

**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, 3519,13433 AND 5, WORCESTER**

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

CLOSURE ECO AUDIT REPORT

Prepared for:

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BREED VALLEY
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ABBREVIATIONS

DEA&DP	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
DWS.....	Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation
EA	Environmental Authorization
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECO.....	Environmental Control Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Programme
DEO	Designated Environmental Officer
GNEC	Guillaume Nel Environmental Consulting
I&AP	Interested and Affected Parties
RE.....	Resident Engineer
WCDM.....	West Coast District Municipality

INTRODUCTION

This **Closure ECO Report** is issued to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), Breede River Municipality, and the Project Team in its final form to promote ongoing improvement in environmental management practices. The report aims to enhance the contractor's compliance with the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMP) for the project. It details environmental findings observed during the site visit and may include corrective measures or actions implemented by the contractor.

CLOSE OUT ON FINDINGS REQUIRED

	Finding	Close Out required
1	Condition 15 of the EA A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted within 3 (three) months of completion of the proposed development.	The Final External Audit should please be done within 3 months of completion of the development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project involves the construction of a 66kV overhead powerline extending approximately 3 kilometres from the Transhex Substation to the Worcester Industrial Substation.

This new powerline will be supported by 23 pylon footing structures, strategically positioned along the alignment to minimize environmental impact. The vertical heights of these pylons will vary from 18 meters to 29 meters, with the tallest structure measuring 28.60 meters. The overall development footprint for the pylon structures will cover an area of about 931.5 square meters.

Project Alignment and Technical Aspects

- Total Length: Approximately 3 kilometers.
- Pylon Structures: 23 in total, with 6 located within the substation boundaries and 17 along the powerline route.
- Pylon Footing Dimensions: Each pylon footing will have a footprint ranging between 9.6m^2 and 40.5m^2 , with a total development footprint of up to 931.5m^2 .
- Pylon Height: Structures will vary in height from 18m to 29m.

The powerline route will originate at the Worcester Industrial Substation on Erf 13518, running eastsoutheast for 500 meters before turning southwest and aligning alongside the western bank of the Hex River for approximately 1.5 kilometers. It will traverse the Hex River in a southeasterly direction, crossing the R60 and a railway line, before following the river's eastern bank for 650 meters to connect at the Transhex Substation.

FINDINGS IN TERMS OF THE APPROVED EMPR DURING THE SITE VISIT ON THE 10TH OF OCTOBER 2025

Requirement Please refer to approved EMPr for detailed requirements	ECO comments and/or recommendation	Compliance
		Compliant
		Partial-Compliant
		Non-Compliant
		Require Confirmation
		Premature
		Not Auditable
PRE-CONSTRUCTION (PLANNING) PHASE EMPr		
Site Demarcation and No-Go/Sensitive Areas	The contractor has not demarcated the overall project area before commencement or during the pylon development. The pylons have been planted and not demarcated when construction was active. (will remain partial compliant as the pylons have already been planted) The topsoil was placed back on site. All construction activities are done within the boundaries of the development area.	Partial Compliant
Flora	The ECO which is also a Rehabilitation Specialist is of the opinion that sufficient topsoil management has been done on site and there is no additional need for rehabilitation.	Compliant

		
Stockpiles	No stockpiles were seen on site, as the contractor is completed with the planting and backfilling of the pylons.	Not auditable
Topsoil	All the topsoil has been placed back on site. The contractor completed on site.	Not auditable
Oil and chemicals	No fuel bowzers or storage tanks are used on site. No generators were noted on site. The lockable storage container has been removed from site.	Compliant

	 No spills have been recorded on site.	
Method Statements	The contractor supplied the following digital Method Statements: • Topsoil Management • Hazardous Storage and Waste Disposal • Management of Cement and the Pumping of Ready-Mix Concrete • Spillage Management • Fires The other method statements referenced in the EMP is not applicable on site.	Compliant
Fauna	According to the ECO no faunal species were relocated, as none were found.	Not auditable

CONSTRUCTION PHASE EMPr		
Stockpiles	No stockpiles were noted on site as the contractor is completed with the development.	Not auditable
Oil and Chemicals	All the machinery and generators were removed from site.	Not auditable
Cement	No batching was done on site during the audit, as the project is completed. No remains were noted on site.	Not auditable
Dangerous and toxic materials	No hazardous chemicals were observed on site.	Not auditable
Bulk storage of fuels and oils	No dangerous chemicals are kept on site, and no bulk fuel is on site.	Not auditable
Use of dangerous and toxic materials	All dangerous and toxic materials were removed from site.	Not auditable
Eating areas and camp followers	No litter was seen in the site camp or the development areas.	Compliant
Toilets	Only two toilets were left on site during the audit for the protection workers. The toilets should please be removed when no protection workers are there anymore.	Compliant

