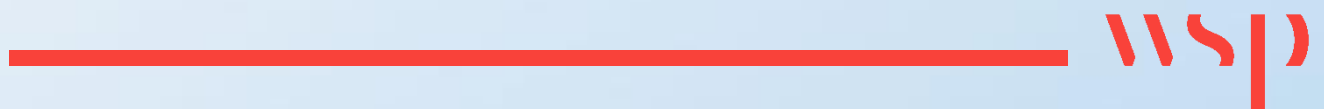


Appendix R

DFFE PRE-APPLICATION METING MINUTES





AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER	41103965	MEETING DATE	04 June 2024
PROJECT NAME	Eskom Komati PV Amendment-2024-04-0032	VENUE	MS Teams
CLIENT	Eskom	RECORDED BY	Muhammad Essop
MEETING SUBJECT	Pre-Application Meeting with the client (Eskom) and the competent authority (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE))		

PRESENT	Coenrad Agenbach (CA) – DFFE; Muhammad Essop (ME) – DFFE; Mmamohale Kabasa (MK) – DFFE; Kuda Mareya (KM) – Eskom; Warren Funston (WF) – Eskom; Freeman Chiranga (FC) – Eskom; Mokgadi Mvambo (MM) – Eskom; Bongani Mashimbye (BM) – Eskom; Mula Phalanndwa (MP) Eskom; Justice Ramagoma (JR) – Eskom; Mandisa Sakela (MS) - Eskom; Thirushan Nadar (TN) – WSP; and Ashlea Strong (AS) – WSP.
APOLOGIES	Deidre Herbst (DH) - Eskom
DISTRIBUTION	Meeting Attendees
CONFIDENTIALITY	Confidential

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
NOTE			
These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the progress discussion. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.			
1.1 INTRODUCTION			
	AS opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and allowed Eskom, DFFE and WSP to introduce themselves and state their role in the project.	N/A	N/A

MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
	AS proceeded to introduce the meeting's agenda via a slide presentation. The presentation is attached to the minutes as Appendix A.		
2.1 DISCUSSION – COMPETENT AUTHORITY			
	AS began with confirming that DFFE as the competent authority for the proposed project. She added that the original authorisation has already received approval (DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2456) hence the proposed amendment. No objections were made.	N/A	N/A
2.2 DISCUSSION – PROJECT BACKGROUND			
	AS presented on the overview of the proposed project. She added that WSP was involved in the Komati Solar energy facility (SEF) and it is registered as a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP). AS then showed the project's locality map and stated that the site that is owned by Eskom is located in ward 4 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality within the Nkangala District Municipality. AS proceeded to share the final and approved layout for the SEF. She added that the engineering team included changes to make the project more feasible.	N/A	N/A
2.3 DISCUSSION - AMENDMENTS			
	AS discussed, the following amendments: <u>Proposed amendments 1:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the BESS Area A – More space is required by engineers. BESS area B and C will not be utilised. Relocation of the two of the existing 275kV Gen Transformers. There are three proposed areas for relocation. BM explained that the station needs to be repurposed as much of the existing infrastructure as possible. ME enquired the size of Area A as compared to Area B and C. Then he proceeded to ask if Area A is a brownfield site. AS responded that she didn't have the exact sizes, but that the amended Area A would be a similar size as Area B & C combined. She confirmed that Area A is a brownfield site. <u>Proposed amendments 2:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of the approved Onsite Substations in PV Area A and PV Area B/ Removal of the approved 132 kV Grid Connection Proposed development of four new Onsite Substations & Associated overhead and underground cabling Option 1 (Required for PV Site B): Proposed development of a new Site A1 Substation (capacity 275kV) close to the existing power station Option 2 (Preferred for PV Site A): Proposed development of a new Site A1 Substation (capacity 275kV) requiring the relocation of 2 existing Gen Transformers from Komati Power 	N/A	N/A

