

# Appendix E

## APPROVED PRE-APPLICATION MEETING MINUTES





## MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER	41105236	MEETING DATE	24 October 2023
PROJECT NAME	Phefumula Emoyeni One Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and Phefumula Emoyeni One Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI)	VENUE	Online MS Teams meeting
CLIENT	Seriti Green Development SA (Pty) Ltd	RECORDED BY	KE
MEETING SUBJECT	Pre-Application meeting for the Phefumula Emoyeni One WEF (2023-09-0017)		
PRESENT	<b>Seriti Green Development SA (Pty) Ltd (Developer)</b> Debbie Weldon (Project Manager) (DW), Theresa Ferguson (TF), Mukondeleli Makoya (MM) <b>WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (EAP)</b> Ashlea Strong (AS) (Project Manager), Thirushan Nadar (TN) (Consultant), Kelly England (KE) (scribe) <b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)</b> Muhammad Essop (ME), Coenrad Agenbach (CA) <b>Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (MDARDLEA)</b> Robyn Luyt (RL), Sindisiwe Mbuyane (SM) (Ermelo office), Gavin Cowden (GC) , Wandile Shabangu (WS)		
APOLOGIES	Ben Brimble (Seriti Green); Mmamohale Kabasa (DFFE), Mervin Lotter (MTPA)		
DISTRIBUTION	As above		
CONFIDENTIALITY	Confidential		

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
1	Introduction	-
	All welcomed and introduced.	
	Overview of the Project was presented by WSP slideshow (See presentation attached in <b>Appendix A</b> ).	
2	Key Considerations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) (Irreplaceable and Optimal) &amp; Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) on site</li><li>Project within National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES)</li><li>Freshwater Ecosystem Protected Area (FEPA) sub-catchment on site</li></ul>	

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ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not within Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) or Strategic Transmission Corridor</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Permitting Processes overview and confirmation</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&amp;EIA) Process:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 550MW) – (Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)</li> <li>Phefumula Emoyeni EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS (Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)</li> <li>Water Use Licence and/or General Authorisations will be applied for as required.</li> </ul> </li> <li>DFFE comments:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSP noted delay with EGI as there is no layout at this stage and during scoping phase the specialists are currently looking at sensitive areas. Sensitivity Map will be agreed such that infrastructure can be placed in the least sensitive areas as possible.</li> <li>DFFE does not support the approach proposed. It is recommended that a preliminary layout is identified before lodging the EIA process. The approach proposed will cause problems in the process and possible extension requests.</li> <li>The Draft Scoping must reflect preliminary layout of where infrastructure will be proposed.</li> <li>Seriti Green noted the above and stated as application is not lodged there would be time to go through specialist reports and come up with a prelim layout.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	WSP & Seriti Green
<b>4</b>	<b>Listed activities (Notice 1, 2 and 3) explained.</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFFE requested explanation of Listing Notice 1, Activity 14 rationale (The Facility will require storage and handling of goods).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSP stated will take into consideration vanadium redox flow technology if this is the preferred technology for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), as well as the storage of any dangerous goods for the construction process that may exceed 80m<sup>2</sup> at construction camp. If preferred, vanadium redox flow would have to remain under 500 cubes in terms of handling dangerous goods required for that technology. That part of the dangerous goods would fall away if lithium-ion batteries implemented.</li> </ul> </li> <li>MDARDLEA requested further explanation for Listing Notice 1, Activity 30 in terms of clearance of Eastern Highland Grassland currently confirmed as listed in the National List of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection. The Department stated that they are not aware of process or activity that is listed in terms of NEM:BA published to date.</li> <li>WSP confirmed that the activity is a restricted activity from NEM:BA. Link and information submitted by Department of Protected Areas of DFFE. WSP will</li> </ul>	WSP

## MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	confirm referencing and ensure that this is clearly explained in the documentation.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Specialist Assessments as identified by DFFE Screening</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFFE Screening Tool identified sensitivities and specialists for all themes</li> <li>Site Sensitivity Verification Studies will be included in Scoping Report.</li> <li>Socio-Economic study recommended for wind facility; however, WSP will do studies for WEF and EGI.</li> <li>Additional study in terms of Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Risk Assessment specific to BESS.</li> </ul>	-
<b>6</b>	<b>Specialist studies</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed specialists' studies commissioned. No compliance is required for Department of Defence, they will remain on database and be included in stakeholder comment process.</li> </ul>	-
<b>7</b>	<b>Competent Authority</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFFE confirmed that MDARDLEA will be the competent authority for the EGI.</li> <li>MDARDLEA requested confirmation of below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if WSP are submitting two separate applications</li> <li>Highlands judgement and what the implications of this are. Aware that appeal process has not concluded; however, recommend that this should be considered in how this is applied for.</li> </ul> </li> <li>WSP proposal is to submit two applications for WEF and for EGI, to allow for the transfer of the EGI to Eskom at a later stage.</li> <li>WSP would like to hear ME's thoughts on Highlands judgement and if process is still valid.</li> <li>ME suggested MDARDLEA enter into 24C(3) agreement for the EGI.</li> <li>MDARDLEA would not object to this as long as the department is fully consulted throughout the process including MTPA.</li> <li>DFFE recommends WSP writes a motivation letter to the MDARDLEA requesting them to enter into 24C(3) agreement with the DFFE. This would allow the DFFE to be the competent authority for both components of the application.</li> <li>MDARDLEA would like to add another condition that their head office (Nelspruit) and Gert Sibande office as well as MTPA be consulted along the way for all steps of the project. Application to only be lodged once prelim layout available, as applicant to consider impacts cumulatively of the line and energy facility.</li> <li>DFFE would raise concern over a lack of preliminary layout in Scoping report. If the application did agree to take a step back and figure out locations before lodging applications, this would give DFFE time to resolve competency issues as the administration aspects take time.</li> </ul>	WSP / MDARDLEA / DFFE

## MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSP agreed and confirmed that all departments and MTPA would be included in all commenting reviews as the commenting authorities.</li> <li>Seriti Green is in agreement for this way forward.</li> <li>DFFE does not have an issue with submitting dual application as ultimately both would be running Scoping EIA process based on their understanding. Application can be run concurrently provided that each report assesses cumulative impacts of the other facility.</li> <li>DFFE understands that a transfer of rights to Eskom may be required at a later stage.</li> <li>When completing application, the reason for DFFE as competent authority is written at the top of the WSP slide. The reason why DFFE would then be the competent authority for the powerline application is because they entered into 24C(3) agreement and the letter that will eventually be signed off by DFFE will be the motivation that WSP will then attach to application form.</li> </ul>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High level consolidated approach for both the Public Participation (PP) and S&amp;EIA process with public significant notices distributed.</li> <li>Public or focused group meetings will be looked at were appropriate.</li> </ul>	-
<b>9</b>	<b>Timeframes</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application process kick off originally scheduled for end November but timeframes will be shifted out due to request for prelim layout and for 24C(3) agreement to be finalised.</li> <li>Extended public review over the December period, not counting December closure period.</li> <li>EIA reports submission in July.</li> <li>WSP would like DFFE confirmation on comment heard in workshops where the Minister announced that any decision period for a renewable energy facility will be 57 days regardless of whether it's in a REDZ or not. For planning purposes, we would like confirmation if we must use 57 days or default 107 days.</li> <li>DFFE commented on WSP key milestones. The DFFE noted that the November submission of the Application and Scoping Report would be pushed back due to the need to develop a preliminary layout and to finalise the 24C(3) agreement. The DFFE suggested that the PP process is not undertaken over the December closure and recommended that is only being in January once the regulations allow the EIA process to open again.</li> <li>DFFE legislative 107 days. Minister did make a commitment that we need to expedite energy related applications as we are in an energy crisis, so that applies both to generation and the grid infrastructure. DFFE will try to expedite from their side, however for planning purposes WSP must allow for what legislation specifies.</li> </ul>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Questions or Queries</b>	