		
Waste management	The site camp has been cleaned.	Compliant
Dust	No excessive dust was observed during the audit, as it was a calm day. Dust suppression is done regularly on the access roads.	Compliant
Workshop equipment, maintenance and storage	Ensure that senior and relevant staff are trained in cleaning up oil spillages using oil spill kits and provide evidence of training to the ECO and Auditor. No spillages were observed in the site camp/workshop area during the audit.	Compliant
Noise	No excessive noise was heard during the audit, as construction is completed.	Not auditable

Crew camps	No staff is accommodated on site. The contractors camp has been removed.	Compliant
Fires	A method statement for Fires has been sent to the ECO, thank you for that.	Compliant
Erosion and sedimentation	No major erosion runnels or sedimentation was observed at any of the working areas.	Compliant
Fauna	No fauna was observed during the audit.	Not auditable
Flora	Once construction is complete, rehabilitation of un-built areas must be undertaken in order to restore the aesthetic & ecological value of the area. It is recommended that a qualified landscape architect, qualified botanist, aquatic specialist and the ECO be consulted with regard to the most appropriate rehabilitation vegetation and structures. Active re-vegetation must take place with locally indigenous vegetation under the supervision of the ECO. The ECO which is also a Rehabilitation Specialist is of the opinion that sufficient topsoil management has been done on site and there is no additional need for rehabilitation.	Compliant

		
OPERATIONAL PHASE EMPr		
Stormwater management	For all maintenance undertaken reference must be made to recommendations in the engineer's reports and or the approved storm water management plan. All maintenance activities must be monitored to ensure that no environmental damage occurs. All damage must be mitigated immediately. The stream and associated culverts should be monitored and cleared of litter and other debris regularly.	Note
Dust	Surface dust should be minimized during the operational phase of the development in order to prevent the dust from being blown to adjacent properties. The proposed development should be landscaped with indigenous plant species.	Compliant

	Water extraction from the non-perennial storm water channel on site will not be allowed.	
Atmospheric pollution	All forms of dust/air pollution must be managed in terms of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965 (Act No. 45 of 1965), this includes the control of noxious and offensive gases, smoke, dust and vehicular emissions. Under no circumstances may heavy smoke be released into the air. Light pollution • Light output is to be confined within property boundaries through using specifically designed luminaries such as full cut-off luminaries to minimise upward spread of light near to and above the horizontal; Noise pollution Noise levels shall be kept within acceptable limits, these are determined in terms of the relevant local by laws. Operation activities will remain within normal working hours (07:00am – 18:00pm).	Compliant
Safety and Security	Boundary wall must be regularly inspected and maintained to prevent any damage. All fencing on site must be managed in terms of the Fence Act No. 31 of 1963 All maintenance and repair work must be done in accordance with National Building Regulations and Standards Act 103 of 1977 Maintenance work must not be the cause of environmental damage. Any environmental damage caused must be investigated and mitigated immediately.	Compliant

	An emergency plan (including fire management) must be developed and implemented; the relevant authority must approve this plan. Ensure that all fire extinguishers are replaced on or before their expiry dates. Ensure that pump devices are in good working order.	
Freshwater Management	Maintenance vehicles must make use of dedicated access roads and no indiscriminate movement in the freshwater ecosystems may be permitted; During periodic maintenance activities of the powerline and access roads, monitoring for erosion must be undertaken; Should erosion be noted at the base of the support structure that may potentially impact on a freshwater ecosystem in the surrounding area, the area must be rehabilitated by infilling the erosion gully and revegetation thereof with suitable indigenous vegetation; Monitoring for the establishment for alien and invasive vegetation species must be undertaken, specifically for access roads through or along the freshwater ecosystems used to service the powerline. Should alien and invasive plant species be identified, they must be removed and disposed of as per an alien and invasive species control plan and the area must be revegetated with suitable indigenous vegetation.	Note

FINDINGS IN TERMS OF THE GRANTED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

EA Condition No.	Description of each Condition	Comments on Compliance
		Compliant
		Partial-Compliant
		Non-Compliant
		Require Confirmation
		Premature
		Not Auditable
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.	Note
2	The holder must commence with the listed activities on site within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation.	Compliant A letter to notify the department of the intended commencement of activities was submitted on 10 June 2024. The holder commenced construction in July 2024, and the EA was granted on the 10th of August 2023, thus within 5 years.

