

14 August 2023

GNEC Code: **20815**

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

Dear Interested and Affected Party,

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 ERF 5, WORCESTER.

Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants (GNEC) have been appointed by the *Breede Valley Municipality* (applicant) to facilitate the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) for the construction of a 66kv overhead powerline from the Transhex substation to the Worcester industrial substation, Worcester, Western Cape.

Project Description

Environmental Authorisation has been **granted** for the proposed Transhex Overhead Powerline project and comprises the following:

The proposed development will entail the construction of a new 66kV overhead powerline from the existing Worcester Industrial Substation on Erf 13518 to the Transhex Substation on the Remaining Extent of Erf 1 in Worcester, Western Cape. The proposed overhead powerline will start at the Worcester Industrial Substation and run approximately 500m east-southeast before kinking 90 degrees southwest whereafter it will run adjacent to the western side of the Hex River for approximately 1.5km. The proposed powerline will then traverse the Hex River once in a south easterly direction whereafter the R60 and adjacent railway line will also be traversed on route. The remaining powerline installation will be aligned on the eastern side of the Hex River and will run approximately 650m before connecting to the Transhex substation on the Remaining Extent of Erf 1.

The approximate 3km powerline will run adjacent to the Hex River for much of its alignment and will traverse the Hex River once on its way to the Transhex Substation. The proposed construction of the overhead powerline will run through and adjacent to aquatic CBA's and the Hex River for much of its

alignment and some of the physical pylon footing structures will be located directly within watercourses (EDL's & Braided Channels), or within 32m from the Hex River's delineated extent (GN509 ZOR) as well as the 1:100-year flood lines. A number of other powerlines exist in the immediate vicinity of the proposed powerline route, and it is considered that the pressing need to increase the electrical infrastructure capacity for the ever-expanding town of Worcester outweighs the potential negative impacts the project can cause to the environment.

The physical footprint of the proposed overhead powerline alignment will be relatively small as only the pylon footing structures will require construction and excavation, which would in effect minimise potential disturbance to the immediate environs. It is thus not expected that the proposed project will have an irreversible negative biophysical impact but did require specialist input to ensure that the proposed construction of the overhead powerline will be environmentally sustainable and that the potential detrimental impacts are mitigated accordingly to ensure sustainable environmental best practice.

Like mentioned before, the proposed overhead powerline will be approximately 3km in length and the pylon footing structures (23 in total, 6 located within substation boundary, so effectively 17 structures in the line route) will vary in size based on the specific pylon footing location and terrain. Please refer to the breakdown below:

Technical dimensions/footprint of overhead powerline and pylon footing structures

- Total length of powerline = +- 3km
- Total number of powerline footing structures = 23 Structures (6 located within substation boundary, so effectively 17 structures in the line route)
- Powerline utility pole average diameter = 1650mm
- The vertical length of the powerline structure will vary between 18m and 29m, with the tallest structure being 28.60m.
- Total expected physical footprint of pylon footing structures (per structure) ranges between 9.6m² and 40.5m².
- Due to the fact that there will be 23 Pylon footing structures, the expected total development footprint will range between 220.8 m² and 931.5 m². Application was made for a total development footprint of 931.5m².