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	<p>Slide 8: Potential CBAs identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seriti Green required clarity where CBA optimal and if specialist confirms area is transformed, do they then need to look at offsets. What is the opinion in terms of those CBA areas.</li> <li>• MDARDLEA stated they would prefer MTPA to provide input/comments. MDARDLEA sector plan is accurate, and the land use cover is the most recent available. For areas in highveld that are determined to be transformed on site, MDARDLEA recommends that the ecologist has in-depth consultation with MTPA as there seems to be a misunderstanding in the past why certain areas were regarded as offset even though they're irreplaceable when they appear to have been transformed. There is a very good reason why the areas are irreplaceable and that is because of the intact grasslands that cover that area. There are limited intact grasslands left. Please advise specialist to consult very closely with Mervin Lotter.</li> <li>• DFFE in agreement with above. The specialists will have to prove why they find a difference between sector plan/ CBA mapping and what they find during their field work and to engage with MTPA in that regard. Stating the site is transformed without providing the relevant evidence to substantiate may be problematic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ WSP to be aware that if offsetting becomes a requirement for the project, the offsets will have to be reviewed and finalised before DFFE can make a decision.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WSP are aware and already looking at this potential requirement. Good to get input from DFFE and MDARDLEA in this issue.</li> <li>• CA (DFFE): The EIAR must provide a copy of the final preferred site layout map for the WEF, BESS, and associated infrastructure, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures.</li> <li>• CA (DFFE): The cumulative impacts of all intended activities must be assessed together, which include the facility and its supporting infrastructure (including the grid connection infrastructure e.g. the power line and substations even if separate applications have been lodged for these).</li> <li>• DFFE stated WSP must ensure that there is a site sensitivity verification report in the Scoping Report, which means that from all the teams that are listed on the screening tool presented earlier, those themes are verified and confirmed or disputed, whether or not the risk is high, very high, medium or low and then that will then affect the plan of study for EIA. That will decide what specialist studies will be done in the EIA phase.</li> <li>• Also noted that some project some EAPs deciding to put fully fleshed specialist studies in the report or doing special studies, even though they confirmed that the site is low risk. Please take note of that and don't overcomplicate projects.</li> <li>• DFFE want a final EMPR and a final layout plan to be submitted with the final EIR for both the power line and the wind energy facility. Ensure that when the EIA phase is running its course, it's running its course and going to be assessed and presented in the way that should when we decide to grant authorisation, we then grant authorisation to the final input and layout plan.</li> </ul>	

## MEETING NOTES

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If considering the offsets DFFE want the final in principal agreement to the offset which is, then done in terms of the biodiversity offset guidelines to also be included in the EIR for decision making.</li><li>• WSP to consider for planning and timelines that DFFE need to have all the information before WSP can apply for environmental authorisation. Once scoping report is accepted, we have 106 days to provide the final EIR which includes a 30-day PPP. All of this needs to be considered into the decision-making process and applying for a Regulation 37 for need to finalise an offset.</li></ul>	
11	Closing	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No further comments raised.</li><li>• All present thanked for input and interactive and productive meeting.</li><li>• WSP to write email requesting access to the recording of the meeting.</li><li>• WSP will attach meeting presentation to the minutes.</li></ul>	TN

## NEXT MEETING

An invitation will be issued if an additional meeting is required.

## APPENDIX A – PRESENTATION

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# DFFE Pre-Application Meeting

Phefumula Emoyeni Wind Energy Facility



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## Introductions

Developer	<b>Seriti Green Development SA (Pty) Ltd (Seriti Green)</b> Debbie Weldon (Project Manager) Theresa Furguson Mukondeleli Makoya
EAP	<b>WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd</b> Ashlea Strong (Project Manager) Thirushan Nadar (Consultant)
Authority	<b>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)</b> Muhammad Essop Mmamohale Kabasa Coenrad Agenbach

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## Agenda

- 1 Overview of the Project  
Background  
Location
- 2 Overview & Confirmation of Permitting Processes  
Listed Activities  
Specialist Assessments as identified by DFFE Screening Tool  
Specialist Studies commissioned  
Specialist Studies not commissioned  
Competent Authority
- 3 Public Participation Process
- 4 Timeframes
- 5 Discussion  
Clarification  
Questions  
Way Forward

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Overview of the Project

## Background

Seriti Green proposes to establish a renewable energy facility near Ermelo and Bethal, Mpumalanga, known as the Phefumula Emoyeni Wind Energy facility (WEF), which requires various applications for environmental authorisation.

The proposed project consists of the subprojects:

- Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 550MW), located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province
- Phefumula Emoyeni Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) up to 400kV Grid Connection (LILO) and Main Transmission Substation (MTS) located in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, which falls under the Gert Sibande District Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province. The length will be approximately 1km – 2km (depending on final MTS location selected)

The WEF will include a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS will be used to store excess energy generated by the wind facility. The BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 200MW/800MWh. Allowing for up to 6-8 hours of storage.