3	The development must be concluded within 10 years from the date of commencement of the listed activities.	Compliant Construction commenced in July 2024 thus the development should be concluded by 2034.
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.	Noted The holder to take note of this condition.
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.	Noted No changes or deviations from the scope have been noted.
6	Seven calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of construction activities. The notice must: 6.1 make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above; and 6.2 include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:	Compliant A notification of commencement was sent to DEA&DP on the

	Conditions: 7, 8, 12 and 18.	10th of June 2024 and made clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference, it also included proof/comments of compliance with conditions 7, 8, 12 and 18.
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 (as amended) detailed in Section G below; 7.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; and 7.4 provide the registered I&APs with: 7.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation; 7.4.3 postal address of the holder;	Compliant The I&AP Notification letter after the approval of the EA was sent on the 14th of August 2023 (4 days after the EA was granted). All of the required information was provided as stipulated in this condition.

	7.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder; 7.4.5 e-mail address, if any, of the holder; and 7.4.6 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 (as amended).	
8	The listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notifies the registered I&APs of this decision. 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 i.e. the listed activities, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.	Compliant The listed activities, including site preparation did not commence within 20 calendar days from the date the applicant notified the I&AP's.
9	The draft Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.	Compliant The contractor is implementing the EMPr on-site and the contractor has a copy of the approved EMPr at the site camp.
10	The MMP adopted as part of this Environmental Authorisation must be implemented.	Compliant

		The MMP is being implemented on site.
11	The EMPr, and the MMP must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.	Compliant The EMPr and MMP has been included in the contract documentation.
12	The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), before commencement of any construction activities to ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein.	Compliant Guillaume Nel Environmental Consultants have been appointed as ECO on the site. Nica Kotze is the ECO for the site.
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.	Compliant The Environmental File on site had copies of the EA, EMPr, MMP, audit reports and External audits on site. The file has been removed now as construction is completed.

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.	Compliant Access to the site referred to in Section C is available, the environmental reports will be presented to the Competent Authority who requests to see it.
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.	Compliant Kapp Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd. (KAPPEC) has been appointed on behalf of Breede Valley Municipality (the Applicant) as the independent environmental practitioners to undertake the required 3 months external compliance audit in fulfilment of Condition 15 of the Environmental Authorization (the EA) and Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

	The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of an environmental audit report to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report immediately available to anyone on request and on a publicly accessible website (where the holder has such a website).	The site visit for the audit was conducted on the 6th of November 2024. The next audit should please be done within three months of completion. A quote will be obtained and sent through as the contractor is completed with construction.
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 paleontological remains (including fossil shells and trace fossils); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artefacts 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.	Not auditable No heritage remains have been exposed during excavation or any other actions on site.
17		Not auditable

	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.	No heritage remains have been exposed during excavation or any other actions on site.
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.	Partial Compliant No demarcation of no go areas were seen on site during the construction activities, and also not prior to commencement. This condition will stay partial compliant. Although no excessive areas were disturbed outside of the development areas.

PROGRESS

The contractor was completed with the pylons and the stringing.



MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN

No major areas of concern were found during the audit, the site is now closed from an environmental perspective. The External Audit should please be done still.



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PRINCIPLES OF THE EMP WHICH WERE AUDITED

The EMP was compiled using the following concepts and implementation requirements so that the higher principles of sustainable development are realised: The EMP can therefore be seen as a flexible and responsive document.

- 🌿 Continuous improvement. The project proponent (or implementing organisation) must be committed to review and to continually improve environmental management, with the objective of improving overall environmental performance.
- 🌿 Broad level of commitment. A broad level of commitment will be required from all levels of management as well as the workforce in order for the development and implementation of this EMP to be successful and effective.
- 🌿 Flexible and responsive. The implementation of the EMP must be responsive to new and changing circumstances, i.e. rapid short-term responses to problems or incidents. The EMP is a dynamic “living” document and thus regular planned review and revision of the EMP must be carried out.
- 🌿 Integration across operations. This EMP is integrated across existing line functions and operational units such as health, safety, and environmental departments in a company/project. This is done to change the redundant mindset of seeing environmental management as a single domain unit.
- 🌿 Legislation. It is understood that any development project during its construction phase is a dynamic activity within a dynamic environment. The Developer, Engineer, Contractor, and sub-contractor must therefore be aware that certain activities conducted during construction may require further licensing or environmental approval, e.g. river or stream diversions, bulk fuel storage, waste disposal, etc. The Contractor must consult the RE, EO and ECO on a regular basis in this regard