

Appendix N

NOISE AND AIR STATEMENT





Our Ref: 41103965

10 September 2024

**Eskom Komati Solar Photovoltaics (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project
Amendment Process - Air Quality and Acoustics Specialist Statement**

To whom it may concern,

It is understood that since the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the proposed Eskom Komati Solar PV and BESS Project was undertaken in 2022, certain changes are now being proposed, requiring an environmental amendment process. As part of this amendment process, the air quality and environmental acoustic impacts need to be re-confirmed. This letter serves to advise on any changes in the air quality and environmental acoustic impacts as a result of the Project changes.

It is noted that the following changes to the Komati Solar PV and BESS Project are being proposed for the amendment process:

- 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.

Since the above changes are proposed within the existing site footprint, air quality and environmental acoustic impacts on additional receptors (to those assessed in the 2022 studies) are not envisaged.

From an air quality perspective, emissions during the construction phase (although having impacts rated as “low” in the original assessment) will be of greatest concern with the BESS Area A footprint increasing slightly and the construction of three new sub-stations. Mitigation measures, as presented in the 2022 study, must be rigorously implemented, specifically at the substation sites which are in closest proximity to the Komati residential receptors (substation 1 and 2). For the operational phase, air quality impacts are not envisaged.

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From an environmental noise perspective, noise from construction activities will be of greatest concern, although being rated with “low” impacts in the original assessment. Mitigation measures, as presented in that assessment, must be rigorously implemented, specifically at the substation sites which are in closest proximity to the Komati residential receptors (substation 1 and 2). For the operational phase, noise impacts will be minimal, with the sub-stations being the largest source of noise. Since two of the proposed sub-stations will be located in close proximity to the Komati residential area, it is therefore recommended that substations with the lowest possible sound power levels be installed on site or attenuation barriers be installed alongside each sub-station should noise complaints arise from such sources.

The overall air quality and noise impacts of the proposed Komati Solar PV and BESS Project are still deemed as “low” and it is further recommended that the Project be authorised without any notable impacts on the ambient air quality or noise climate of the surrounding area.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Collett'.

Kirsten Collett
Associate