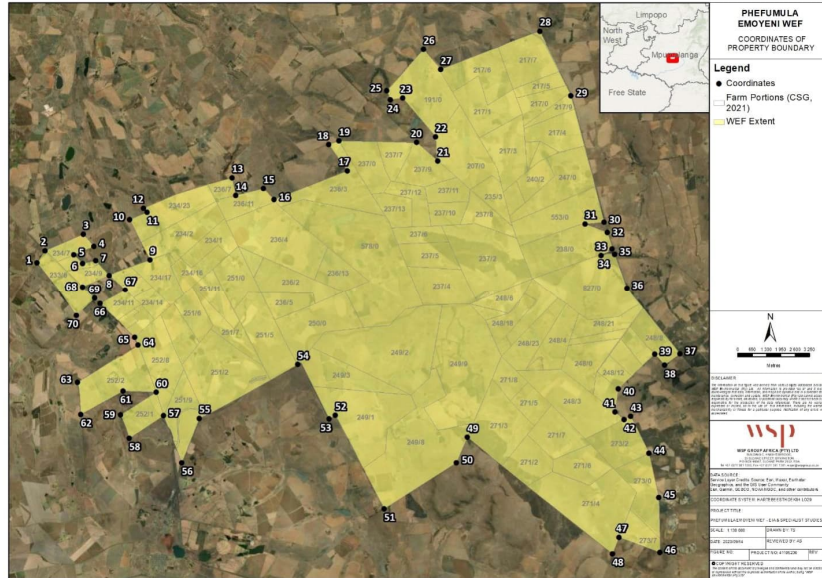
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Boundary extent of proposed WEF

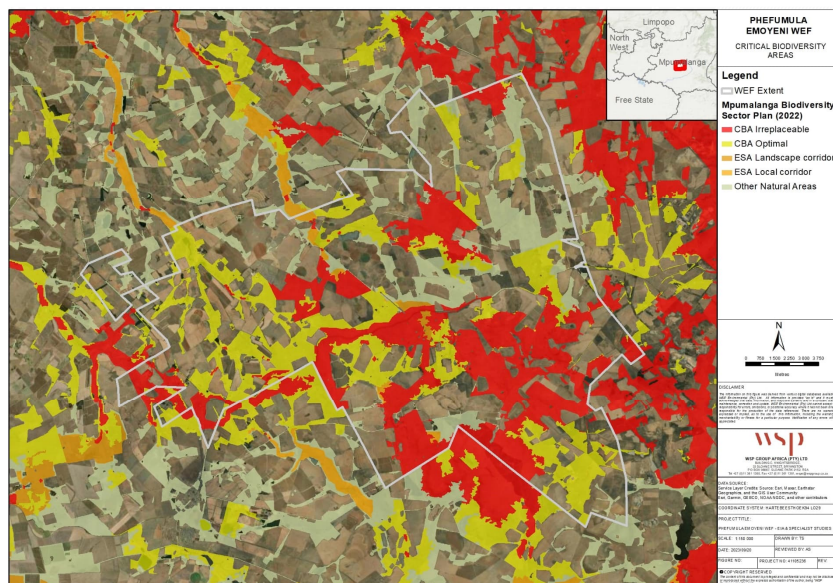


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Potential CBAs Identified



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#### Overview of the Project

## Typical Infrastructure

Specifications	Up to 400kVA Grid Infrastructure
Total Project Area	The Powerline Alignment will be informed by the outcome of the site sensitivity verification assessments and selection of the preferred MTS location (~3 000 ha)
400kV LILO Powerline	400kV Loop In Loop Out (LILO) line linking MTS to existing 400kVA line
400kV LILO Powerline Length	The Powerline length will be informed by the MTS site selection, but will be 1-2km
Internal Powerline(s)	Up to 132kV (from collector substations to MTS)
Internal Powerline length	15km to 25km (depending on final MTS location selected)
Eskom substation footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MTS: 400kV / 132kV, area of 600m x 600m required</li> <li>• 3 x 33kV/132kV onsite collector substation (Eskom and IPP portions), each being 5ha.</li> <li>• Internal OHLs: 31m corridor (15.5m from centre line)</li> <li>• Eskom will require a 2 x 55m = 110m servitude for 400kV line connecting MTS to grid</li> </ul>

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#### Overview of the Project

## Key Considerations

- The general project area falls within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA). The CBA and ESA include both terrestrial and aquatic themes among other themes.
- The project area also falls within National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) Focus Areas.
- The ecosystem of the project area is considered endangered and vulnerable, and is located within a Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (FEPA) sub-catchment.
- The Project Area does not fall within any Strategic Transmission Corridors or Renewable Energy Development Zones.

