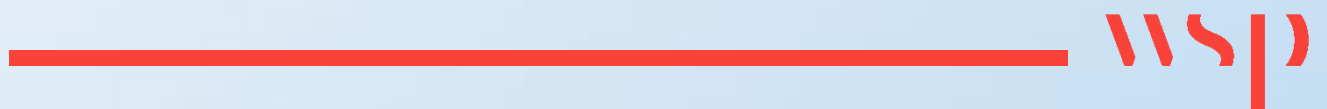


Appendix D

AGRICULTURAL STATEMENT





✉ info@soilza.co.za
🌐 www.soilza.co.za
📍 1A Wolfe St Wynberg
Cape Town, 7800
South Africa

**Agricultural specialist input to
An Environmental Authorisation Amendment
for the authorised Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic Facility,
Battery Energy Storage Systems, and associated infrastructure
Mpumalanga Province**

The Komati Power Station Facility received an environmental authorisation (EA) (DFFE:14/12/16/3/3/2/2456) on 02 February 2024. The applicant wishes to amend the Environmental Authorisation for the following:

- Extension of the BESS Area A.
- Removal of the approved on-site substations in Area A and Area B.
- Change in classification (based on changes in extent and capacities) of Solar Farm A and B to Solar Farm A1, A2 and B.
- Proposed development of three new on-site substations (one each in footprint A1, A2 and B) and associated overhead and underground cabling (capacity 33 kV) as well as associated infrastructure and road access infrastructure.
- Removal of the approved 132 kV grid connection.

SoilZA did not conduct the original agricultural assessment but was appointed to assess whether the proposed amendments would have any influence on agricultural impacts, as originally assessed. All of the proposed amendments will occur within the previously assessed footprint of the development, apart from the expansion of the BESS, which is all within non-agricultural land within the power station precinct. The amendments themselves therefore have zero agricultural impact and consequently have absolutely no influence on the agricultural impacts of the development, as previously assessed.

Our assessment of the impacts of the proposed amendments confirms that:

1. The amendments do not change the nature or significance of the impact as previously assessed.
2. There are no required changes or additions to the mitigation measures as a result of the proposed amendments.
3. There are no required changes to the EMPr as a result of the proposed amendments.
4. The proposed amendments are acceptable in terms of agricultural impact.

From an agricultural impact point of view, it is recommended that the proposed amendments be approved.

It should be noted that, in addition to the Environmental Authorisation, the project will require approval in terms of applicable municipal land use legislation. This approval may not be supported by Department of Agriculture because part of the solar facility (PV site A1) occupies existing croplands.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lanz', with a stylized, sweeping horizontal stroke above the name.

Johann Lanz (Pr.Sci.Nat. Reg. no. 400268/12)

27 September 2024



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

APPENDIX 1: SPECIALIST DECLARATION FORM AUGUST 2023

Specialist Declaration form for assessments undertaken for application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

REPORT TITLE: Environmental Authorisation Amendment for the authorised Komati Power Station Solar Photovoltaic Facility, Battery Energy Storage Systems, and associated infrastructure, Mpumalanga Province

Kindly note the following:

- This form must always be used for assessment that are in support of applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting, where this Department is the Competent Authority.
- This form is current as of August 2023. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- An electronic copy of the signed declaration form must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
- The specialist must be aware of and comply with '*the Procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the act, when applying for environmental authorisation - GN 320/2020*', where applicable.

1. SPECIALIST INFORMATION

Title of Specialist Assessment	Agricultural Assessment
Specialist Company Name	SoilZA (sole proprietor)
Specialist Name	Johann Lanz
Specialist Identity Number	6607045174089
Specialist Qualifications:	M.Sc. (Environmental Geochemistry)
Professional affiliation/registration:	Registered Professional Natural Scientist (Pr.Sci.Nat.) Reg. no. 400268/12 Member of the Soil Science Society of South Africa
Physical address:	1a Wolfe Street, Wynberg, Cape Town, 7800
Postal address:	1a Wolfe Street, Wynberg, Cape Town, 7800
Telephone	Not applicable
Cell phone	+27 82 927 9018
E-mail	johann@soilza.co.za

2. DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST

I, **Johann Lanz** declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I am aware of the procedures and requirements for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998, as amended, when applying for environmental authorisation which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”) and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020.
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report 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, Regulations 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 applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing –
 1. any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and;
 2. the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA Act.



Signature of the Specialist

SoilZA (sole proprietor)

Name of Company:

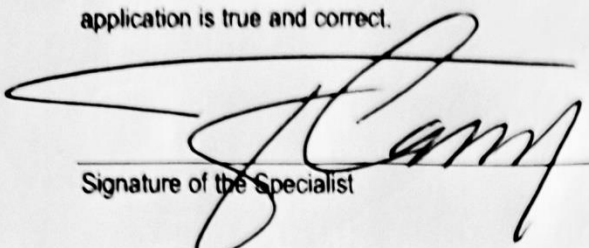
18 September 2024

Date

SPECIALIST DECLARATION FORM – AUGUST 2023

3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION

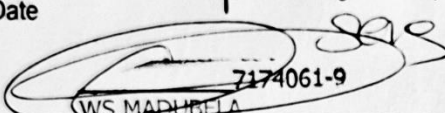
I, **Johann Lenz**, swear under oath that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.


Signature of the Specialist

SoilZA – sole proprietor

Name of Company

18 September
Date


Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

2024-09-18
Date

