Standard for Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Development within Identified Geographical Areas

2020

Prepared for: Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Energy, Department of Public Enterprises, iGas, Eskom and Transnet

Prepared by: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

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Prepared for:

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Department of Energy
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[1] Note that this project team member has resigned from the CSIR, however served as Project Leader from April 2017 to October 2019.

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[2] 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.

[3] Note that this Author was under the employ of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) during the completion of the relevant SEA Report Chapters; however has subsequently resigned.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BID	Background Information Document
BFD	Bird Flight Diverter
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
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
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
IBA	Important Bird Area
LC	Least-Concern
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended
NEM:BA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)
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
SCC	Species of Conservation Concern
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
VU	Vulnerable

CHAPTER 1. CONTEXT, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

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 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) identify activities which can be excluded from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation from the competent authority, and Section 24(2)(d) specifically identifies activities which can be excluded from the need to obtain environmental authorisation from the competent authority, but must comply with a norm or standard. This standard is intended 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 which relate to the development of electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure as identified in Listing Notices 1 and 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (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.

This standard has been developed based on two Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes undertaken for the development of Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) in South Africa as listed below:

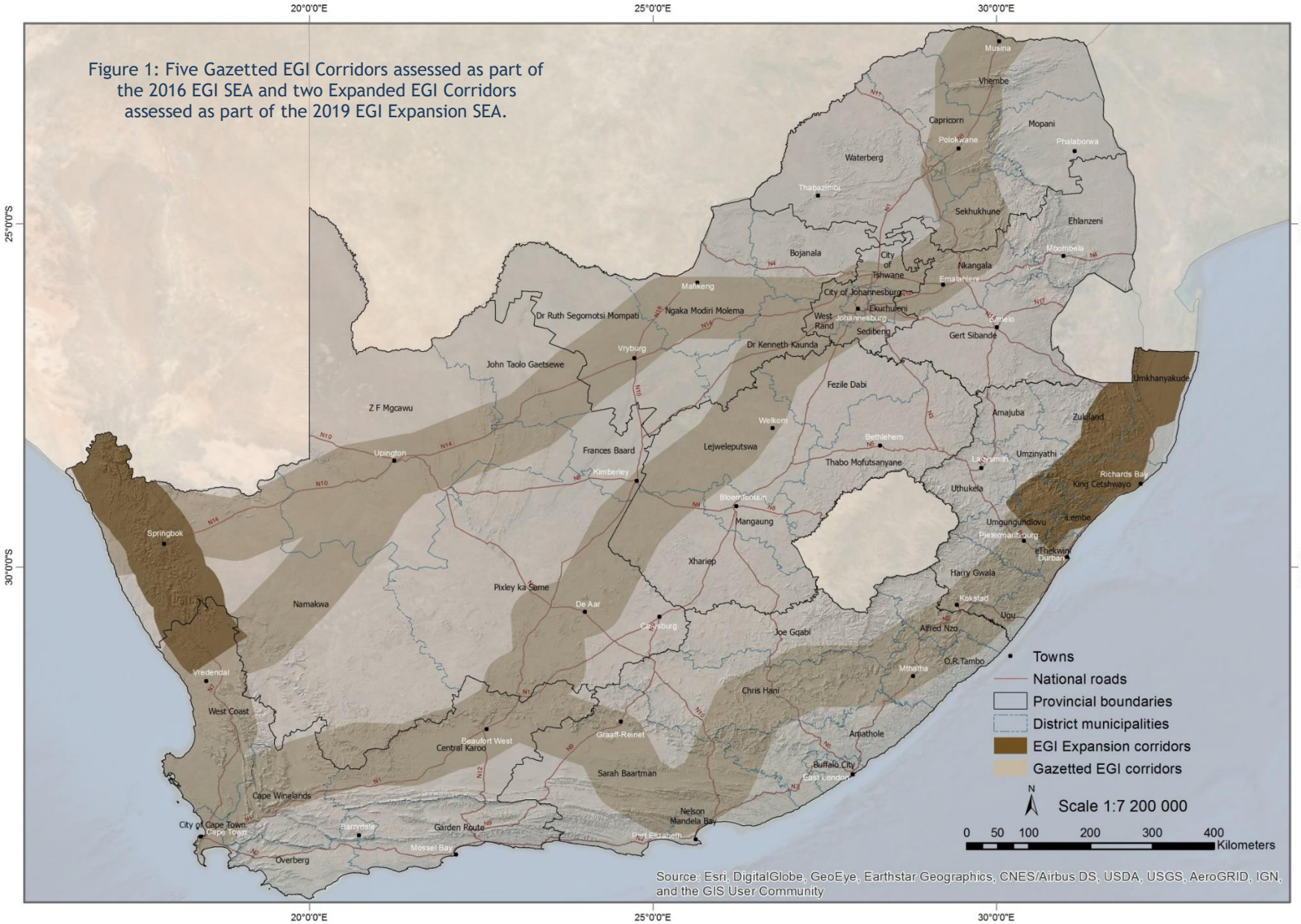
- SEA completed in 2016 for the identification and assessment of five (5) EGI Corridors; and
- SEA initiated in 2017 and completed in 2019 for the identification and assessment of two (2) expanded EGI Corridors.

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. These geographical areas consist of seven (7) strategic transmission corridors for the development of transmission and distribution infrastructure (Figure 1) that have been pre-assessed for environmental sensitivities.

- 2016 EGI SEA:
  - Central Corridor;
  - Eastern Corridor;
  - International Corridor;
  - Northern Corridor; and
  - Western Corridor.
- 2019 Expanded EGI SEA:
  - Expanded Eastern Corridor; and
  - Expanded Western Corridor.

The study areas of the SEAs (i.e. the corridors) were investigated by specialists through desktop geographic information system (GIS) analysis. These strategic transmission corridors have been gazetted as identified geographical areas in Government Notice No.787 published under Government *Gazette* 43528 of 17 July 2020.

Figure 1: Five Gazetted EGI Corridors assessed as part of the 2016 EGI SEA and two Expanded EGI Corridors assessed as part of the 2019 EGI Expansion SEA.



1.2 Purpose of the Standard

The purpose of the standard is to provide rules, which must be complied with, ensuring:

- compliance to the principles contained in section 2 of NEMA and the duty of care, in terms of section 28(1) of NEMA; and
- sustainable development within the Strategic Transmission Corridors.

This standard has been prepared to allow a proponent to achieve planning, routing and remediation objectives that will ensure the acceptability of the impacts of the development of electricity grid infrastructure on the environment, independently from the need for a review by the competent authority. These planning, routing and remediation objectives were determined through the undertaking of two strategic environmental assessments undertaken on electricity grid infrastructure as identified in paragraph 1.1 above.

The submission of the registration form provided in Appendix F, the signing of the declaration by the proponent of commitment to implement the standard provided in Appendix 9 of the registration form and the signing of the declaration to comply with the Generic Environmental Management Programmes identified in paragraph 1.5 and provided for in Appendix 10 of the registration form, will enable the exclusion of the development of electricity grid infrastructure in the identified Strategic Transmission Corridors from the need to obtain an environmental authorisation from the competent authority, as provided for in Section 24(2)(d) of NEMA, for the development of transmission and distribution infrastructure within the Strategic Transmission Corridors as identified in paragraph 1.3.