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
	<p>Station to Site A1 Substation. Proposed development of a 275kV Loop in Loop out (LILO) Power Line between the new Site A1 Substation and the existing 275kV Powerlines</p> <p>BM noted that Out of the two proposed options, option 1 is the best selection for Eskom.</p> <p>AS asked Eskom if they choose option 1 would they not need to move the Gen Transformers to site A.</p> <p>BM responded that the Gen transformers would only need to be relocated for option 2.</p> <p>CA enquired if there will be new alignments for the 33Kv powerlines and when will Eskom know which option is preferred or will both go into the amendment.</p> <p>AS responded that the 33kV powerlines will have new routings.</p> <p>BM confirmed that option 1 may be best as option 2 provided a loop-in-loop-out system which may not be feasible.</p>		
2.4 DISCUSSION – PERMITTING PROCESS			
	<p>AS presented the ten listed activities that are currently authorised in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014) (GN R. 983, as amended by GNR 327).</p> <p>AS stated, that the two permitting processes the team investigated include a Part 2 Amendment of the existing authorisation as well as an application for a new authorisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2 Amendment of Existing Authorisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extension of BESS Area A ○ Removal of the approved Onsite Substations in Area A and Area B ○ Proposed development of 4 new Onsite Substations (2 in PV Area A and 2 in PV Area B) and associated overhead and underground cabling (capacity 33kV) ○ Removal of the approved 132kV Grid Connection • New Authorisation Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed development of a new 275kV Substation adjacent to BESS Area A requiring the relocation of two existing 275kV Gen Transformers ○ Proposed development of a new Site A1 Substation (capacity 275kV) requiring the relocation of two existing Gen Transformers from Komati Power Station to Site A1 Substation ○ Proposed development of a new 275kV Substation adjacent to existing Komati 275kV Substation requiring the relocation of two existing 275kV Gen Transformers ○ Proposed development of a 275kV Loop in Loop out Power Line between the new Site A1 Substation and the existing 275kV Powerlines 	<p>WSP to email DFFE IQ.</p> <hr/> <p>Eskom to provide the zoning certificate.</p>	ASAP

MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION	DUE
	<p>ME concurred with the Part 2 Amendment as the activities do not trigger any new Listed Activities.</p> <p>AS proceeded to discuss the rest of the permitting process. She mentioned that the potential triggered Listed Activities would be listed activity 11 in listing notice 1 and activity 9 in listing notice 2.</p> <p>AS added that the teams' interpretation is that the relocation of the Gen Transformers may be considered to be "development" as it would include the erection of the infrastructure not in the same location or footprint, and would therefore require a full EIA as the transformer has a capacity of 275kV which falls within the ambit of Listing Notice 2</p> <p>In regard to relocating the Gen Transformer, AS enquired if the area inside the power station complex would be classified as an industrial complex. As if this were the case the relocation of Gen transformers within the Power Station site would then only require a BA.</p> <p>ME responded that it could be deemed as an industrial area, however, the team should email DFFE IQ for the correct interpretation and confirmation of listed activities. <u>(Post meeting note: A query was submitted to DFFE IQ on 6 June 2024)</u></p> <p>CA concurred and stated that when it is confirmed in writing then the team can continue.</p> <p>JM suggested that maybe the team can look at the zoning certificate of the area.</p> <p>BM asked for clarity regarding the process that might be undertaken.</p> <p>AS stated that option 1 would only trigger a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) whereas option 2 (loop in loop out) would trigger a full EIA. The team would then conduct a Part 2 Amendment parallel with the BAR which as the same time frames if Eskom chooses option 1, compared to an EIA which has a longer timeframe. Project area located out of the Strategic transmission corridor and REDZ.</p> <p>ME concurred and stated that the SIP timeframe provides a 57-day period for the BAR and Part 2 Amendment.</p> <p>ME confirmed that Project will trigger Activity 11(ii) which would be considered a new Listed Activity.</p>		
4.0 CONCLUDING			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No further comments from attendees. ● AS concluded the meeting at 10h29. 	-	-

APPENDIX A: PRESENTATION



DFFE Meeting

Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV and BESS Facility

04 June 2024



1



Introductions



Applicant

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd

- Deidre Herbst (Environmental Manager: Generation)
- Justice Ramagoma (Chief Advisor: Environmental Management)

EAP

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd

- Ashlea Strong (Registered EAP and Project Director)
- Thirushan Nadar

Authority

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

- Muhammad Essop
- Coenrad Agenbach
- Mmamohale Kabasa

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Agenda

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Introduction | 4 Permitting Processes |
| 2 Project Background | 5 Clarification Questions |
| 3 Proposed Amendments | |

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Competent Authority

- **Section 24C(2)(a) of NEMA**
 - ✓ The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity has implications for international environmental commitments or relations
- **Section 24C(2)(d)(iii) of NEMA**
 - ✓ The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity is undertaken by a statutory body, excluding any municipality, performing an exclusive competence of the national sphere of government
- **GN 779 of 01 July 2016**
 - ✓ Identifies the Minister as the CA for the consideration and processing of environmental authorisations and amendments thereto for activities related the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 – 2030
- **DFFE were the Competent Authority for the original Authorisation (DFFE Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2456)**