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## Environmental Authorisation Process

The below will be applied for under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), allowing each its own Environmental Authorisation

- Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Processes:
  - Phefumula Emoyeni WEF (up to 550MW)- (Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)
  - Phefumula Emoyeni EGI up to 400kV Grid Connection and MTS – (Phefumula Emoyeni One (Pty) Ltd)
- Water Use Licence
  - Water use Licences and/or General Authorisations will be applied for as required

## Listed Activities

Listing Notice 1	Listing Notice 2	Listing Notice 3
Activity 11(i)-Overhead Powerlines (up to 132kV)	Activity 1-The proposed energy generation technology (i.e. Wind) will generate more than 20MW of electricity output from a renewable resource	Activity 4(f)(i)(cc)(ee)-Internal access roads required 12-13m wide roads with 12m radius turning circles, gravel surface.
Activity 12(ii)(a)(c)-The Facility will require the development of internal roads and/or access roads and electrical cabling (both above and underground) around the site.	Activity 9- Grid connection will require a powerline with a distribution capacity of 400kV as well as a Main Transmission Substation (MTS).	Activity 10(f)(i)(cc)(ee)(hh)-The Facility will require storage and handling of dangerous goods, including fuel, cement, and chemical storage onsite, that will be greater than 30m <sup>3</sup> but not exceeding 80m <sup>3</sup> within the specified geological areas.
Activity 14-The Facility will require storage and handling of dangerous goods.	Activity 15-Facilities will result in the clearance of at least 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.	Activity 12(f)(i)(ii)-The clearance of indigenous vegetation will be required for the facility exceeding 300m <sup>2</sup>
Activity 19-Internal access roads and stormwater control infrastructure, will collectively require the excavation, infilling or removal of soil exceeding 10m <sup>3</sup> from delineated watercourses on site		Activity 14(ii)(a)(c)(f)(i)(dd)(ff)-The Facility will require the development of internal roads and/or access roads around the site.
Activity 24(ii)-The Facility will require the development of internal roads and/or access roads around the site wider than 13m		Activity 18(f)(i)(cc) (ee)-Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads by more than 4 metres or the lengthening of existing access and/or internal roads by more than 1km within the Mpumalanga Province.



#### Permitting Processes

### Listed Activities Continued:

Listing Notice 1	Listing Notice 2	Listing Notice 3
Activity 28(ii)-The Facility is considered a commercial and/or industrial development, and is located on several farm portions zoned for agricultural use outside an urban area, used for agricultural purposes, buildable area to be greater than 1ha		Activity 23(ii)(a)(c)(f)(l)(cc)(ee)-The Facility will require the expansion of existing internal roads and/or access roads around the site.
Activity 30-The Facility infrastructure is located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of Eastern Highveld Grassland.		
Activity 48(i)(a)(c)-Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the expansion of existing access and/or internal roads.		
Activity 56(i)(ii)-Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads where no reserve exists and where such road is wider than 8 metres.		

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#### Permitting Processes

### Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<b>Activity 11</b> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more; excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is — (a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure; (b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length; (c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and (d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.	This activity will be triggered as the project is located outside of an urban area and includes internal grid infrastructure with a capacity of up to 33kV, four onsite IPP substations including a 33/132kV step-up transformer, and an over the fence 132kV cable to connect the onsite IPP substations to the Common Collector Switching Station as part of the infrastructure.

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# Permitting Processes

## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p><u>Activity 30</u> Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</p>	<p>The Facility infrastructure is located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of Eastern Highveld Grassland. This ecosystem is confirmed to be listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection (as indicated in GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011).</p> <p>Due to the fact that this ecosystem is listed as threatened, it is assumed that various threatened or protected species may be found within the development area. The restricted activity of "cutting, chopping off, uprooting, damaging or destroying, any specimen" has been identified in terms of NEM:BA and is therefore applicable to the vegetation clearance that will be required to construct the development. Considering this, Activity 30 is considered applicable.</p>

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# Permitting Processes

## Listed Activities – Listing Notice 2

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p><u>Activity 1</u> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs: (a) within an urban area; or (b) on existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>The proposed WEF will generate up to 550 MW of electricity output from a renewable resource. This activity is therefore considered applicable to the wind facility.</p>
<p><u>Activity 15</u> The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>The proposed WEF will result in the clearance of more than 20 ha of indigenous vegetation. The exact buildable area is not yet known.</p>

