



TGM ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

*Proposed Duvha Substation, Switching Station, Underground Cable and 132
kV LILo Connection for the Solar PV Facility*

Emalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province

Applicant: Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd

Environmental Assessment Practitioner: TGM Environmental Services CC

Environmental Process: Registration in terms of the applicable Standard for Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas and water use authorisation in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)

Date: 11 September 2026

1. Purpose of this Background Information Document

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd proposes to develop electricity grid connection infrastructure required to connect the authorised Duvha Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility to the existing Eskom electricity network at Duvha Power Station near Emalahleni, Mpumalanga Province.

TGM Environmental Services CC has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the environmental process associated with the proposed grid connection infrastructure.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to:

- introduce the proposed project to potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs);
- provide a brief description of the proposed development and applicable environmental and water-use authorisation processes;
- provide information on the environmental investigations undertaken;
- identify and update the stakeholder/I&AP database; and

- provide interested parties with an opportunity to register as an I&AP and receive further information regarding the project.

This BID does not constitute the formal 30-day public review of the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report. Registered I&APs will be notified separately when the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report becomes available for public review.

2. Project Background

The Duvha Solar PV Facility has previously received Environmental Authorisation. The proposed project addressed in this BID relates specifically to the grid connection infrastructure required to connect the authorised Solar PV Facility to the existing Eskom electricity network.

The proposed grid connection infrastructure is located within and immediately adjacent to the existing Duvha Power Station complex in the Emalahleni Local Municipality, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province.

The project falls within the gazetted International Strategic Transmission Corridor.

3. Proposed Development

The proposed project entails the development of 132 kV grid connection infrastructure required to evacuate electricity generated by the authorised Duvha Solar PV Facility into the existing Eskom network.

The proposed infrastructure comprises:

- a new 132 kV substation within/adjacent to the broader Duvha Power Station complex;
- a new switching station to the west of the Duvha Power Station;
- approximately 850 m of underground 132 kV cable connecting the proposed substation and switching station;
- a short overhead 132 kV Loop-In Loop-Out (LILO) connection between the switching station and the existing Duvha Colliery–Duvha Power Station 132 kV line; and
- associated infrastructure and construction activities, including foundations, cable trenches, electrical equipment, access requirements, temporary construction areas and rehabilitation of areas disturbed during construction.

The detailed engineering design and final equipment configuration have not yet been finalised. The environmental assessment is therefore being undertaken on the basis of the defined locations and development footprints of the proposed infrastructure. The detailed design will be required to remain within the environmentally assessed development footprint.