The Final SEA Reports for the 2016 EGI SEA and 2019 EGI Expansion SEA can be accessed at: https://gasnetwork.csir.co.za/ and https://egis.environment.gov.za/

1.3 Scope of the Standard

The provisions of this standard are applicable within the Strategic Transmission Corridors identified in Government Notice No. 787, Government *Gazette* No. 43528 of 17 July 2020, for the following activities, including the associated activities necessary for the realisation of the infrastructure, as identified in the EIA Regulations:

- Listing Notice 1; Activity 11 and 47; and
- Listing Notice 2; Activity 9

In addition to the activities identified above, the following activities and infrastructure are 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 undertaken trigger an identified activity, they are included in this standard;

- Construction camp site and laydown area establishment;
- Servitude gate installation to facilitate access to the servitude;
- Vegetation clearing to facilitate access, construction and the safe operation of the line;
- Establishing of access roads on the servitude where required;
- Preparation for construction right-of-way and ground preparation;
- Pegging of tower positions for construction;
- Transportation of equipment, materials and personnel to site and stores;
- Installation of foundations for the towers;
- Tower assembly and erection;

- Conductor stringing and regulation;
- Transfer of the line from the Contractor for commissioning;
  - Final inspection of the line, commissioning and transfer to the Grid Line and Servitude Manager for operation;
  - Rehabilitation of disturbed areas;
  - Signing off of all Landowners upon completion of the construction and rehabilitation;
  - Transfer of the servitude by the Grid Environmental Manager; and
  - Operation and maintenance of the line.

The transmission and distribution power lines are located within a registered servitude and maintenance of this servitude is required to maintain access and reduce the risk of obstruction and lightning strikes to the powerline. 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 required. 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 Exclusions

This standard does not apply to the development of substations and in this regard the provisions of the NEMA EIA Regulations must be complied with. In addition, should more than 10% of the infrastructure fall outside of the *Strategic Transmission Corridor*, the standard does not apply and the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations instead apply to the entire development.

1.5 Applicability of the Generic Environmental Management Programme

As part of the 2016 EGI SEA, a Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) was compiled for the development and expansion of: (a) overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure; and (b) substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity. The two Generic EMPrs were gazetted for implementation in Government Notice No. 435 published under Government *Gazette* 42323 of 22 March 2019. The Generic EMPrs apply within South Africa as a whole, and need to be applied for the development of all overhead and substation electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure (as contained in Government Notices R324, R325, R326 and R327). These Generic EMPrs consist of the following:

- Part A - Includes definitions, acronyms, roles and responsibilities and documentation and reporting requirements.
- Part B – Section 1: Pre-Approved Generic 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.
- 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.
- 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.

For the purpose of this Standard for the development of electricity transmission and distribution power line infrastructure, the Pre-Approved Generic Template of the Generic EMPr (Part B – Section 1) applies. Part C will apply if any specific environmental sensitivities or attributes are identified

which the generic pre-approved template does not cover, however, in the case of this standard Part C does not need to be submitted to the competent authority for approval. In this case Part C must be appended to the Pre- Approved Generic Template (Part B – Section 1).

1.6 General

The provisions of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, as amended, are applicable to an appeal against any registration decision related to this standard.

Compliance with the standard does not negate the need for the proponent to comply with all other applicable legislation.

CHAPTER 2. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The proponent must identify a *preliminary corridor*[4] using the National Web Based Environmental Screening Tool (screening tool)[5] and additional up-to-date spatial datasets where available.

2. The proponent must appoint an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), who must fulfil the requirements to register the proposed development in accordance with this standard.

3. The proponent must ensure that the EAP, as a minimum, follows the public participation process required in Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations for a linear development during the route determination process, excluding the following requirements which would not be relevant to this standard:

    - Obtaining written consent from the owner or person in control of the land on which the proposed development is to be undertaken;
    - Timeframes pertaining to comment periods for basic assessment reports, EMPr, scoping reports, EIA reports, and closure plans;
    - Notification along alternative routes in the form of notice boards; and
    - Giving notice of the process being applied (basic assessment or scoping and environmental impact report).

4. The proponent must ensure that relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) are consulted during the public participation process.

5. Based on the information provided by the screening tool, additional spatial data and the EAP's professional knowledge, the proponent must ensure that the EAP appoints a specialist team and prepare a preliminary database of possible stakeholders and interested and affected parties[6] (I&APs) along the proposed route, including relevant government departments and relevant non-governmental stakeholders. The proponent must then announce the proposed development by making available a Background Information Document (BID) on a publicly accessible website and distributing it to identified stakeholders and I&APs.

6. It is anticipated that the following specialist[7] team will need to be appointed, however should a particular specialist not be required, the proponent must motivate their exclusion from the team and include this motivation in the BID:
    (a) Terrestrial biodiversity and ecology;
    (b) Aquatic biodiversity and ecology;
    (c) Avifauna;
    (d) Heritage;
    (e) Agriculture/soil scientist;
    (f) Visual; and
    (g) Socio-economic.

[4] 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.
[5] 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.
[6] The purpose of the BID is not to obtain comments within a dedicated comment period but rather to announce the project, and to update the stakeholder database with registered stakeholders.
[7] A specialist is a professionally registered practitioner, when that professional body exists, or a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner.

7. The BID must include as a minimum the following information:
   (a) Purpose of the BID;
   (b) Legal context;
   (c) Background and project description;
   (d) Process and timeline;
   (e) Location of the *Preliminary Corridor*;
   (f) Contact details of the EAP; and
   (g) I&AP registration forms.

8. The EAP and specialists must identify a *proposed route* within the *preliminary corridor* based on:
   a) consideration and implementation of the mitigation hierarchy[8],
   b) environmental sensitivity identified using the methodologies or processes as stipulated in Chapter 3 of this standard, and
   c) engineering constraints.

9. As the route is being identified, the initial servitude negotiations are to be undertaken to ensure that the route is not fatally flawed in relation to servitude access.

10. The process to identify the *proposed route* and the outcome of the initial servitude negotiations must be documented in an environmental sensitivity report, which must be subjected to a minimum public comment period of 30 days.

11. The environmental sensitivity report must include, as a minimum, the following information:
   (a) The details and relevant expertise of the EAP and specialists preparing the report;
   (b) The outcome of the screening exercise undertaken using the screening tool (that was used to identify the *preliminary corridor*);
   (c) Location map of the *preliminary corridor;*
   (d) Process used to identify the *preliminary corridor* and *proposed route* based on the adoption of the mitigation hierarchy and consideration of engineering constraints and specialist inputs;
   (e) Details of the public participation process undertaken;
   (f) A clear and justified opinion statement in the format provided in Appendix B by the specialists and/or EAP that the identification of the *proposed route* has applied the principles stipulated in paragraph 8; and
   (g) If applicable, a site specific EMPr as per Part C of the Generic EMPr for overhead power lines and sub-stations gazetted in Government Notice 435[9] published in Government *Gazette* 42323 of 22 March 2019.
   (h) The completed generic EMPr pre-approved template which is Part B of the Generic EMPr for overhead power lines and sub-stations gazetted in Government Notice 435 published in Government *Gazette* 42323 of 22 March 2019, for display on the websites of the proponent and the EAP.
   (i) The initial concluding statement by the various specialists in the format as identified in Appendix B.

