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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 2002

7 April 2022

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)****CONSULTATION ON THE INTENTION TO ADOPT A STANDARD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF POWER LINES AND SUBSTATIONS WITHIN IDENTIFIED GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AND THE EXCLUSION OF THIS INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby consult on the intention to adopt, in terms of section 24(10)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (the Act), the *Standard for the Development of Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas Revision 1 August 2021*, and based on compliance with this Standard, exclude, in terms of section 24(2)(d) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), identified activities, as set out in the Schedule, including identified activities necessary for the realisation of the development or expansion of power line and substation infrastructure, from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation.

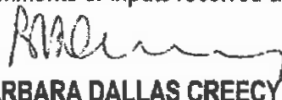
Members of the public are invited to submit written comments or inputs, within 30 days after the publication of this Notice in the *Gazette*, to any of the following addresses:

By post to: The Director-General
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Attention: Dr D Fischer
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

By hand at: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
ARCADIA
0083

By email: dfischer@dfre.gov.za

Comments or inputs received after the closing date may not be considered.



BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

1. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has developed the *Standard for the Development of Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas Revision 1 August 2021* based on two Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes undertaken for the development of Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) in South Africa.
2. The Standard is to be adopted in terms of section 24(10)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (the Act) for the purpose of excluding the activities contemplated in paragraph 4.1 and 4.2 of this Schedule from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation prior to commencement.
3. Based on compliance with the provisions of the Standard and the registration requirements contained in the Standard, the activities as described in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the Schedule, are hereby excluded from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation in terms of section 24(2)(d) of the Act.
4. This exclusion from the requirement to obtain environmental authorisation applies in areas identified by the national web based environmental screening tool as being of medium or low environmental sensitivity and confirmed to be such for identified environmental themes, within the strategic transmission corridors identified in Government Notice No. 113 published under Government Gazette No. 41445 of 16 February 2018 and Government Notice No. 1637 published under Government Gazette No. 45690 on 24 December 2021, for the development or expansion of electricity transmission and distribution powerline infrastructure and substations, where the development or expansion of such infrastructure triggers-
 - 4.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended:
 - 4.1.1. Activity 11;
 - 4.1.2. Activity 47; and
 - 4.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014, as amended:
 - 4.2.1. Activity 9;and any activity identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1, 2 or 3 of 2014, as amended, necessary for the realisation of such infrastructure.
5. The Standard and the exclusions do not apply in the following instances:
 - 5.1 Where any part of the infrastructure occurs on an area for which the environmental sensitivity for any environmental theme is identified as being very high or high by the national web based environmental screening tool and confirmed to be such through the application of the procedures in the Standard; or
 - 5.2 where the greater part of the proposed infrastructure falls outside any strategic transmission corridor.
6. Where this Standard does not apply, either the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (EIA Regulations) or Government Notice No. 113 in Government Gazette No. 41445 of 16 February 2018, read with the EIA Regulations, where relevant, apply to the relevant theme for which the very high or high sensitivity has been identified in respect of the portion of the development which occurs on the area where the environmental sensitivity is confirmed to be very high or high, or to the entire development where the greater part of the infrastructure falls outside of the strategic transmission corridor.
7. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Standard constitutes an offence in terms of section 49A of the Act.
8. The provisions of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, as amended, are applicable to an appeal against any decision taken in terms of this Notice or the Standard.
9. An application for environmental authorisation for identified activities contained in this Government Notice, submitted in terms of the EIA Regulations, or Government Notice No. 113 in Government Gazette No. 41445 of 16 February 2018, which is pending on the date of coming into effect of the Standard and exclusion

contemplated in this Notice, must be finalised in accordance with the procedures of the EIA Regulations or Government Notice No. 113 in Government Gazette No. 41445 of 16 February 2018, read with the EIA Regulations, or may be withdrawn.

10. An environmental authorisation issued prior to the commencement of the Standard and this Notice remains valid.
11. The *Standard for the Development of Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas Revision 1 August 2021*, can be accessed at <https://egis.environment.gov.za/egi> or <https://gasnetwork.csir.co.za/> or https://www.dffe.gov.za/projectsprogrammes/environmental_management_instruments and the Government Gazette notice can be accessed at https://www.dffe.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices
12. The *Strategic Environmental Assessment for Electricity Grid Infrastructure in South Africa (2016)* and the *Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Expansion of Electricity Grid Infrastructure Corridors in South Africa (2019)* can be accessed at <https://egi.csir.co.za/> or <https://egis.environment.gov.za/egi> or <https://gasnetwork.csir.co.za/>.

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