DFFE is therefore deemed to be the Competent Authority

4

4

Overview

- End of Life – October 2022
- Just Energy Transition Plan – mitigating negative impacts resulting from the shut down
- Solar energy facility (SEF) including Solar Photovoltaics (PV) energy facility, as well as Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities
- In the process of being registered as a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP):
 - Just Energy Transition National Program SIP 20d



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Location

- Komati Power Station
- Ward 4 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, within the Nkangala District Municipality
- Land owned by Eskom



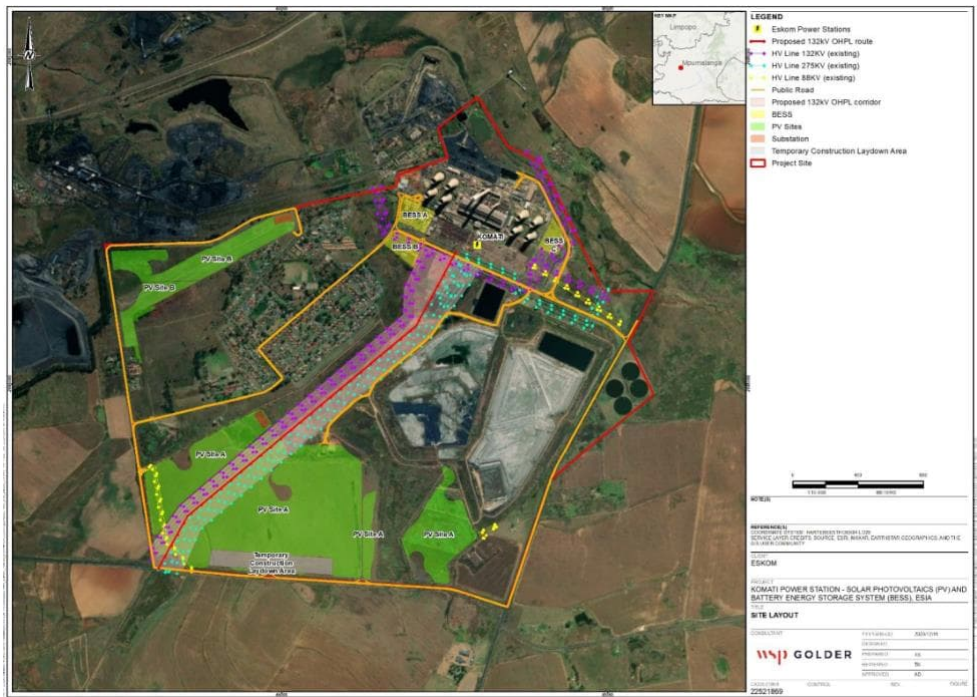
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Final Approved Layout for the Komati SEF

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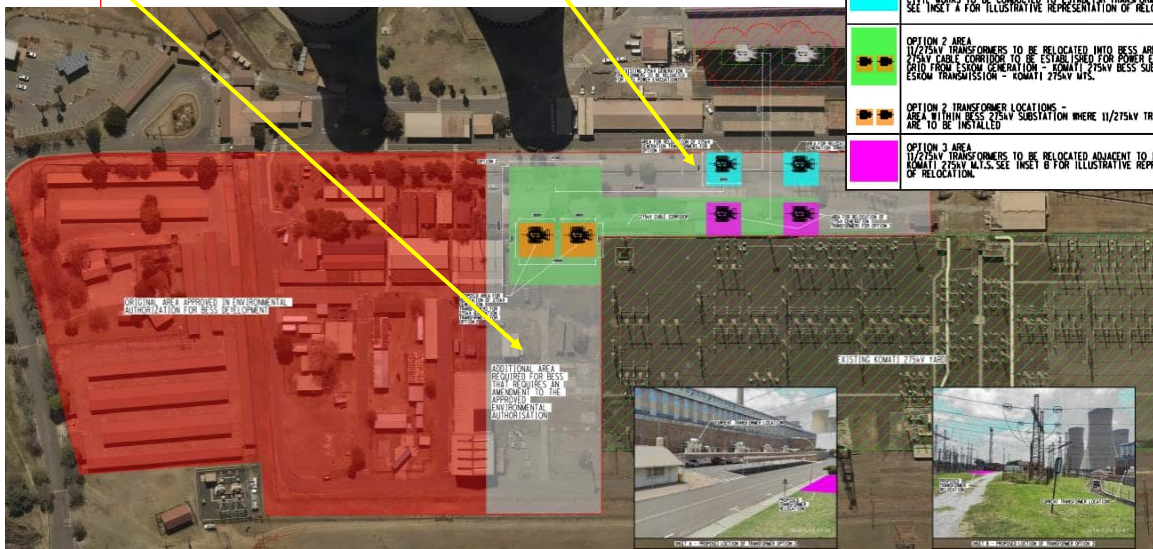


