



BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA), MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND GENERAL AUTHORISATION

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

**FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPALA ZIRCON TEMPORARY BY-PASS
132KV POWERLINE WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE MAINTENANCE OF
THE EXISTING IMPALA ZIRCON 132KV MAIN LINE WITHIN THE UMHLATHUZE MUNICIPALITY
IN KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE**

**SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES/CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS RAISED BY INTERESTED
AND/OR AFFECTED PARTIES**

Stakeholders who contributed issues ranging across all sectors of society are recorded in this Comments and Responses Report (C&RR). Similar issues raised have been grouped together. The name, affiliation and date of the commentator are also indicated.

Issue/Comment	Raised By	Response
REGISTRATION PHASE		
1. Interested and Affected Parties		
Please register the Umhlatuzi Valley Sugar Company as an Interested and Affected Party. Please urgently provide all available information relating to this project as it appears from the image below that it is intended to impact a large portion of our land holdings and operational activities.	Alex Searle Umhlatuzi Valley Sugar Company	The EAP confirmed that the email was acknowledged. The EAP further advised that the interested and affected party would be added to the database register and would be kept updated regarding the progress of the project application. The EAP also confirmed that the Background Information Document and the Notification letter had been attached for the commenter's attention.
2. Organ of State		
- I would like to seek clarification regarding the comment's submission due date. The Background Information Document (BID) reflects a closing date of 07 April 2026, while the email communication below indicates 08 June 2026. I assume this may be an error and would appreciate confirmation of the correct date. - I am currently preparing to submit the Branch's comments and would like to ensure that these are submitted within the stipulated timeframe.	Xolani Myanga Specilised Environmental Officer Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	The EAP acknowledged the error and apologized for the oversight. The EAP further confirmed that the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR), together with all associated specialist studies, is currently being finalized. In this regard, the EAP enquired whether the commenter would prefer to submit their comments at this stage or alternatively withhold them until the DBAR is circulated for review. The EAP noted that withholding comments would allow the commenter the opportunity to provide consolidated comments on both the BID and the DBAR for the proposed development.
It is brought to your attention that this Department's concerns relate to the potential impacts of the project on natural forests and/or protected tree species listed under the National Forests Act. However, based on the review of the BID received, no natural forests or protected	Amkela Chiya Directorate: Forest Resource Protection	The EAP acknowledged receipt of the Department's comment and confirmed that no natural forests or protected tree species listed under the National Forests Act were disturbed during the project. The EAP appreciated the Department's confirmation that no objections were raised

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REGISTRATION PHASE		
trees in terms of the National Forests Act were disturbed. Therefore, the Department raised no objections to the granting of environmental authorisation. This letter does not exempt you from considering other environmental legislations.	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	to the granting of environmental authorisation on that basis. The EAP further confirmed that the project remains committed to meeting all obligations under the National Forests Act (Act 84 of 1998), the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), and all other applicable environmental laws, regulations, and standards.
- Your wayleave application with project reference number 04-02276C_Eskom Impala dated 09 March 2026 has reference. Transnet Pipelines, a division of Transnet SOC Limited, is not affected by the proposal. - Your awareness of the existence of Transnet's pipeline servitudes and concern for their integrity is highly appreciated. - This authorisation shall be valid for 48 months from the date – 12 March 2026.	Thami Hadebe Transnet	The EAP acknowledged receipt of the comment and thanked the interested and affected party for their response.