took place. The contractor is advised to please secure the toilets to the ground.

Fuel storage

If fuel is to be stored on site in the form of a bowser, the bowser must be maintained by the fuel supplier and/or Contractor and is to be kept clean and leak free. The bowser is to be kept on site with a drip tray at all times and please ensure that drip trays are used during refuelling of machinery and generators. Please ensure that drip trays are used for refuelling of machinery and generators.

A spill kit must be made available on site.

Compliance:

No generators or bowzers were seen on site.

Topsoil

Topsoil must be deemed to be the top layer of soil containing organic material, nutrients and plant/grass seed. For this reason, it is an extremely valuable resource for the rehabilitation of vegetation of disturbed areas.

Topsoil stockpiles must be clearly demarcated as no-go areas.

Please ensure that topsoil is not contaminated with construction material. If topsoil is to be stockpiled the stockpiles may not be higher than 2m, to prevent the compaction of seeds contained within the stockpile.

Compliance:

The topsoil on site should please be seen as a no go area, and **no stockpiling may be done within the delineated watercourses or the applicable buffer area.**



Stockpiles

According to the approved EMP, where possible, soil stockpiles shall be located in sheltered areas where they are not exposed to the erosive effects of the wind. Where erosion of stockpiles becomes a problem, erosion control measures shall be implemented at the discretion of the ECO.

Compliance:

Stockpiles were present during the audit. No erosion to the stockpiles were noted.

Dust/sand/mud

Dust management and dust suppression during the construction phase is required to minimize the impacts of dust, sand and mud.

Compliance:

The contractor was advised to please ensure that dust suppression is done regularly on site during the drier summer months.

Cement

Small- and large-scale cement batching must be done on mortarboards, on plastic sheeting that serves as an impermeable surface to prevent cement water from infiltrating the soil. Please ensure that mortarboards and plastic sheeting is properly positioned to prevent surface runoff.

No washing of cement trucks will be allowed on site without the proper bunded area. Please ensure that all spills are picked up and stockpiled on the rubble stockpile. Please be advised that concrete rubble is seen as general waste and must be disposed at a registered general waste facility. Please ensure that all disposal receipts are kept.

Compliance:

Batching was not active during the audit, but batching remains were noted at the pylon excavation, the contractor is advised that all remains should be picked up and disposed of. All batching should please be done on an impermeable area.



Litter

All construction litter, except empty cement bags, must be placed within a litter structure or bin. The litter structures and/or bins must be properly enclosed to prevent any litter from blowing around on site. Empty cement bags must be placed in black bags or a weatherproof bin to prevent cement leaching from the empty bags during rain. Please ensure that a sufficient number of bins or litterbags is placed where the workforce is working. Please conduct regular chicken parades to remove litter from site.

Please ensure that litter is removed from site every two weeks or more often should the need arise.

Compliance:

A bin was placed on site, thank you for that.

A lot of illegally dumped litter was seen on site, the contractor is advised to please remove the litter in the areas that they are working even if it is not of the contractor.

Some litter was seen in the site camp and should please be disposed of.



Please forward all litter disposal receipts to the ECO for record keeping.

Rubble

Please ensure that the construction rubble is stockpiled in a secure location to minimize the spread thereof. Please ensure that the construction rubble do not mix with the subsoil as the construction rubble must be removed from site. Any bitumen products/milled asphalt are hazardous waste and must be disposed at a registered hazardous waste facility. Concrete rubble must be disposed at a general waste facility.

Please ensure that rubble is removed on a regular basis and that the disposal receipts kept. Rubble and litter must be removed every two weeks or more often as the need arise.

Compliance:

No rubble was seen on site.

Please forward all rubble disposal receipts to the ECO for record keeping.

PROGRESS

The contractor is progressing well on site all the pylons have been casted up to Transhex during the audit, the contractor for the excavation of the pylons will almost be leaving the site.





MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN

No major concerns were found during the audit other than the demarcation of the construction areas and the topsoil.

Compiled by:



Nica Kotze

for GNEC