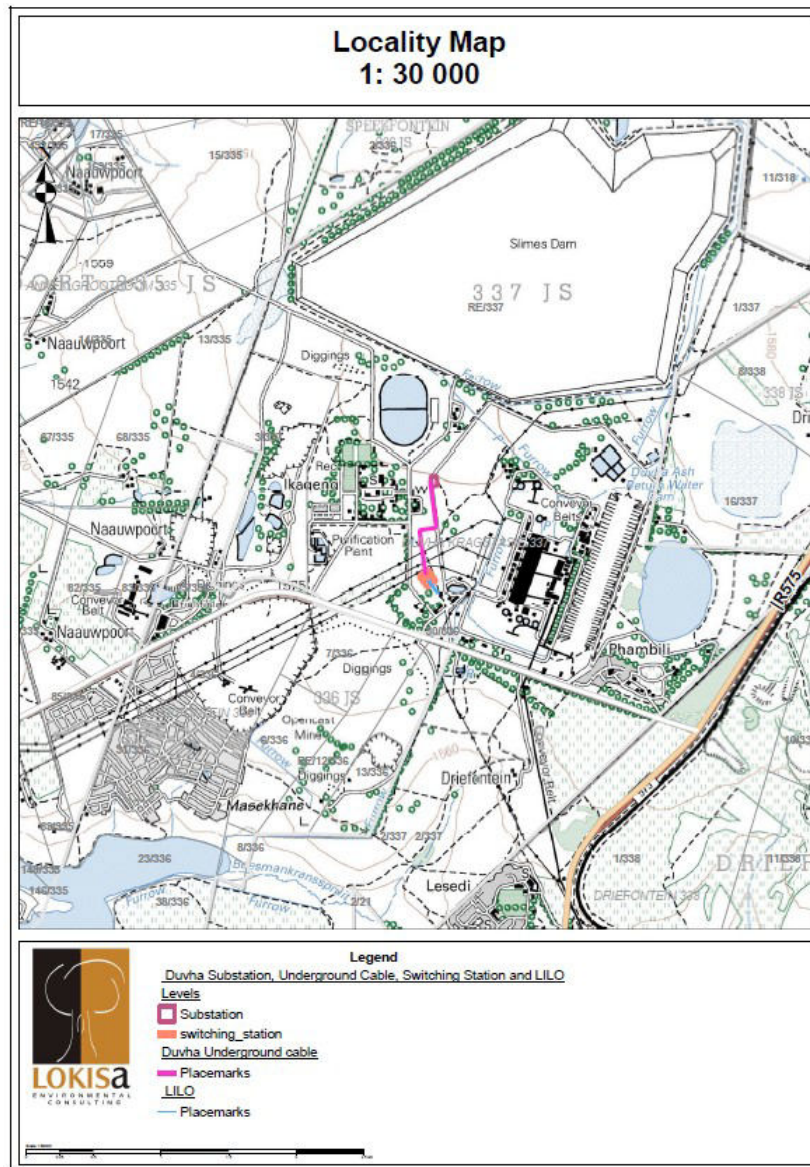


Figure 1 : Locality Map

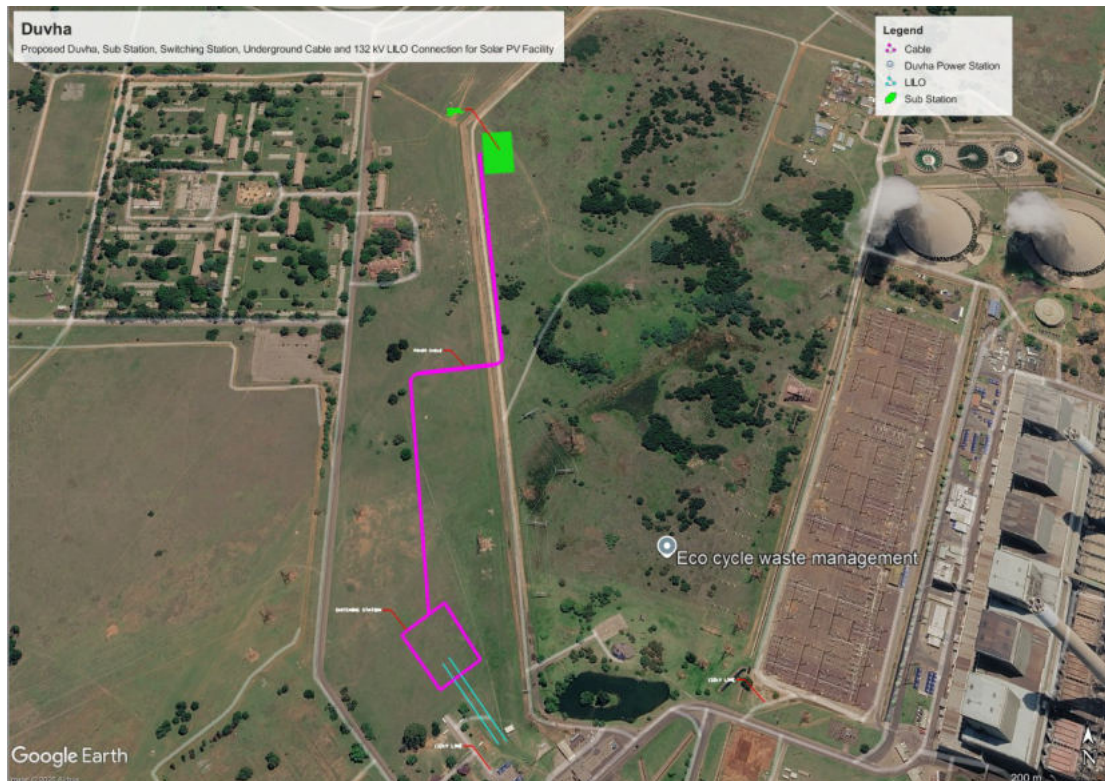


Figure 2 : Proposed Project Layout

4. Environmental and Water Use Authorisation Processes

The proposed grid connection infrastructure is being assessed in accordance with the applicable Standard for the Development of Power Lines and Substations within Identified Geographical Areas.

A pre-application meeting was held with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 25 August 2026.

Following consideration of the project location, proposed infrastructure and environmental sensitivities, the project is proceeding through the applicable registration process.

An Environmental Sensitivity Report is being prepared to document the environmental sensitivities of the proposed development footprint, the findings of the specialist investigations and the manner in which environmental constraints have informed the proposed layout.

The Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report will subsequently be made available to I&APs and relevant authorities for a minimum 30-day public comment period.

The proposed development is also subject to the applicable provisions of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). The water uses associated with the proposed infrastructure are being considered and an application for the required water use authorisation will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

The public participation process is being undertaken to provide I&APs with an opportunity to comment on the proposed development and the associated environmental and water-use considerations.

5. Environmental Investigations

A number of environmental specialist investigations and sensitivity verifications have been undertaken for the proposed development.

These include consideration of:

- terrestrial biodiversity;
- aquatic biodiversity and wetlands;
- avifauna;
- heritage resources;
- palaeontological resources;
- visual impacts;
- socio-economic considerations;
- agricultural resources; and
- climate-change considerations.

