



EMG

**BACKGROUND
INFORMATION
DOCUMENT**

**PROPOSED 132KV GRID
CONNECTION TRANSMISSION
LINE BETWEEN THE ORANGE
RIVER SOLAR FACILITY 1 AND
ESKOM GARONA SUBSTATION,
GROBLERSHOOP, NORTHERN
CAPE PROVINCE.**

**Orange River Solar
Facility 1**

**Environmental
Management Group
(PTY) Ltd**

Compiled by:
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Public Participation Practitioner

Background Information Document for the proposed 132kV Grid Connection Transmission line between the Orange River Solar Facility 1 and Eskom Garona substation, Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province





17 September 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental Management Group (Pty) Ltd is the Professional Service Provider applying for Environmental Authorisation through the Basic Assessment process on behalf of Orange River Solar Facility 1 for the proposed 132kV Grid Connection Transmission Line between the Orange River Solar Facility 1 and Eskom Garona Substation, Groblershoop, Northern Cape Province.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

EMG has prepared this document to inform you about:

-  The proposed project.
-  The current understanding of the baseline environmental and social conditions.
-  Possible environmental impacts and proposed specialist studies
-  How you can have input into the Environmental Authorization and Processes.

2. LOCALITY

The proposed construction is situated on the remainder of Portion 18 of the farm Rooisand 387, remainder of Farm Spitskop No. 615, Remainder of Farm Roilyf No. 389, Portion 9 of the Farm Bokpoort No. 390, Portion 5 of the Farm Bokpoort No, 390 and portion 4 of the Farm Bokpoort No. 390 near Groblershoop in the Northern Cape. It falls within the !Kheis Local Municipality and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality. . This project involves constructing a transmission line and related infrastructure. The proposed transmission line will connect to the national grid via connecting the Orange River Solar facility 1 with Eskom's Garona substation.

YOUR ROLE

You have been identified as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) who may want to be informed about the proposed development and have input into the processes and environmental reports.

You have an opportunity to review this document and provide your initial comments to us for incorporation in the process.

Comments will be recorded and included in the reports submitted to the relevant authorities for decision-making.

HOW TO RESPOND

If you are interested in receiving further information on the project, please register your details with the person listed below. Responses to this document can be submitted by means of the **attached comments sheet** and/or through communication with the persons listed below.



Celeste Swarts
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E-mail: cswarts@envmgp.com

Environmental Authorisation




Prior to the commencement of the proposed development, Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), (Act No. 107 of 1998), Basic Assessment (BAR) Regulations as amended 7 April 2017 is required from the competent authority, the Northern Cape's Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform.

According to the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended 7 April 2017, Listing Notice 1 - R327 – the following activity(s) are applicable to this proposed project:



Listing Notice 1 (GNR. 327, 07 APRIL 2017)

-  **Activity 11 (i)** - Activity 11 (i) - 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.
-  **Activity 19** - Activity 19 - The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles, or rock of more than 10m³ from a watercourse.

Listing Notice 3 (GNR. 324, 07 APRIL 2017)

-  **Activity 4 (g) (ii) (ee)** - The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres; (g) Northern Cape, (ii) outside urban areas, (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.
-  **Activity 12 (g) (ii)** – Activity 12 (g) (ii) – The clearance of an area of 300m² or more of indigenous vegetation - (g)Northern Cape - (ii)Critical biodiversity areas identified in systematic biodiversity plans
-  **Activity 14 (ii) (a) (c) (g) (ii) (ff)** – Activity 14 (ii) (a) (c) (g) (ii) (ff) – The development of – (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10m² or more; Where such development occurs - (a) within a watercourse - (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32m or a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse. - (g) Northern Cape - (ii) outside of urban areas; - (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systemic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.

NWA: Section 21 (ACT NO.34 of 1998), as amended

-  **Activity 21 c** - Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
-  **Activity 21 i** – Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse.