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## DEA Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities

	Very High Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity
Agriculture Theme	X			
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme		X		
Avian (Wind) Theme				X
Bats (Wind) Theme		X		
Civil Aviation Theme		X		
Defence Theme				X
Flicker Theme	X			
Landscape (Wind) Theme	X			
Palaeontology Theme	X			
Noise Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
RFI (Wind) Theme	X			
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			
Vulture Species Theme			X	

## DEA Screening Tool Specialist Assessments

Specialist Study	Phefumula Emoyeni WEF	Up to 400kVA grid connection line and MTS substation
Agricultural	X	X
Landscape / Visual	X	X
Archaeological and Cultural heritage	X	X
Palaeontological	X	X
Terrestrial Biodiversity	X	X
Aquatic Biodiversity	X	X
Avian Impact	X	X
Civil Aviation	X	
Defence	X	
RFI	X	
Noise	X	
Flicker	X	
Traffic	X	X
Geotechnical	X	X
Socio-Economic	X	
Plant Species	X	X
Animal Species	X	X

## Specialist Studies Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment	A soils and agricultural survey will be undertaken.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	An Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	A Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Visual Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact sensitive visual receptors. A Visual Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken. The Visual impact Assessment will consider impacts related to flicker.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect CBA and NPAES Focus Areas. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will include both fauna and flora aspects.
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect FEPA areas. An Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken.
Freshwater Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact water resources. A Freshwater Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken.
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on birds as a result of the projects, an Avifauna Assessment will be undertaken.

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## Specialist Studies Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Bat Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on bats as a result of the projects, a Bat Assessment will be undertaken. This study will be specific to the WEFS.
Social Impact Assessment	A detailed social assessment will be prepared. The social statement will be based on a desktop review and telephonic interviews with key stakeholders.
Noise Impact Assessment	Due to potential impacts on sensitive receptors with regards to noise generated from the wind turbines, a Noise Assessment will be undertaken.
Geotechnical Assessment	A preliminary Geotechnical Assessment will be undertaken as part of the S&EIA Process.
Traffic Assessment	A traffic assessment will be undertaken.
Qualitative Risk Assessment	A hazard and risk identification assessment for the BESS facility will be undertaken.
RFI	A compliance statement will be compiled. The South African Weather Service (SAWS) and relevant telecommunications stakeholders will be engaged with as part of the Public Participation Process.
Civil Aviation	A compliance statement will be compiled. The Civil Aviation Authority will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought. An Application for the Approval of Obstacles will also be submitted to SACAA once preferred bidder status is obtained.

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Permitting Processes

## Specialist Studies Not-Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Defence	<p>The Department of Defence will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought.</p> <p>A compliance statement is not required as the sensitivity has been identified as Low.</p>

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Permitting Processes

## 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
- 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 is therefore deemed to be the Competent Authority for the WEF
- It is understood that MDARDLEA will be the Competent Authority for the Gridline - Please confirm this interpretation

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#### Public Participation Process

## Public Participation Plan

- A consolidated approach to the Public Participation (PP) Process for both the S&EIA processes respectively
- Site notices:
  - English, Afrikaans and isiZulu
  - Onsite and in the surrounding areas
- Compilation and management of I&AP Database
- Written notification:
  - Owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site
  - Municipality Ward Councillor
  - District Municipality
  - Relevant State Departments
- Advertisement (English, Afrikaans and isiZulu in local newspaper)
- Draft Report Review for 30 days
  - WSP on request
  - Online on the WSP website
  - WSP will confirm with local Public Libraries as to whether they are open and able to accept documents for public review
- Public or focus group meetings will be held as required.

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#### Timeframes

## Timeframes

- Authority Timeframes
  - Does not fall within a Strategic Transmission Corridor (GN 113)
  - Does not fall within a REDZ (GN 114)
  - We require clarity regarding the Authority decision making timeframes as a result of Ms Creecy's statement in May 2023
    - 107 days vs 57 days
    - Is this applicable to only the Renewable Energy Facility or does it include the Grid Infrastructure
- Key Milestones:
  - Submission of Application Forms – 22 November 2023
  - Draft Scoping Report Public Review – 22 November 2023 to 11 January 2024
  - Submission of Final Scoping Reports – 24 January 2024
  - Submission of Final EIA Reports – 26 July 2024

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Discussion

- Questions
- Way Forward





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