12. The proposed route must be finalised taking into consideration comments received during the public participation process.

13. A final environmental sensitivity report must be prepared, which includes the extent of the final pre-negotiated route, a record of comments and responses and, where applicable, Part C of the

[8] Mitigation hierarchy includes the following steps in the order of decreasing desirability: Avoid, Minimise, Rehabilitate, and Offset.
[9] Part C of the Generic EMPr must include, where required, additional site specific impact management outcomes and impact management actions.

Generic EMPr and the final concluding statements by the various specialists in the format as identified in Appendix B.

14. All registered I&APs must be notified of the availability of the final environmental sensitivity report for information[10].

15. The proponent must submit the relevant registration form contained in Appendix F of this standard.

16. The registration form must be accompanied by:
    (a) The final pre-negotiated route[11] and the signed declaration by the proponent of commitment to the standard (included as Appendix 9 to the registration form);
    (b) A signed statement from the proponent that the servitude negotiations have been finalised;
    (c) The signed declaration that the proponent will comply with the pre-approved Generic EMPr template and site specific EMPr if relevant; and
    (d) All supporting documents stipulated in the registration form.

17. On receiving the relevant information the competent authority must issue a registration number or if the information is incomplete, indicate to the proponent that the submission is incomplete and identify the outstanding information.

18. Upon receipt of a registration number, the proponent must inform all registered I&APs of the registration and the opportunity to appeal[12].

19. Registration contemplated in paragraph 17 will be valid for a period of 10 years from receipt of the registration number in order for commencement to take place. If commencement does not take place within the validity period, the process contemplated in Chapter 2 will apply afresh in such instances.

20. 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.

21. Proof of registration must be:
    (a) lodged by the proponent with the relevant Local Municipality and Provincial Environmental Department;
    (b) made available by the proponent on request by any stakeholder or Authority; and
    (c) made available, where the proponent or owner has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

22. Where change of ownership of a registered development in terms of paragraph 17 occurs during the construction phase of the infrastructure, the registration number is retained by the new owner, however the new owner must submit the relevant declaration and the signed pre-approved Generic EMPr template and the site specific EMPr where relevant, within 30 days upon finalisation of such change. There is no requirement for re-registration once the infrastructure

[10] The purpose of the notification is not to make the report available for comment, but rather to make it available for information purposes so that I&APs have access to it.
[11] The final pre-negotiated route must be shown on a map, which includes the location of mitigation devices such as bird flight diverters.
[12] Any appeal must be lodged and processed according to the NEMA National Appeal Regulations promulgated in Government Notice 993 published in Government *Gazette* 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.

has been constructed as the operation of a power line is not an identified activity in terms of the Act.

Appendix C of this standard contains a process flow diagram of the procedural requirements and route determination process.

CHAPTER 3. GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

When planning the power line route, the following principles must be adhered to:

23. There must be no removal of threatened plant species.

24. There must be no impact on Tier 1 plant species[13] identified through the screening process and site verification process.

25. Clear-cutting during construction should be kept to a maximum of 6 m.

26. Ongoing clear-cutting for maintenance must not occur in the following specific vegetation biomes or bioregions or areas:

    (a) CR and EN Thicket and Fynbos types; and
    (b) Areas that contain confirmed habitat of Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) as identified by the screening process using the screening tool.

27. 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, as they are often not more than 500 m in diameter.

28. 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 Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife and BirdLife South Africa to prevent destruction of the nest holes.

29. Avoid Cape Vulture and White-backed Vulture breeding colonies and vulture restaurants by a 5 km buffer. Should the full extent of the buffering at vulture restaurants and breeding colonies not be practically possible, the areas must be thoroughly investigated by an avifaunal specialist and the power lines that could pose a collision threat to vultures must be identified and marked with *bird flight diverters*. In addition, it would require management of the potential impacts on the breeding birds once construction commences, which would necessitate the involvement of the avifaunal specialist and the environmental control officer (ECO).

30. Avoid Lappet-faced Vulture and Bearded 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.

[13] A tier 1 plant species means "Habitat for species that are endemic to South Africa, where all the known occurrences of that species are within an area of 10 km2 are considered Critical Habitat[1], as all remaining habitat is irreplaceable[2]. Typically these include species that qualify under Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), or Vulnerable (VU)[3] D criteria of the IUCN or species listed as Critically/ Extremely[4] Rare under South Africa's National Red List Criteria. For each species reliant in a Critical Habitat, all remaining suitable habitat has been manually mapped at a fine scale

31. The power line alignment 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.

32. The power line alignment shall not be located within 1 km of major[14] piggeries and poultry farms.

CHAPTER 4. COMPLIANCE – AUTHORITY INSPECTIONS

33. The proponent must provide the competent authority and any authorised official with access to the facility where the activity included under this standard is undertaken, for the purposes of monitoring compliance with the standard.

CHAPTER 5. OFFENCES

34. Failure to comply with the requirements of this standard constitutes an offence in terms of Section 49A(1)(b) of NEMA.

CHAPTER 6. CONTACT DETAILS

The information relating to the EGI Corridors contained in this standard can also be obtained from the Head Office of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, at the contact details provided below:

CONTACT PERSON/S

Directorate Enterprise Geospatial Information Management
Ms Marlanie Moodley or Ms Lisa Pretorius

CONTACT DETAILS

- GazetteMapping@environment.go.za
- Direct Line +27 12 399 8916/9301
- Call Centre Number: +27 86 111 2468

CHAPTER 7. REFERENCES

Parties using this document shall also consider, *inter alia*, the most recent edition of the documents listed hereunder:

Normative

- 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 36 of 1998, as amended);
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983) and relevant regulations;

[14] A major facility is a facility as described in Listing Notice 1, Activity 4, of the EIA Regulations.

- National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998) and the Notice Of Protected Tree Species under the National Forest Act (Government Notice No. 817 published in Government *Gazette* No. 30253, of the 7 September 2007); and
- Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947).

