

Notification of Application for Environmental Authorisation, Water Use Authorisation Process for the Proposed Construction of the MV Line in 42ND Hill Harrismith, Free State Province

Notice is hereby given that Eskom Holdings SOC Limited (the Applicant) has applied for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the above-mentioned project. According to Sections 21(c) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA), a Water Use License (WUL) application is required because the proposed project operations would take place near or within a watercourse. Additionally, the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) mandates that an application for an Environmental Authorization (EA) be made for the proposed construction. Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by Eskom Holdings SOC Limited to undertake the environmental authorisation process.

Nature of Proposed Activity

The proposed construction is located in Intabazwe, west of Harrismith within Maluti A Phofung Local Municipality, with access through Cloete St. The Intabazwe area in Harrismith is experiencing increasing demand for electrification. The Harrismith substation, with a 60MVA capacity, supplies the area through two metering panels and two Letsatsi lines. The existing network supplies 42nd Hill with 7.4MVA load. The proposed construction involves upgrading existing dual circuit and single circuit lines with different conductors and add another line to the Intabazwe development.

Legislative requirements

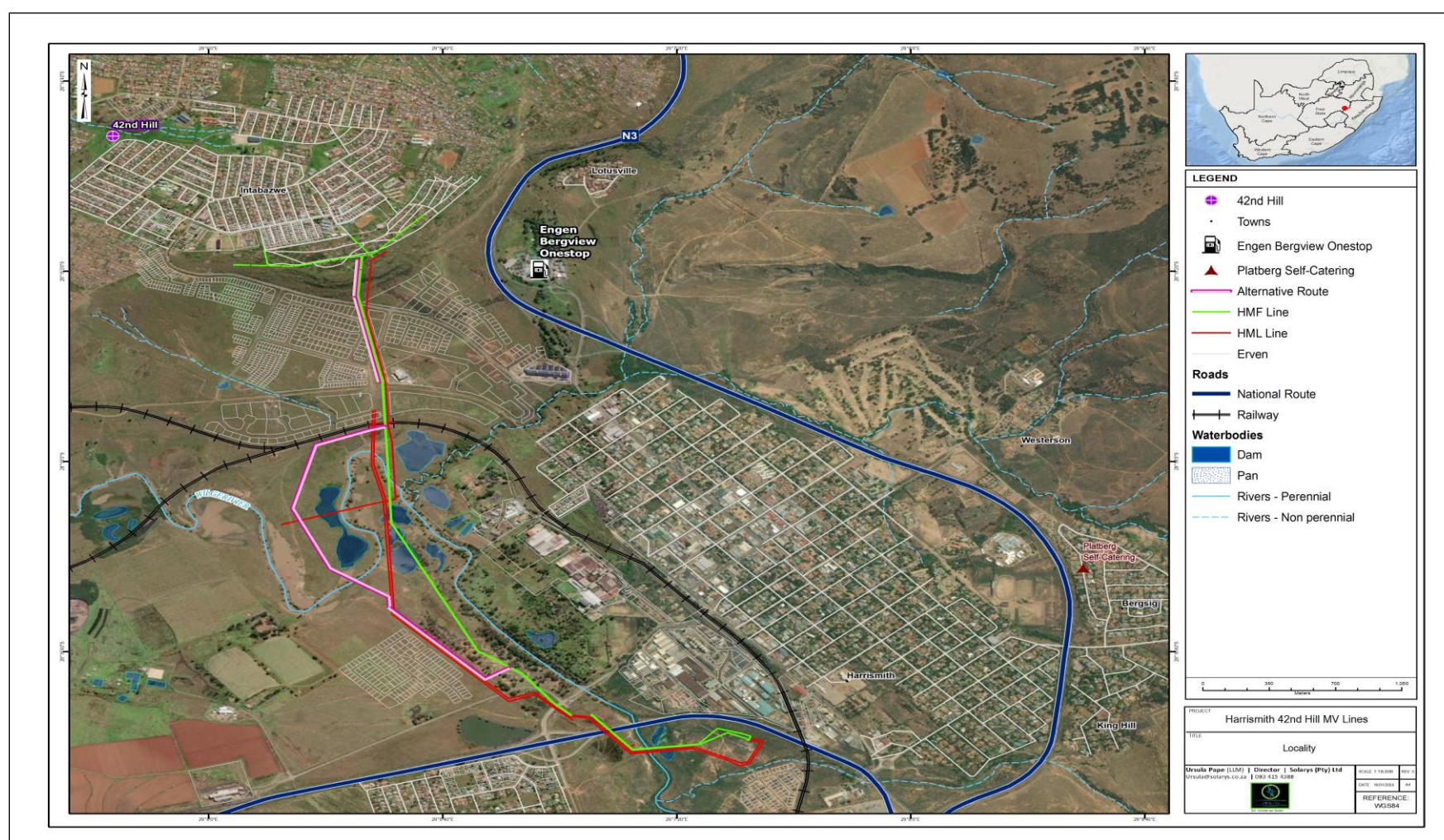
The proposed activity is underpinned by the legal provisions of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended, and the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998. These Acts have specific regulations governing potential impacts on the receiving environment and includes the following Regulations: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (GN R982), as amended; Water Use Licence Application and Appeals Regulations of 2017 (GN R267). The proposed construction will also trigger the following listed activities:

- Listing Notice 1 (GN 985), Activity 12: The physical footprint of the proposed project is approximately 153 square metres,
- Listing Notice 1 (GN R.983), Activity 19: The proposed construction, situated within a watercourse, necessitates over 10 cubic meters of soil material excavated on the wetland for the installation of the poles and stays.
- Listing Notice 3 (GN 985), Activity 14: The proposed infrastructure, covering over 10 square meters, will be built within a watercourse and align with the Free State Conservation Plan's CBA/ESA.

A Basic Assessment process and Water Use License Application process will therefore be undertaken to authorise the proposed activities associated with the proposed development.

Draft Basic Assessment Report for Public Review

The Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) provides more details of the above project and is available for public review and comment from 15 February 2024 to 18 March 2024. The report is available at the Harrismith Public Library (62 Warden Street, Harrismith, 9880) and on the Zitholele Consulting's website: [www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/under the heading "Harrismith BAR"](http://www.zitholele.co.za/environmental/under%20the%20heading%20Harrismith%20BAR).



Public Comment Encouraged

Please submit your comments on the BAR by no later than 18 March 2024 to the contact persons/details as listed below. Information regarding the above processes can also be requested from the Public Participation Office at the contact details provided herein.

All stakeholders that wish to provide comments on the BAR and WULA processes and stay informed throughout the process are urged to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) by submitting your contact details and interest on the project to the Public Participation Process (PPP) desk at the contact details provided. Further communication relating to the project will only be undertaken with registered I&APs. The PPP desk can be contacted as follows:

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