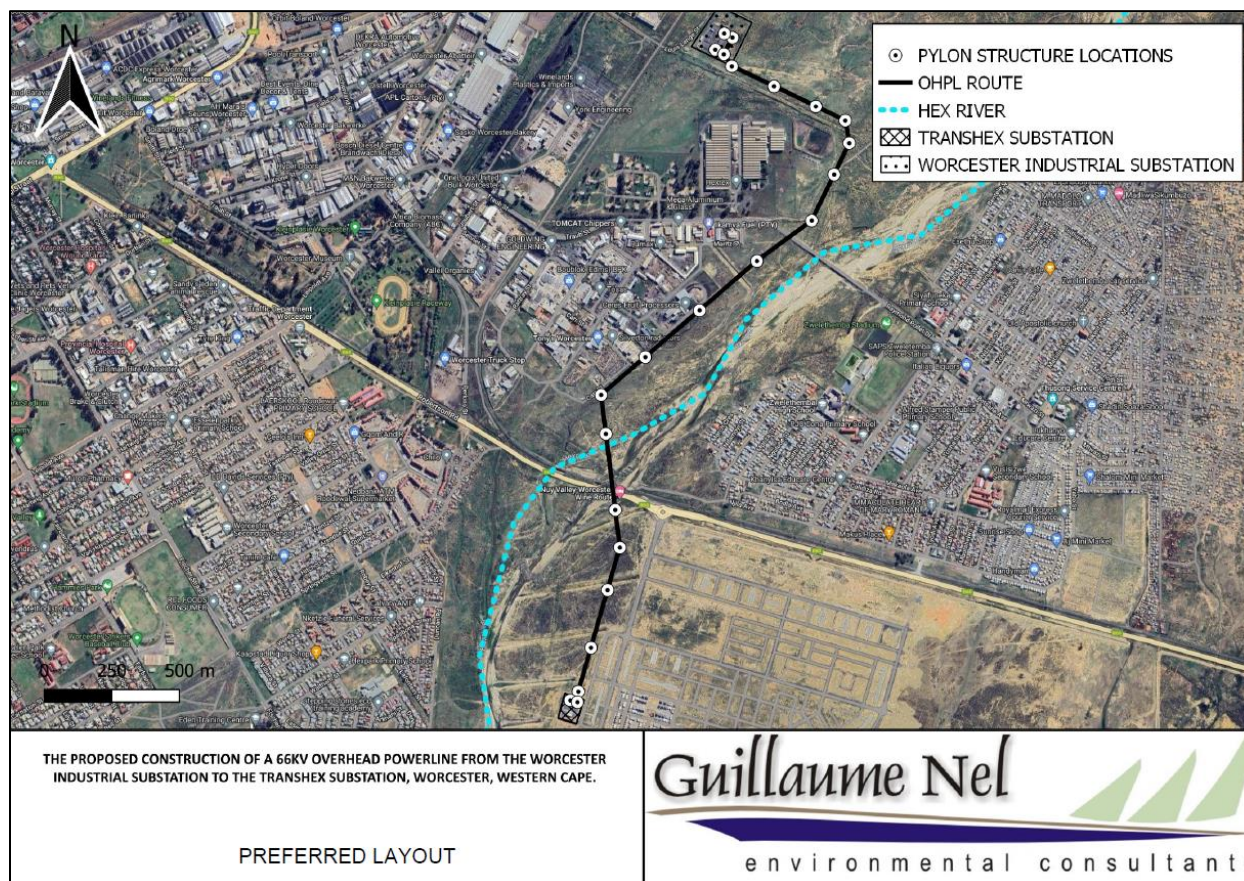


Figure 1: Approved site plan/layout of the proposed 66KV overhead powerline

This letter serves to inform you that the *Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)* has issued the *Breede Valley Municipality* with an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in order for the holder of the EA to continue with the construction of the Transhex 66KV Overhead Powerline, with the date of the decision being the **10th of August 2023** (and received by *GNEC* on the same day).

Please note that the holder of the Environmental Authorisation is:

- The Breede Valley Municipality
- Mr Pieter Hartzenburg (contact person)
- Breede Valley Municipality
Private Bag X3046
Worcester
6849
- pieter2@bvm.gov.za

Additionally, please also see the contact details of the decision-maker below:

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)
- Directorate: Development Management (Region 1)
- Enquiries: Bernadette Osborne & Zaahir Toefy
- Private Bag X9086, Cape Town, 8000
- Tel: 021 483 3679
- Email: Bernadette.Osborne@westerncape.gov.za / Zaahir.Toefy@westerncape.gov.za

Should you as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) not agree with the DEA&DP's decision herewith attached, and would like to lodge an appeal, the appeal procedure in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014, detailed in **Section G** of the EA, needs to be followed.

Should you wish to appeal, an appeal must be lodged with the Appeal Administrator **within 20 calendar days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant (i.e. this letter)**. The prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal process is obtainable from the office of the Appeal Authority at Tel: (021) 483 3721, e-mail: DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or via the URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

The appeal form must be submitted by means of one of the following methods:

- 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 3721)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001
- By e-mail: DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za

Herewith please find attached a copy of the Environmental Authorisation which was issued to the *Breedevlei Municipality*. Additional information regarding the appeal procedure is available in the attached Environmental Authorisation. Please note that a copy of the Interested and Affected Party Database is also appended to this letter for your perusal. Additional information regarding the reasons for the decision is available in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Meanwhile, should you have any queries, please feel free to contact us, at:

Tel: (021) 870 1874

Fax: (021) 870 1873

E-mail: eg@gnec.co.za/a.p@gnec.co.za

Yours sincerely,

Euonell Visagie / André-Pierre Gouws

For GNEC

END