Informative

- NEM: BA GNR 1002 of 2011 – National list of ecosystem that are threatened and in need of protection.
- NEM: BA GNR 255 of 2015 – Threatened or Protected Species Regulations.
- NEM: BA: GNR 598 of 2014 – Alien and Invasive Species Regulations.
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005).
- National Biodiversity Framework (2008).
- National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (2008).
- National Biodiversity Assessment (2011).
- 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 2012[15];
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Minimum Standards for Archaeological and Palaeontological Impact Assessments issued in 2007[16].
- SANS 10280-1:2013 Overhead power lines for conditions prevailing in South Africa. Part 1: Safety.
- Eskom Specifications:
    - Land and Biodiversity Policy, 32-736.
    - Transmission Environmental Policy, TPL41-435, June 2010.
    - Herbicide Management Policy, ESKPBAAD4, June 2005.
    - Land and Biodiversity Standard, 32-815, May 2016.
    - Wildlife Interaction and Management Standard, 32-829, December 2016.
    - Transmission servitude gates Standard, TGL41-338, November 2009.
    - Standard for bush clearance and maintenance within overhead power line servitude, ESKASABG3, May 2003.
    - Standard for the Safe use of pesticides and herbicides, ESKASAAL0, June 2005.
    - Guideline on the electrical coordination of pipelines and power lines, 240-66418968, April 2015.
    - Erosion Guideline, TGL41-337, November 2009.
    - Transmission vegetation management guideline, TGL41-334, November 2009.
    - Bird nesting guidelines, TGL41-333, November 2009.
    - Transmission Bird collision prevention guideline, TGL41-335, November 2009.
    - Transmission Bird perch guideline, TGL41-332, November 2009.
    - Proactive bird mitigation in distribution, 240-115756171.
    - Specification – Transmission line towers and line construction, TRMSCAAC1, March 2001.
    - Contractor Specification for Vegetation Management, 240-52456757, February 2013.
    - Vegetation Management on Eskom Land, Servitudes, Rights of Way, 240-70172585, January 2014.
    - Environmental Procedure for vegetation clearance and maintenance within overhead power line servitudes and on Eskom owned land, 32-247, September 2007.

[15]https://www.westerncape.gov.za/other/2012/9/grading_guide_&_policy_version_5_app_30_may_2012.pdf
[16] http://www.sahra.org.za/sahris/sites/default/files/website/articledocs/ASG2-2%20SAHRA%20A%26PIAs%20MIN%20STDS%20Ph1-2%2016May07.pdf

APPENDIX A – ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS

Appendix A includes specifications per environmental theme that need to be carried out to establish the environmental baseline, determine risk and guide the power line routing.

A.1. Terrestrial Ecology

1. The Terrestrial Ecology Specialist must:
   a) Use the **most recently obtainable and available information** (spatial and otherwise) to determine, on a desktop level, the environmental sensitivity of the power line assessment corridors. 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 *preliminary corridor*.
   c) Determine, verify with fieldwork or a site-visit, the presence and status of the ecosystem types and species.
2. Avoid, as far as possible, verified threatened ecosystem types i.e. Vulnerable (VU) and Least-Concern (LC)) and threatened species (CR, EN and VU) from the power line routing.
3. If avoidance is not possible, the following must be undertaken:
   a) Determine the percentage loss of the species, ecosystem, ecological functioning, and the proportion loss of ecosystem extent, as well as the ability to provide ecological services during construction of the proposed development;
   b) Determine whether this loss is acceptable.
   c) If the loss is not acceptable, firstly identify engineering solutions, for example routing over or under the species of concern and secondly recommend mitigation measures for the design, construction and operation of the power line. In addition, confirm if the mitigation measures are acceptable.
   d) Identify monitoring actions for all phases of the power line development.

A.2. Bats

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

A.3. Aquatic Ecology

5. Engage with the department responsible for water affairs to discuss the requirements of a General Authorisation or Water Use Licence.
6. The outcomes of the engagement process contemplated in sub-section (5) of Section A.3, where required, must be documented in the final environmental sensitivity report, including any restrictions or design requirements.
7. Identify freshwater features that are prone to impacts resulting from the construction of power lines within the *preliminary corridor*.
8. Avoid the freshwater features.
9. If avoidance is not possible, the following must be undertaken:
   a) Determine the percentage loss of the freshwater features, ecological functioning and ability to provide ecosystem services during construction of the proposed development;
   b) Determine whether this loss is acceptable.
   c) If the loss is not acceptable, minimize the footprint of the EGI and recommend mitigation measures for the design, construction and operation of the power line. In addition, confirm if the mitigation measures are acceptable.

d) Identify monitoring actions required for the construction and rehabilitation phases of the power line development.

A.4. Estuaries

10. Pylons shall not be placed within the estuarine functional zone[17] or within its associated inflowing coastal wetlands and rivers.
11. Estuarine vegetation and associated coastal freshwater riparian vegetation flowing into and/or associated with estuaries shall not be cleared.

A.5. Avifauna

12. During the planning phase:
    a) A 2 km buffer either side of the centre line of the proposed route of the power line alignment falling within the *preliminary corridor* must be drawn. This buffer will serve as the power line assessment corridor for avifauna.
    b) The Avifauna specialist must:
        i. Use the **most recently obtainable and available information** (spatial and otherwise) to determine, on a desktop level, the environmental and habitat sensitivity of the power line assessment corridors. This includes, *inter alia*, most recent versions of the following:
            - Bird distribution data of the most recent iteration of the South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP), such as SABAP 2, from the Animal Demography Unit of the University of Cape Town, as a means to ascertain which species occur within the broader study area.
            - The Important Bird Areas project data, from BirdLife South Africa, must be consulted to get an overview of potential Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and species diversity in the broader study area.
            - The Co-ordinated Water-bird Count (Animal Demography Unit) data must consulted to determine if large concentrations of water birds, associated with South African wetlands, may occur within the broader study area.
            - The power line bird mortality incident database of the Endangered Wildlife Trust must be consulted to determine which of the species occurring in the broader study area are typically impacted upon by power lines (EWT unpublished data).
            - Data on vegetation types must obtained from the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 1 (SABAP1, Harrison et al. 1997) and latest available versions of the Vegetation Map of South Africa, (e.g. South African National Biodiversity Institute, 2018 and Mucina & Rutherford, 2006).
        ii. Establish habitat and migratory routes based on the most recently obtainable and available desktop data and site verification.
        iii. The conservation status of all avifaunal species recorded by the most recent iteration of the SABAP in the broader study area must be determined as per the most recent iteration of the list of threatened species and the IUCN Red Data List of Birds.
        iv. Based on the information collected on birds typically impacted upon by power lines, identify the presence of threatened species which include, as a minimum, Cranes, Flamingos, Vultures, Kori Bustards, and Pelicans.

[17] 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.

v. Where high risk areas are identified undertake planning phase monitoring that considers the behaviour of avifauna, such as, but not limited to, the flying times, take-off ability, time and distance to reach flying height.
vi. Use the planning phase monitoring stipulated in sub-section 12 (b) (v) of Section A.5 to determine potential collision risk areas.
vii. If necessary, re-route the power line in order to avoid the impact and risk on potential collision risk areas.