3. Project Description

The proposed 132 kV sub-transmission line development will connect the ORSF 1 to the Eskom Garona substation and will be a total length of 19 km running nearly parallel to an existing high voltage transmission line. The proposed transmission line will fall within a corridor stretching 100 m in width. The distance between the proposed and existing transmission lines may vary between 50m to 75m, the distance between the pylons ranges from 200m up to 375m depending on the ground profile which will add up to approximately 95 pylons along the 19km transmission line. The pylon placement will affect 15m x 15m of vegetation surrounding the base of the pylon which will add up to approximately 8 ha of vegetation clearance, if only the base of the pylon structure is cleared. The proposed transmission line is situated approximately 3.5 km north of the town of Groblershoop within the Northern Cape Province and falls within the jurisdiction of the !Kheis Local Municipality (Figure 1). The following properties will be traversed by the proposed development include the following:














Remainder of the Farm Rooisand, No. 387
Remainder of the Farm Spitskop, No. 615
Remainder of the Farm Roilyf, No. 389
Portion 9 of the Farm Bokpoort, No. 390
Portion 5 of the Farm Bokpoort, No. 390
Portion 4 of the Farm Bokpoort, No. 390

The proposed transmission line property can be accessed through the Destination River Resort, which is approximately 2.6 km north of Groblershoop, the entrance to the Farm Rooisand and Destination River Resort is located to the left of the N8, just past the Orange River bridge. The development of the proposed transmission line will impact the vegetation within a roughly 225 m² wide servitude footprint area beneath the line (15x15 m around the base of each transmission line pylon). While transmission lines require service roads, which increases the affected area, an existing high voltage transmission line running nearly parallel to the proposed line already has a service road that will be shared, therefore limiting the actual vegetation clearance. Utilizing these existing roads will reduce the additional impact but constructing new service road sections will still be necessary for the new transmission line where it is not feasible to use the existing service road. The physical clearance required is to some extent difficult to accurately determine on account of the development's low intensive and linear nature. The physical clearance is limited to the physical footprint of the pylon placement and trampling of vegetation due to vehicle movement.

PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESSES

-  I&APs Surrounding landowners, land users and communities
-  Parastatals

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

-  Department Transport, Safety and Liaison
-  Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
-  Transnet
-  Department of Health
-  National Energy Regulator South Africa
-  Department of Water and Sanitation.
-  Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (NC)
-  Department of Roads and Public Works
-  SANRAL
-  Eskom
-  Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (Environmental Research and Development)
-  Department of Agriculture, Land Reform
-  SA Civil Aviation Authority

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

-  ZF Mgcawu District Municipality - Municipal Manager
-  Kheis Local Municipality - Executive Mayor
-  Kheis Local Municipality – Municipal Manager
-  !Kheis Local Municipality– Ward Councillor 3


Please let us know if there are any additional parties that should be involved.

4. Public participation

The Public Participation Process (PPP) forms a fundamental part of the application for rectification procedure and is one of the most important aspects of the environmental authorisation process. Its aim is to provide an opportunity for interested and affected parties (I&AP's) to obtain clear, accurate and comprehensive information about the application and the environmental impacts thereof.

In addition, inputs from the public, interested and affected groups are considered in the planned project development. As a result, a clear recording of issues raised, and comments made is maintained in a register of comments and responses. This register is updated as and when new comments and concerns are raised.

 Public participation & authority review of application (30 calendar days).

 Submit application to competent authority, stakeholders and I&APs.







 Submit final application to competent authority.

Circulate decision made by competent authority, to all stakeholders and I&APs.

PROCESS STEPS (in accordance with GN326)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMEFRAME
1. Initial communication to clarify the application with the Authorising Department.	EAP	1 day
2. EAP to conduct a site investigation	EAP	1 day
3. EAP to submit Application for Environmental Authorisation to the competent authority.		1 day
4. Competent authority Accepts Application.	Competent authority	14 days
5. EAP to compile a Basic Assessment Report subjected to 30 days Public Participation Process.	EAP	90 days
6. EAP to submit Final Basic Assessment Report inclusive of comments to competent authority.	EAP	1 day
7. Competent authority to grant or decline Approval for Environmental Authorisation.	Competent authority	107 days
8. Environmental Authorisation subject to 20-day appeal process.	EAP	20 days
9. Final Approval of Environmental Authorisation.	Competent authority	1 day

Potential Environmental impacts

Below is a preliminary list of potential impacts identified at this process stage and will be investigated as part of the environmental assessment process. The list will be refined during the Basic Assessment Process.

