

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 835

31 JULY 2020

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)

CONSULTATION ON THE INTENTION TO ADOPT A STANDARD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE 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—

- (a) adopt, in terms of section 24(10)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), the *Standard for the Development of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Developments within Identified Geographical Areas*; and
- (b) 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 the associated activities related to the development of electricity transmission and distribution power line infrastructure from the need to obtain environmental authorisation.

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

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

By hand at: 473 Steve Biko Road
 ARCADIA
 0083

By e-mail: dfischer@environment.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 Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has developed the *Standard for Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Development within Identified Geographical Areas* 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 purposes 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 need 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 within the Strategic Transmission Corridors identified in **Government Notice No. 787 published under Government Gazette 43528 of 17** July 2020, for electricity transmission and distribution powerline infrastructure or the expansion of such infrastructure, where 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; andany listed or specified activity necessary for the realisation of such infrastructure.
5. Should more than 10% of the proposed electricity transmission and distribution powerline infrastructure fall outside of the Strategic Transmission Corridors, the entire development is regarded as falling outside the scope of this standard and the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended (the Regulations), apply to the entire development.
6. The provisions of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, as amended, are applicable to an appeal against any decision taken in terms of the standard contemplated in this Notice.
7. An application for environmental authorisation submitted in terms of the Regulations, 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 Regulations.
8. The *Standard for Electricity Transmission and Distribution Power Line Development within Identified Geographical Areas*, can be accessed at <https://egis.environment.gov.za/egi> or <https://gasnetwork.csir.co.za/>.
9. 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/>.