13. During the pre-construction phase:
    a) If potential collision risk areas as identified in sub-section 12 (b) (v) and (vi) of Section A.5 cannot, under any circumstances, be avoided, the avifauna specialist must then undertake the following:
        i. Conduct a field investigation to identify habitat classes within the potential collision risk areas identified within the *preliminary corridor*.
        ii. Point counts must be conducted at these potential collision risk areas within the *preliminary corridor*, in the wet and dry season to identify risk species and their abundance.
        iii. Nest searches must be conducted in suitable habitat for potential threatened species nests. If nests are recorded, they must be monitored during each survey.
        iv. Based on the field investigation, the quantitative surveys and based on the most recent SABAP data, identify a list of power line sensitive species that may be at risk of collision at the identified collision risk area. The list must include the following:
            - Common name;
            - Taxonomic name;
            - Average reporting rate based on the most recent iteration of SABAP;
            - Global status;
            - Regional status;
            - Preferred habitat along the proposed routing;
            - Likelihood of occurrence at the potential collision risk area based on the field investigation;
            - An specialist opinion of the potential impact including collisions, electrocutions, displacement at the potential collision risk area.
        v. Based on the above, identify specific areas to be avoided in the final power line routing alignment;
        vi. Areas to be mitigated with bird flight diverters (BFDs) for collisions and the products to be used. These areas are to be included in the environmental sensitivity reports identified in points 11 and 13 of Chapter 2 ;
        vii. A walk through must be conducted to confirm the following:
            - Sections to be marked with BFDs; and
            - The location of threatened species nests.
14. During the construction phase, the measures identified in 13(a)(vi) must be implemented.
15. At intervals of 30 days for a period of 4 months during the post-construction phase, the avifauna specialist must undertake an inspection of the identified high risk areas, using a vehicle to drive along the servitude to identify any mortalities.
16. During the inspections identified in 15 above, all avian mortalities identified must be recorded using a GPS and reported to the Eskom/EWT[18] Strategic Partnership for inclusion in the national mortality database.
17. Based on the identified mortalities, the avifauna specialist and the participants of the Eskom/EWT Strategic Partnership will determine a further post construction monitoring programme which is to be shared with BirdLife South Africa.

[18] The Eskom and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) entered into a strategic partnership in 1996. The partnership was established to address the potential wildlife and energy infrastructure problems in a systematic manner from a national perspective, and to establish an integrated management system to minimise these negative interactions.

18. A photographic record must be maintained during all inspections undertaken as identified in 15 above.

A.6. Agriculture

19. Pylons shall not be located in the following areas:
    (a) Land capability evaluation values 11 – 15.
    (b) Demarcated high value agricultural areas with a priority rating of A and/or B.
20. Where pylons are located in the following areas, the placement must be undertaken in manner in which the impact on these areas are minimised:
    (a) Land capability evaluation values 8 – 10.
    (b) Irrigated land.
    (c) Horticulture and viticulture.
    (d) Demarcated high value agricultural areas with a priority rating of C and/or D.
21. Where avoidance of the areas specified in sub-section (19) of Section A.6 is not possible, the areas disturbed during construction must be returned to the pre-disturbance land capability within two years of the construction.
22. All reasonable measures must be taken through micro-siting of the proposed development to minimize fragmentation and disturbance of agricultural activities.
23. Self-supporting lattice or monopole structures are to be used in crop fields, orchards and vineyards.

A.7. Visual

24. Sensitive visual receptors (including, but not limited to, residents, commuters, visitors and tourists) must be identified and a visual sensitivity map compiled to inform the location of the proposed route.
25. The precautionary principle must be followed, whereby negotiations must be undertaken with the sensitive receptors.
26. If the negotiations stipulated in sub-section (25) of Section A.7 are unsuccessful, the power line must avoid sensitive visual receptors.

A.8. Heritage Resources

27. Where required, a heritage impact assessment (HIA) will be undertaken in compliance with Section 38(1) to 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) as well as any Minimum Standards or Guidelines published in relation to Section 38(3)[19].
28. The HIA must be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency and applicable Provincial Heritage Authorities for decision making procedures.
29. The applicable recommendations or requirements from the South African Heritage Resources Agency and applicable Provincial Heritage Authorities must be documented in the final environmental sensitivity report.

A.9. Socio-economics

30. The socio-economic opportunities and constraints that the power line presents if developed within the *preliminary corridor* must be identified to inform the location of the proposed route.
31. Based on the outputs of sub-section (30) of Section A.9, a socio-economic strategy is to be compiled for implementation throughout the development. The strategy shall include measures

[19] The SG 2.2 SAHRA APM Guidelines: Minimum Standards for the Archaeological & Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports can be accessed on the following website: https://www.sahra.org.za/publications/gazettes/

to address socio-economic concerns such as employment opportunities, training of personnel, code of conduct, and social investment mechanisms.

A.10. Civil Aviation

32. Engage with Civil Aviation Authority to identify potential hazards and obstacles to civil aviation installations and conditions as described in the South African Civil Aviation Regulations of 2011.
33. The outcomes of the engagement process must be documented in the final environmental sensitivity report, including any restrictions or design requirements.

A.11. Defence

34. 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 ranges.
35. The outcomes of the engagement process, where required, must be documented in the final environmental sensitivity report, including any restrictions or design requirements.

APPENDIX B – FORMAT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

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

- provide a brief elaboration on how the mitigation hierarchy was implemented;
- state whether there is any residual risk and if so, whether such risk is acceptable;
- state whether identified route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist assessment; and
- state whether the development can proceed in accordance with the standard.

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

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

B.1. Terrestrial Ecology

The concluding statement must be prepared by a specialist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) with relevant expertise in terrestrial ecology or similar, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

1. A statement on the duration, date and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the concluding statement;
2. A description of the affected environment relating to terrestrial ecology (flora and fauna) and existing environmental impacts within the *preliminary corridor*, based on the most recently available desktop data and field work;
3. Identification of terrestrial ecological areas to be avoided within the *preliminary corridor*, including buffers;
4. A terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement and power line route, as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
5. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, relating to terrestrial ecology, has been considered in determining the proposed route;
6. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, relating to terrestrial ecology, have been considered in determining the preferred route;
7. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the preferred route;
8. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on terrestrial ecology, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
9. Statement on whether the proposed power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; 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;

11. The concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and the site specific EMPr where sub-section 10 (b) of paragraph B.1 applies.

B.2. Aquatic Ecology

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

12. A statement on the duration, date and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the concluding statement;
13. A description of the affected environment relating to aquatic ecology (flora and fauna) and existing environmental impacts within the *preliminary corridor*, based on the most recently available desktop data and field work;
14. Identification of aquatic ecological areas to be avoided within the *preliminary corridor*, including buffers;
15. An aquatic biodiversity sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement and power line route, as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
16. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, relating to aquatic ecology, has been considered in determining the proposed route;
17. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, relating to aquatic ecology, have been considered in determining the proposed route;
18. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the proposed route;
19. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on aquatic ecology, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
20. Statement on whether the identified power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
21. 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;
22. A concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and site specific EMPr (where sub-section 21 (b) of paragraph B.2 applies).