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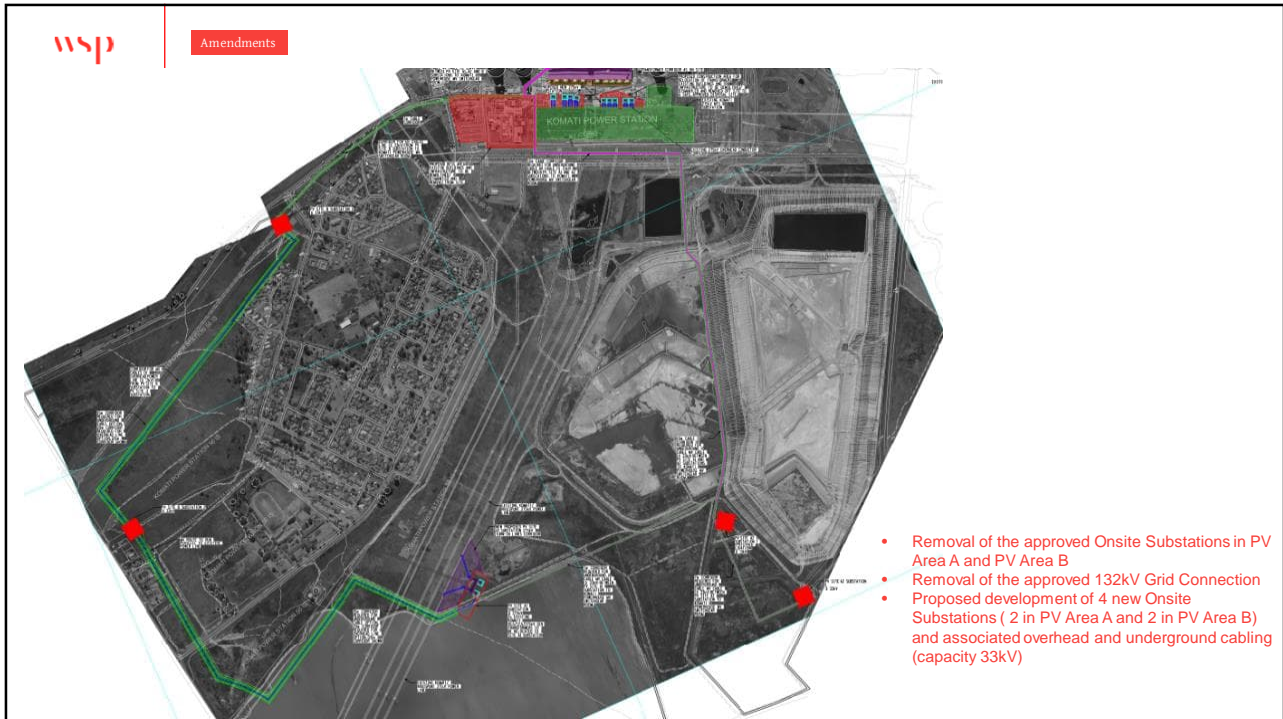