The specialist findings are being used to refine the proposed layout and identify environmental management and mitigation requirements.

6. Key Environmental Considerations

The environmental investigations undertaken to date have identified a number of environmental features that require consideration during the planning and design of the proposed infrastructure.

- Wetlands and aquatic resources
 - Wetland and drainage features occur within the broader project area.
 - The project layout has been refined to avoid the delineated wetland and associated 32 m buffer as far as applicable.

- The proposed infrastructure is also subject to the applicable water-use regulatory requirements in terms of the National Water Act, 1998, and an application for the required water use authorisation will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).
- Terrestrial biodiversity
 - Areas of greater terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity have been identified within the broader project area, including sensitive grassland habitat.
 - The proposed layout has been refined to avoid sensitive terrestrial habitat as far as reasonably practicable.
- Avifauna
 - Potential impacts on birds are being considered as part of the environmental assessment.
 - The use of an underground 132 kV cable for the majority of the connection substantially reduces the extent of new overhead infrastructure. The new overhead component is limited to the short LILO connection required to connect to the existing 132 kV line.
- Heritage and palaeontology
 - Heritage and palaeontological investigations have been undertaken.
 - The findings and recommended mitigation measures will be incorporated into the Environmental Sensitivity Report and Environmental Management Programme, where applicable.
- Agricultural resources
 - Part of the proposed infrastructure occurs within the existing Duvha Power Station complex and adjacent to existing roads and power station infrastructure.
 - The affected area within the power station does not currently support agricultural activities and is constrained by its existing industrial land use, limited size and configuration.
- Existing industrial environment
 - A significant portion of the proposed development occurs within or immediately adjacent to the existing Duvha Power Station complex.
 - The use of existing industrial and disturbed areas and infrastructure corridors has been prioritised, where feasible, to reduce additional disturbance of the surrounding environment.

7. Consideration of Alternatives

Alternative locations and alignments have been considered during the environmental assessment process.

The project layout has been progressively refined in response to:

- engineering requirements;
- wetland and aquatic constraints;
- terrestrial biodiversity sensitivities;
- specialist recommendations;
- existing Eskom infrastructure;
- existing roads and disturbed areas; and
- the need to minimise the overall environmental footprint of the development.

The final preferred layout will be informed by the environmental assessment, engineering requirements and comments received through the public participation process.

8. Public Participation Process

TGM Environmental Services CC is currently identifying potentially interested and affected parties for inclusion on the project stakeholder database.

The public participation process will also inform I&APs of the water-use authorisation process being undertaken in terms of the National Water Act and provide an opportunity for relevant water-use issues and concerns to be raised for consideration.

This BID is being distributed to identified stakeholders and potentially affected/interested parties to announce the project and provide an opportunity to register as an I&AP.

Persons who register as I&APs will receive further notification regarding the environmental and water-use authorisation processes, including notification when the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report becomes available for the formal 30-day public review and comment period.

Public participation associated with the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report will include, as applicable:

- notification of registered I&APs and relevant authorities;
- newspaper advertisement;

- site notices;
- notification of adjacent landowners/occupiers and relevant stakeholders; and
- access to the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report and supporting specialist documentation for review.

9. How to Register as an Interested and Affected Party

Should you wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the proposed project, please provide the following information to TGM Environmental Services CC :

Name and surname:

Organisation, if applicable:

Postal/physical address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

Interest in the project:

Details of any person you consider may also be interested in or affected by the project:

You are also welcome to provide any initial environmental issues or concerns that you believe should be considered during preparation of the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report.

Please note: the purpose of this BID is primarily to announce the project and establish/update the I&AP database. A separate opportunity will be provided to comment formally on the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report during the prescribed public review period.

10. What Happens Next?

Following distribution of this BID:

1. I&AP database

Potential stakeholders will be identified and persons requesting registration will be added to the project I&AP database.

2. Environmental Sensitivity Report

The specialist findings and environmental sensitivity information will be incorporated into the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report.

3. Formal public review

Registered I&APs and commenting authorities will be notified when the Draft Environmental Sensitivity Report is available for the minimum 30-day public comment period.

4. Consideration of comments

Comments received will be recorded in a Comments and Responses Report and considered in finalising the project layout and environmental documentation.

5. Registration with DFFE

Following completion of the environmental process, the Final Environmental Sensitivity Report and registration documentation will be submitted to DFFE through the Department's applicable registration channel.

6. Water Use Authorisation

The required water use authorisation application and supporting documentation will be submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation in accordance with the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998.

11. Contact Details

All registrations, comments and enquiries regarding the environmental and water use authorisation processes should be directed to:

TGM Environmental Services CC

Attention: Elaine Minnaar

Email: elaine@tgmenviro.co.za

Tel: 0824939616

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