B.3. Estuaries

The concluding statement is only required if the development is proposed within 5 km of an estuary, and must be prepared by an EAP, or a Specialist with relevant expertise in aquatic and/or terrestrial ecology, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

23. A description of the affected environment in relation to the presence of estuaries within the *preliminary corridor* and their existing condition, based on available desktop information;
24. Identification of the estuary functional zone to be avoided within the *preliminary corridor*, including buffers that are delineated from the channel margin;
25. An estuarine sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement and power line route, as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
26. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, as it pertains to estuaries, has been considered in determining the proposed route;

27. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, as it pertains to estuaries, have been considered in determining the proposed route;
28. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the preferred route;
29. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on estuaries, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
30. Statement on whether the identified power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
31. 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;
32. A concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and the site specific EMPr where sub-section 31 (b) of paragraph B.3 applies.

B.4. Avifauna

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

33. A statement on the duration, date and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the concluding statement;
34. A description of the affected environment relating to avifauna and existing environmental impacts within the *preliminary corridor*, based on the most recently available desktop data and field work;
35. Identification of avifaunal sensitive areas to be avoided within the *preliminary corridor*, including buffers;
36. An avifauna sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement and power line route, as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data;
37. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, relating to avifauna, has been considered in determining the proposed route;
38. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, relating to avifauna, have been considered in determining the proposed route;
39. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the proposed route;
40. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on avifauna, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
41. Statement on whether the identified power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
42. 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;
43. A concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and Site Specific EMPr where sub-section 42 (b) of paragraph B.4 applies.

B.5. Agriculture

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

44. The duration, date and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the concluding statement;
45. A description of the affected environment and existing environmental impacts within the *preliminary corridor*, as it pertains to agricultural resources, based on desktop information and field work;
46. Identification of agricultural resource areas to be avoided within the *preliminary corridor*, including buffers;
47. An agricultural resources sensitivity map overlaid with the (i.e. pylon placement and power line route, as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
48. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, as it pertains to agricultural resources, has been considered in determining the proposed route;
49. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, as it pertains to agricultural resources, have been considered in determining the proposed route;
50. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the proposed route; and confirmation that all reasonable measures have been considered in the micro-siting of the development to minimise fragmentation and disturbance of agricultural activities;
51. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on agricultural resources, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
52. Statement on whether the identified power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
53. 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;
54. A concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and Site Specific EMPr where sub-section 53 (b) of paragraph B.5 applies).

B.6. Visual

The concluding 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 concluding statement must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

55. A description of the affected environment as it pertains to visual aspects, including the identification of sensitive visual receptors;
56. A description of the findings of the engagement with the sensitive visual receptors;
57. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the preferred route;
58. 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;
59. Statement on whether the identified power line route and design is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
60. 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;

61. A Concluding Statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and the site specific mitigation measures included as Part C of the Generic EMPr where sub-section 60 (b) of paragraph B.6 applies.

B.7. Heritage Resources

The concluding statement must be prepared by suitably qualified specialist in the field of heritage resources (archaeology, marine and built environment) and palaeontology, and must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

62. A description of the affected environment in terms of heritage resources and palaeontology, and an indication of existing heritage and palaeontological impacts within the *preliminary corridor* based on desktop information, and field work.
63. Identification of heritage resources and palaeontological areas to be avoided within the *preliminary corridor*, including buffers;
64. A heritage sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement and power line route, as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool and the South African Heritage Resources Information System, and field work (where necessary);
65. Where required, a written comment or letter of no objection from the South African Heritage Resources Agency and/or applicable provincial heritage authority confirming that there is no unacceptable impact on heritage resources and palaeontology;
66. Confirmation that any recommendations as required by the South African Heritage Resources Agency and/or applicable provincial heritage authority have been incorporated and considered;
67. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity pertaining to heritage resources and palaeontology has been considered in determining the proposed route;
68. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the proposed route;
69. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on heritage resources and paleontology, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
70. Statement on whether the identified power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
71. 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;
72. A concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and site specific EMPr where sub-section 71 (b) of paragraph B.7 applies.

B.8. Socio-Economics

The concluding statement must be prepared by a socio-economic specialist. In the context of this standard, a socio-economic specialist is a person that has relevant academic qualifications and expertise in the domain of socio-economic assessments. The concluding statement must contain, as a minimum, the following information:

73. A description of the affected environment as it pertains to socio-economic aspects, including the social baseline and existing socio-economic impacts of the local area in which the *preliminary corridor* is located;
74. Determination of the affected communities and economies located in the local area, as well as sensitive receptors, such as communities, land uses and economic activities that could be directly or indirectly negatively affected by the proposed project or benefit from it;
75. A description of the findings of key informant interviews, where such interviews have been undertaken;
76. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the preferred route;
77. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on the affected people and local economy (socio-economic environment), and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
78. Statement on whether the identified power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
79. 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;
80. A concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and site specific EMPr (where sub-section 79 (b) of Section B.8 applies).

B.9. Civil Aviation

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

81. A signed declaration of independence by the EAP on a form prescribed by the competent authority as contained in Appendix E of this standard;
82. A description of the affected environment and existing environmental impacts within the *preliminary corridor,* as it pertains to aspects of civil aviation;
83. Identification of civil aviation areas to be avoided within the *preliminary corridor*, including buffers;
84. A civil aviation sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement and power line route, as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
85. 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;
86. Confirmation that any restrictions or design requirements as required by the SACAA and/or OEC have been incorporated and considered;
87. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, as it pertains to civil aviation, has been considered in determining the proposed route;
88. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, as it pertains to civil aviation, have been considered in determining the proposed route;
89. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the proposed route;
90. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on civil aviation installations, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
91. Statement on whether the identified power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
92. 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;