-  Heritage/cultural and paleoanthropological resources
-  Land use
-  Avifaunal Assessment
-  Aquatic Ecological Assessment
-  Terrestrial ecological verification and impact assessment
-  Visual Impact Assessment

Maps

Locality Map

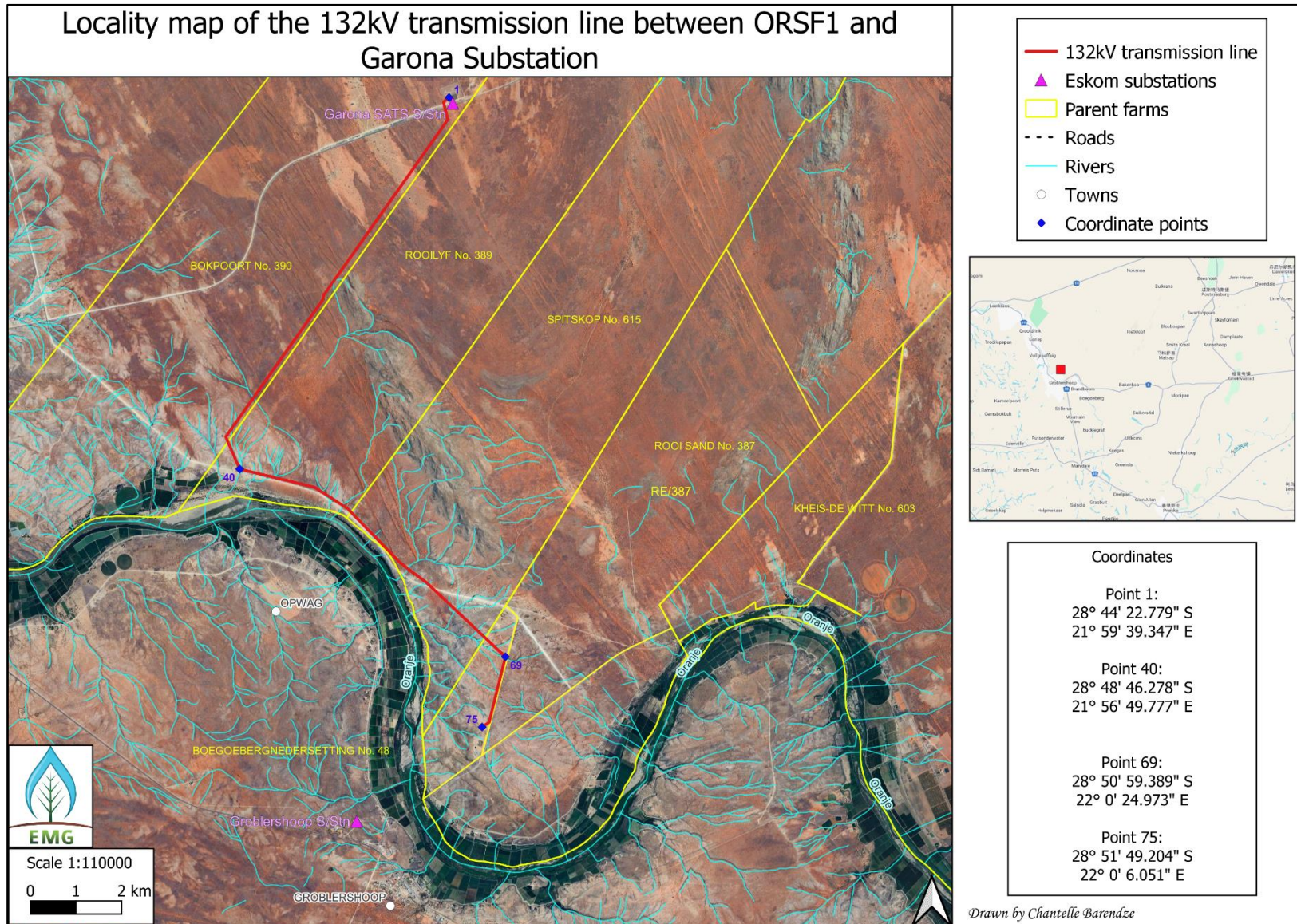


Figure 1 Locality map of the 132kV transmission line between the ORSF 1 and Eskom's Garona substation.

**132 KV GRID CONNECTION TRANSMISSION LINE BETWEEN THE ORANGE RIVER
SOLAR FACILITY 1 AND ESKOM GARONA SUBSTATION GROBLERSHOOP
SUBSTATION, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, REGISTRATION AND RESPONSE
FORM FOR INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&AP)**

Date			
Particulars of the I&AP			
Name			
Postal Address & Code			
Street Address & Code			
Telephone number		Cell Phone Number	
Fax Number		E-Mail Address	

Please Identify your Interest in the Proposed Project:

Please write your comments and questions here:

Please return completed form prior to 30 days lapsing:

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