Amendments

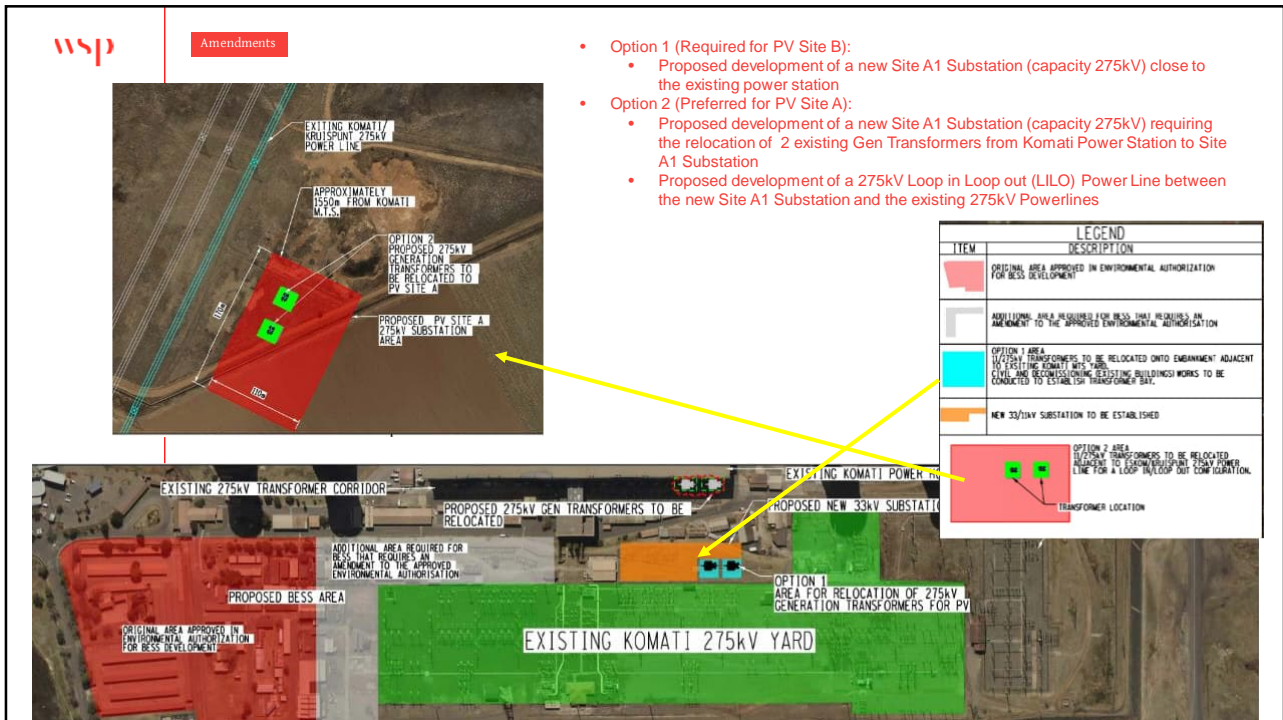
- Extension of BESS Area A
- Proposed development of a new 275kV Substation adjacent to BESS Area A requiring the relocation of two of the existing 275kV Gen Transformers – three location options exist




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Permitting Process

Listed Activities

The following Listed Activities are currently authorised:

Listing Notice 1	Listing Notice 2	Listing Notice 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity 11(i)• Activity 12(ii)• Activity 14• Activity 19• Activity 24(ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity 1• Activity 15(ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity 4• Activity 10• Activity 12

11



Amendments

Applicable Permitting Processes

- **Part 2 Amendment of Existing Authorisation:**
 - Extension of BESS Area A
 - Removal of the approved Onsite Substations in Area A and Area B
 - Proposed development of 4 new Onsite Substations (2 in PV Area A and 2 in PV Area B) and associated overhead and underground cabling (capacity 33kV)
 - Removal of the approved 132kV Grid Connection
- **Full EIA Process**
 - Proposed development of a new 275kV Substation adjacent to BESS Area A requiring the relocation of two existing 275kV Gen Transformers
 - Proposed development of a new Site A1 Substation (capacity 275kV) requiring the relocation of two existing Gen Transformers from Komati Power Station to Site A1 Substation
 - Proposed development of a new 275kV Substation adjacent to existing Komati 275kV Substation requiring the relocation of two existing 275kV Gen Transformers
 - Proposed development of a 275kV Loop in Loop out Power Line between the new Site A1 Substation and the existing 275kV Powerlines

12

Key Listed Activities

- Listed Activity 11 in listing notice 1 (which would require a Basic Assessment) states the following:
 - The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—
 - outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of **more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts**; or
 - inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;
- Listed Activity 9 in listing notice 2 (which would require a Full EIA) states the following:
 - The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of **275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex**

Definitions

- *“development” means the building, erection, construction or establishment of a facility, structure or infrastructure, including associated earthworks or borrow pits, that is necessary for the undertaking of a listed or specified activity, but excludes any modification, alteration or expansion of such a facility, structure or infrastructure, including associated earthworks or borrow pits, and excluding the redevelopment of the same facility in the same location, with the same capacity and footprint*
- Therefore, our interpretation is that the relocation of the gen transformers may be considered to be “development” as it would include the erection of the infrastructure not in the same location or footprint, and would therefore require a full EIA as the transformer has a capacity of 275kV which falls within the ambit of Listing Notice 2
- In addition, the New Site A1 Substation and LILO would constitute a new listed activity and would not be able to form part of a Part 2 Amendment Process



Discussion

Clarification Questions

- Does the Komati Power Station constitute an Industrial Complex?
- Besides the Project being a SIP are there are other ways to shorten the Full EIA process in terms of the Regulations?
- It can be noted that the full project area has been assessed by the specialists.

15

15

Thank you



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16