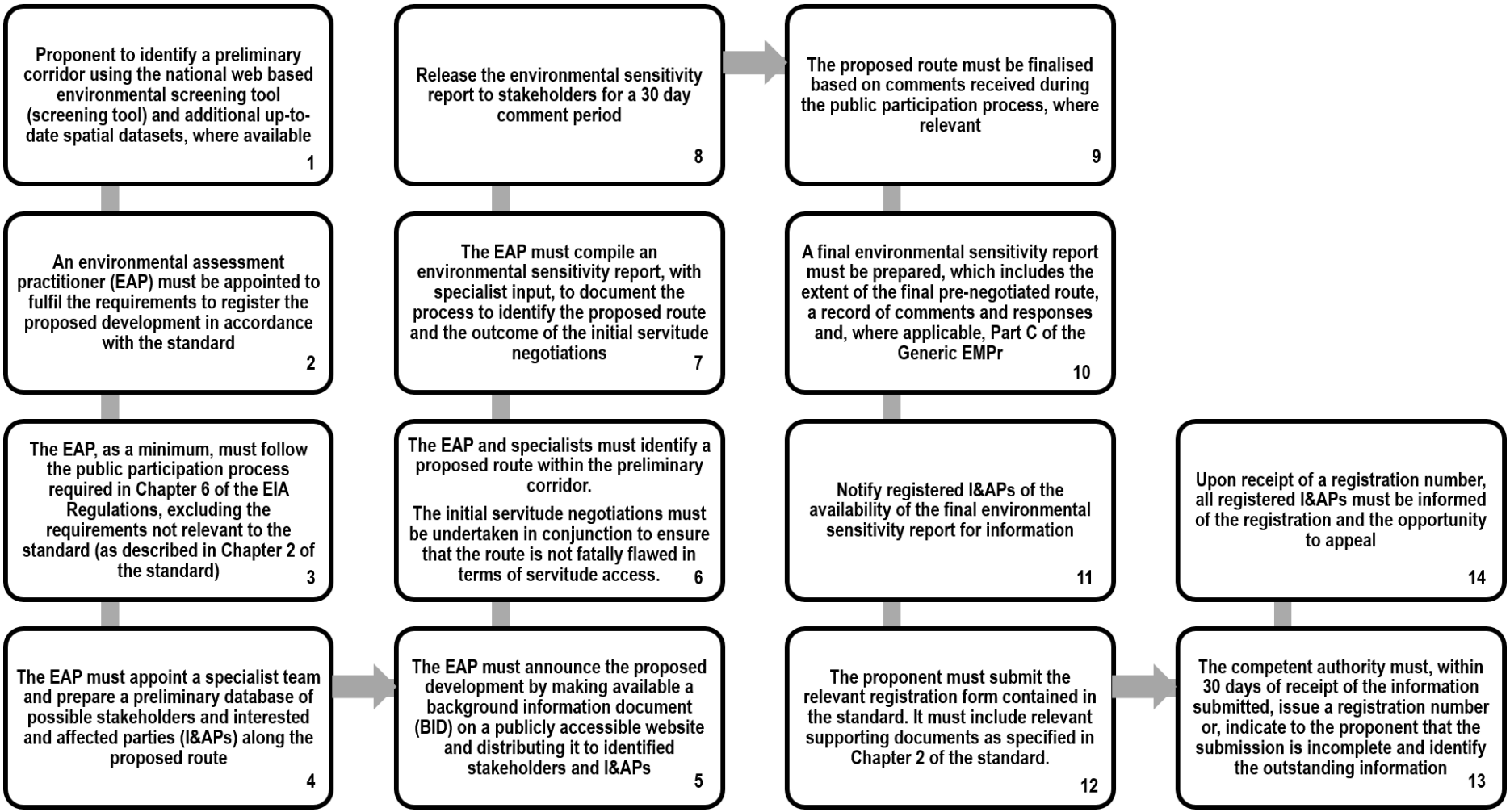
93. A concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and site specific EMPr where sub-section 92 (b) of Section B.9 applies.

B.10. Defence

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

94. A description of the affected environment and existing environmental impacts within the *preliminary corridor*, as it pertains to aspects of Defence;
95. Identification of defence areas to be avoided within the *preliminary corridor*, including buffers;
96. A defence sensitivity map overlaid with the proposed development footprint (i.e. pylon placement and power line route, as well as supporting infrastructure) based on most recently obtainable and available desktop data, such as the information on the screening tool;
97. Where required, a written comment from the defence authority confirming that there is no unacceptable impact on military areas of interest;
98. Confirmation that any restrictions or design requirements as required by the defence authority have been incorporated and considered;
99. A description on how the identified environmental sensitivity, as it pertains to defence, has been considered in determining the proposed route;
100. A description on how the identified engineering constraints, as it pertains to defence, have been considered in determining the proposed route;
101. A description of the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy in order to determine the proposed route;
102. Statement on whether or not the proposed development will have any residual risk on defence installations, and whether such a risk is acceptable or not;
103. Statement on whether the identified power line route is considered to be optimal based on the specialist input; and
104. 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;
105. A concluding statement and reasoned opinion on whether the proposed development can proceed in accordance with the standard, Generic EMPr, and site specific EMPr where sub-section 104 (b) of Section B.10 applies.

APPENDIX C - GENERIC PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM OF THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS


Proponent to identify a preliminary corridor using the national web based environmental screening tool (screening tool) and additional up-to-date spatial datasets, where available
1
An environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) must be appointed to fulfil the requirements to register the proposed development in accordance with the standard
2
The EAP, as a minimum, must follow the public participation process required in Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, excluding the requirements not relevant to the standard (as described in Chapter 2 of the standard)
3
The EAP must appoint a specialist team and prepare a preliminary database of possible stakeholders and interested and affected parties (I&APs) along the proposed route
4
The EAP must announce the proposed development by making available a background information document (BID) on a publicly accessible website and distributing it to identified stakeholders and I&APs
5
The EAP and specialists must identify a proposed route within the preliminary corridor.
The initial servitude negotiations must be undertaken in conjunction to ensure that the route is not fatally flawed in terms of servitude access.
6
The EAP must compile an environmental sensitivity report, with specialist input, to document the process to identify the proposed route and the outcome of the initial servitude negotiations
7
Release the environmental sensitivity report to stakeholders for a 30 day comment period
8
The proposed route must be finalised based on comments received during the public participation process, where relevant
9
A final environmental sensitivity report must be prepared, which includes the extent of the final pre-negotiated route, a record of comments and responses and, where applicable, Part C of the Generic EMPr
10
Notify registered I&APs of the availability of the final environmental sensitivity report for information
11
The proponent must submit the relevant registration form contained in the standard. It must include relevant supporting documents as specified in Chapter 2 of the standard.
12
The competent authority must, within 30 days of receipt of the information submitted, issue a registration number or, indicate to the proponent that the submission is incomplete and identify the outstanding information
13
Upon receipt of a registration number, all registered I&APs must be informed of the registration and the opportunity to appeal
14

APPENDIX D - SPECIALIST DECLARATION TEMPLATE

Specialist Company Name:			
Specialist name:			
Specialist Qualifications:			
Professional affiliation/registration:			
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 and route determination 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 concluding statement relevant to this application, including knowledge of 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:

_____

APPENDIX E - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER DECLARATION TEMPLATE

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

DECLARATION BY THE EAP

I, _____, declare that –

- I act as the independent environmental assessment practitioner in this standard registration process;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I have complied with the Act, 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 matters listed in regulation 13 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended) when preparing the various reports and submitting the registration application;
- 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 prepared by myself for submission as part of this standard registration process, other than information that is protected by law, in which case it was indicated that such information exists; and
- I have performed all obligations as expected from an environmental assessment practitioner in terms of the EIA Regulations.

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 this standard registration process;

I have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding, such vested interest being:

Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Name of Company:

Date

UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION

I, _____, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted for the purposes of this registration is true and correct.

Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Name of Company

Date

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

Date

APPENDIX F – REGISTRATION FORM

Registration form to request registration and intent to comply with the *Standard for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Development within Identified Geographical Areas* 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

1. This form must always be used when requesting registration in terms of *the Standard for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Development within Identified Geographical Areas,* 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 when developed within the *Strategic Electricity Corridors*.
2. An electronic copy (in the form of a USB) of the signed registration form must be submitted together with two hard copies (one of which must contain the original signatures of both the proponent and EAP) to the competent authority.
3. Only hand delivered or posted hard copies of the registration form will be accepted.
4. 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.
5. 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).
6. Unless protected by law, all information contained in and attached to this registration form, will become public information on receipt by the Department. Upon request during any stage of the registration process, the proponent / EAP must provide any registered interested and affected party with the information contained in and attached to this registration form.
7. Please note that this form must be copied to the relevant Provincial Environmental Department(s) for their information.
8. Shape files of the mapping included in the supporting documentation must be provided on the electronic copy (in the form of a USB). Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system must be used.

Departmental Details:

Postal address:
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

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

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:
Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Identified Competent Authority to consider the registration form:	
Reason(s) in terms of S24C of NEMA:	

DETAILS OF THE PROPONENT

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

Name of the proponent (Company/ Trading Name):			
Name of contact person for proponent			
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:			
Responsible position, e.g. Director, CEO, etc.:			
Company Registration Number:			
BBBEE status:			
Physical address:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			

The originally signed declaration by the proponent confirming commitment to comply with the *Standard for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Development within Identified Geographical Areas* in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), must be submitted as Appendix 9 of the registration form.

Where a change of ownership of a registered development in terms of paragraph 17 occurs during the construction phase of the infrastructure, the registration number is retained by the new owner, however the new owner must submit the relevant declaration and the signed pre-approved Generic

EMPr template and the site specific EMPr where relevant, within 30 days upon finalisation of such change. There is no requirement for re-registration once the infrastructure has been constructed as the operation of a power line is not an identified activity in terms of the Act.

LANDOWNER CONTACT DETAILS

Name of the landowner:			
Name of contact person for landowner (if other):			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			

Name of Person in control of the land:			
Name of contact person for person in control of the land:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			

In instances where there is more than one landowner, please attach a list of those landowners with their contact details in Appendix 3 of this registration form.

PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CONTACT DETAILS

Provincial Environmental Authority:			
Name of contact person:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			
Local Municipality:			
Name of contact person in (Environmental Section)			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			

In instances where there is more than one Provincial Environmental Authority and Local Municipality involved, please attach a list of these Authorities with their contact details in Appendix 4 of this registration form.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP) INFORMATION

Company of Environmental Assessment Practitioner:	

B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)		Percentage Procurement recognition	
EAP name:				
EAP Qualifications:				
Professional affiliation/registration:				
Physical address:				
Postal address:				
Postal code:		Cell:		
Telephone:		Fax:		
E-mail:				

The appointed EAP must meet the requirements of Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The declaration of independence of the EAP and undertaking under oath or affirmation 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 of the EAP and specialists must be included in Appendix 12.

PROJECT INFORMATION AND MAPS

Please provide a **detailed** description of the project:

Please indicate which gazetted Strategic Transmission Corridor the project will take place in:

A copy of the Screening Tool Report generated on the National Web Based Environmental Screening Tool must be attached as Appendix 1 of the registration form.

A copy of the final environmental sensitivity report as required in the *Standard for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Development within Identified Geographical Areas* 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:

- an accurate indication of the project site position;
- location of the gazetted Strategic Transmission Corridor(s);
- 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
- GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at strategic points along the route of the power line. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection).

A final pre-negotiated route plan must be attached to Appendix 7 of the registration form.

A sensitivity map must be attached to Appendix 8 of the registration form. The map must include the following:

- a north arrow;
- a legend;
- a scale bar;
- site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, world heritage site, etc. and it must be overlaid by the study area and proposed electricity grid infrastructure.

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	

Surveyor General 21 digit codes for the route alignment, which can be obtained from the screening report:

1	**2**			**3**				**4**								**5**				

If there are more than 4, please attach a list with the rest of the codes. Where the 21 digit SGID and farm name are not available, the coordinates of the boundary of the property or properties must be provided in Appendix 5 of this registration form.

LIST OF APPENDICES

		SUBMITTED	
APPENDIX 1	Screening tool report	YES	NO
APPENDIX 2	Final environmental sensitivity report	YES	NO
APPENDIX 3	List and contact details of land owners	YES	NO
APPENDIX 4	List and contact details of provincial environmental authority and local municipality	YES	NO
APPENDIX 5	List of SGIDs and coordinates	YES	NO
APPENDIX 6	Locality map	YES	NO
APPENDIX 7	Final pre-negotiated route plan of the electricity grid 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 or site specific environmental management programme	YES	NO

APPENDIX 11	Declaration of EAP and undertaking under oath or affirmation	YES	NO
APPENDIX 12	Curriculum vitae of the EAP and specialists	YES	NO

APPENDIX 1:

SCREENING TOOL REPORT

APPENDIX 2:

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY REPORT

APPENDIX 3:

LIST AND CONTACT DETAILS OF LAND OWNERS

APPENDIX 4:

LIST AND CONTACT DETAILS OF PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

APPENDIX 5:

LIST OF SGIDS / COORDINATES OF THE BOUNDARY OF THE PROPERTY OR PROPERTIES

APPENDIX 6:

LOCALITY MAP

APPENDIX 7:

FINAL PRE-NEGOTIATED ROUTE PLAN OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID INFRASTRUCTURE

APPENDIX 8:

SENSITIVITY MAP

APPENDIX 9:

DECLARATION OF THE PROPONENT COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE STANDARD

I, _____, hereby declare that:

- I am[20] the proponent in this registration;
- I have appointed an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to act as the independent EAP for this registration;
- I have taken all reasonable steps to verify whether the EAP 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 and specialists with access to all information at my disposal that is relevant to the registration;
- 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 or any person contracted by the EAP; and
    - costs incurred in respect of the undertaking of any process required in terms of the standard;
- I will inform all registered interested and affected parties of any suspension of the registration;
- 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;
- 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 Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Development within Identified Geographical Areas*; and
- I am fully aware of my responsibilities in terms of the *Standard for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Development within Identified Geographical Areas* in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and failure to comply with these requirements may constitute 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 _____

Signature[21]_____

[20] This registration form must be signed by the proponent.
[21] Only original signatures will be accepted. No scanned, copied or faxed signatures will be accepted. An EAP may not sign on behalf of the proponent.

Date_____ **Place**_____

Commissioner of Oaths_____

Designation _____

Signature_____

Date_____ **Place**_____

_____

Commissioner of Oaths Stamp

APPENDIX 10:

DECLARATION OF THE PROPONENT COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE GENERIC OR SITE SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

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 Programme for Power Line Development (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 _____

Signature[22]_____

Date_____ **Place**_____

[22] Only original signatures will be accepted. No scanned, copied or faxed signatures will be accepted. An EAP may not sign on behalf of the proponent.

APPENDIX 11:

DECLARATION OF EAP AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH OR AFFIRMATION

Declaration of EAP

I, _____, declare that –

- I act as the independent environmental assessment practitioner in this standard registration process;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, the *Standard for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Development within Identified Geographical Areas*, the Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, the *Standard for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Development within Identified Geographical Areas*, 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 for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Development within Identified Geographical Areas,* 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; and
- I have performed all obligations as expected from an environmental assessment practitioner in terms of the *Standard for Large Scale Electricity Transmission and Distribution Development within Identified Geographical Areas* 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:

_____

_____

_____

Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Name of Company

Date

Undertaking under Oath or Affirmation

I, _____, swear under oath / affirm 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

Name of Company

Date

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

Date

APPENDIX 12:

CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE EAP AND SPECIALISTS